



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

August 19, 2008

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Governor of Georgia
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Perdue:

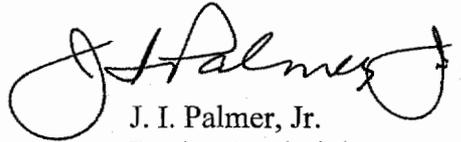
As you are aware, reducing fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) represents one of the most significant challenges to improving air quality in our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about 1/30th the diameter of a human hair – to serious human health problems, including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms like coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of PM_{2.5} is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the May 23, 2008, letter from Dr. Carol A. Couch, Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), submitting Georgia's recommendations on air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards. We have also reviewed the technical information submitted to support Georgia's recommendations and have enclosed the results of our review of Georgia's requests for consideration of data under the Exceptional Events rule for the Albany and Atlanta areas. In accordance with the Clean Air Act, I write to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) agrees that all areas in your state are attaining the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards at this time. In the near future, EPA will publish a notice in the Federal Register to solicit public comments on our intended designation decisions. We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} standards by December 18, 2008.

EPA has taken steps to reduce fine particle pollution across the country, such as implementing the Clean Diesel Program to dramatically reduce emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines. In addition to on-going initiatives, state programs to attain the 1997 PM_{2.5} standards will also help to reduce unhealthy levels of fine particulate matter.

I appreciate the leadership and attention provided by you and the management and staff of EPD in protecting air quality. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (404) 562-8357. We look forward to continuing to work with you and EPD officials in implementing the PM_{2.5} standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. I. Palmer, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director, EPD

Enclosure 1

PM_{2.5} Exceptional Events
Technical Support Document

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4**

State of Georgia: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA and
Albany, GA Metropolitan Statistical Areas

2007

Introduction

This document provides U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 rationale for concurrence or non-concurrence with exceptional event flags on the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations recorded at various Air Quality System (AQS) sites within the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Ambient Air Monitoring Network. The exceptional event flags that EPA Region 4 has concurred with will be excluded from use in determinations of exceedances and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations.

According to 40 CFR 50.1(j):

“*Exceptional event* means an event that affects air quality, is not reasonably controllable or preventable, is an event caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or a natural event, and is determined by the Administrator in accordance with 40 CFR 50.14 to be an exceptional event. It does not include stagnation of air masses or meteorological inversions, a meteorological event involving high temperatures or lack of precipitation, or air pollution relating to source noncompliance.”

§50.14(b)(2) also states:

“EPA shall exclude data from use in determinations of exceedances and NAAQS violations where a State demonstrates to EPA's satisfaction that emissions from fireworks displays caused a specific air pollution concentration in excess of one or more national ambient air quality standards at a particular air quality monitoring location and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this section. Such data will be treated in the same manner as exceptional events under this rule, provided a State demonstrates that such use of fireworks is significantly integral to traditional national, ethnic, or other cultural events including, but not limited to July Fourth celebrations which satisfy the requirements of this section.”

Finally, §50.14(c)(3)(iii) states:

“The demonstration to justify data exclusion shall provide evidence that:

- (A) The event satisfies the criteria set forth in 40 CFR 50.1(j);
- (B) There is a clear causal relationship between the measurement under consideration and the event that is claimed to have affected the air quality in the area;
- (C) The event is associated with a measured concentration in excess of normal historical fluctuations, including background; and
- (D) There would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event.

Each PM_{2.5} 24-hr average concentration requested for exclusion was first evaluated against these criteria using a two-step analysis. This analysis was designed to compare the requested value to historical values observed at the site and determine whether any exceedances could have been caused by the claimed event.

Step 1: Monthly Average Comparison

Using 24-hr PM_{2.5} data from AQS for 2004-2007, a comparison three-year monthly average was calculated. The three-year monthly average concentration was calculated excluding data from the year in which the data in question was collected. For example, a requested value in May

2006 was compared to the average of all the samples collected at the site during May 2004, May 2005, and May 2007. If the three-year average was greater than the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS (15.0 µg/m³) and the requested value was less than the 24-hr PM_{2.5} NAAQS (35 µg/m³), then EPA concurrence was not given to the requested value. This is because in EPA's judgment there is insufficient evidence that "there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event" as required by §50.14(c)(3)(iii)(D) because the normally expected concentration at the site (the three-year monthly mean concentration) is in excess of the NAAQS.

