



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
AIR, WASTE AND TOXICS

OCT 25 2012



Ms. Barbara Trost
Air and Water Quality Division
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617

Dear Ms. Trost:

We have evaluated the 2012 Alaska Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan, which describes the Alaska monitoring network for 2012-13. EPA has the following comments on the proposed changes in the network plan:

1. Discontinued operation of the FRM PM10 monitor at the Parkgate site (02-020-1004) in Eagle River. MOA continues to operate a FEM PM10 monitor at this site. EPA approves this change.
2. The particulate monitoring system at the Butte site in the Mat-Su Valley was modified in late 2011 by installing a new Coarse-BAM pair of MetOne BAM 1020X monitors to measure PM10 and PM2.5. As of January 1, 2012, the new BAM PM2.5 monitor now serves as the primary monitors for EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database for this SLAMS site. EPA approves this change.
3. The Fairbanks North Star Borough will discontinue PM2.5 monitoring activities at the TAC (Peger Road) site for the winter of 2012-2013. Moving the monitoring equipment to another location is under consideration. This is not a required monitoring site. EPA approves this change.
4. The city of Seward conducted PM10 monitoring at three sites to determine the PM10 concentrations being emitted from the Seward Coal Loading facility. None of the sites in this study showed PM10 concentrations close to the NAAQS. The city of Seward terminated this monitoring program in May 2012. EPA approves the termination of this monitoring program.
5. The Municipality of Anchorage anticipates concluding the year of monitoring for TSP-Lead at the Merrill Field Airport in October 2012. The data will be finalized and a report issued by April 2013. EPA funded this project for one year of operation. Depending on the Pb concentrations found at this site, it will be either shut down, or continue operation if Pb levels are > 50% of the Pb NAAQS. EPA concurs with this process.
6. MOA is considering discontinuing ozone monitoring at the Garden Site after the 2012 ozone sampling season and will prepare a waiver request document in cooperation with the DEC. The 2010-2011 4th highest average for this site is 0.045 ppm, which is substantially below the ozone standard of 0.075 ppm. EPA will take action on the waiver request after we receive it.

The following monitors are designated "core" monitors because they are either: (1) required by 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix D, (2) have a design value near or above the new PM2.5 24-hour standard of 35ug/m3, or (3) they are essential monitoring parameters at NCore sites:

1. PM2.5 FRMs (or Approved Regional Method):
 - a) Fairbanks (primary and secondary)
 - b) Juneau
 - c) Butte
2. PM2.5 speciation and precursor gas monitoring at the Fairbanks NCore site.

"Core" monitors are those monitors in the network that must be operated with available PM2.5 monitoring funds. The "non-core" PM2.5 monitors in the State's network can be operated at ADEC's discretion with any remaining federal funds or State funds.

On September 13, 2012, ADEC submitted a request for waiver of the lead SLAMS air monitoring requirement for the Red Dog Mine. In an email response sent from EPA to ADEC on September 20, 2012, we identified several outstanding technical issues related to the lead emission factors from the Red Dog Mine that need to be resolved before we can evaluate the modeling results that support your request for a waiver. As soon we receive the additional information requested in this response, we will proceed with our review of your waiver request.

If you have any questions about our approval of the Alaska monitoring network, please contact Keith Rose at (206) 553-1949.

Sincerely,



Debra M. Suzuki, Manager
State and Tribal Program Unit

cc: Chris Hall, OEA
Keith Rose, OAWT
Claudia Vaupel, OAWT