Step 2: Monthly 84th Percentile Comparison

Using 24-hr PM_{2.5} data from AQS for 2004-2007, a comparison three-year upper 84th percentile was calculated for the month in which the requested value was collected. The three-year monthly 84th percentile was calculated excluding data from the year in which the data in question was collected. For example, a requested value in May 2006 was compared to the upper 84th percentile calculated from of all the samples collected at the site during May 2004, May 2005, and May 2007. The calculated three-year monthly upper 84th percentile was considered to represent the range of normally expected high values at that site due to normal local and background sources. If the requested value was below the calculated three-year monthly upper 84th percentile, EPA concurrence was not given to the requested value. This is because in EPA's judgment that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the NAAQS exceedance was caused by the claimed event as required by §50.14(c)(3)(iii)(D) and not by normal local and background sources at the site.

If a requested value did not meet the requirements described in one or more of the above steps and the State did not submit compelling evidence to demonstrate that the event satisfied the exceptional event criteria, then EPA concurrence was not given to the exceptional event flag on the requested value. The values that did meet all of the conditions described above were then evaluated against the requirements of §50.14(c)(3)(iii). A summary of the approval or disapproval of all flagged data can be found in Appendix A.

Summary of Maps and Graphs Used

A variety of maps and graphs were used in this document. Unless otherwise noted, these products were obtained from the DATAFED Data Views Catalog, which can be accessed at http://datafedwiki.wustl.edu/index.php/Data_Views_Catalog. This includes maps using data from AQS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Navy Aerosol Analysis and Prediction System (NAAPS). Also, unless otherwise noted, all ambient air monitoring data used in this analysis was obtained from the EPA AQS database. A summary of AQS site and parameter codes used in this document can be found in Appendix B.

The following discussion will demonstrate that the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations observed at various Georgia Environmental Protection Division network monitoring sites on the following dates meet or fail to meet the criteria laid out in the Exceptional Events Rule, §50.14.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Prescribed Burning

Exceedance Date:	2/28/2007
MSA:	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA
Event Description:	Transport of smoke from prescribed burning southeast of Atlanta.

Table 1: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
13-121-0032-1	2/28/2007	29.7	13.9	18.4	22.7	NO

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Georgia EPD claims that smoke from prescribed burning southeast of Metro Atlanta caused NAAQS exceedances at the site listed above. According to §50.14(b)(3):

“EPA shall exclude data from use in determinations of exceedances and NAAQS violations, where a State demonstrates to EPA's satisfaction that emissions from prescribed fires caused a specific air pollution concentration in excess of one or more national ambient air quality standards at a particular air quality monitoring location and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this section provided that such emissions are from prescribed fires that EPA determines meets the definition in §50.1(j), **and provided that the State has certified to EPA that it has adopted and is implementing a Smoke Management Program or the State has ensured that the burner employed basic smoke management practices.** If an exceptional event occurs using the basic smoke management practices approach, the State must undertake a review of its approach to ensure public health is being protected and must include consideration of development of a SMP.”

Georgia EPD did not submit documentation that a Smoke Management Program or basic smoke management practices were employed during this event. Therefore, the event does not meet the requirements of the exceptional events rule for exclusion of data from NAAQS calculations. EPA concurrence was not given to this exceptional event flag.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Georgia / Florida Wildfires

Exceedance Dates:	5/12/07, 5/22/07, 5/27/07, 5/31/07
MSA:	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA
Event Description:	Transport of smoke from wildfires in Southern Georgia and northern Florida.

Table 1: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
13-121-0048-1	5/12/2007	35	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO
13-089-0002-1	5/22/2007	50.6	16.1	23.3	25.8	YES
13-089-2001-1	5/22/2007	79.8	15.3	21.3	24.4	YES
13-115-0005-1	5/22/2007	36.7	18.1	24.0	30.6	YES
13-121-0032-1	5/22/2007	64.5	16.1	23.8	26.2	YES
13-063-0091-1	5/27/2007	44.8	16.6	23.8	26.2	YES
13-067-0003-1	5/27/2007	77.6	16.3	23.4	27.8	YES
13-067-0004-1	5/27/2007	70.8	16.2	23.5	27.1	YES
13-089-2001-1	5/27/2007	43.4	15.3	21.3	24.4	YES
13-121-0048-1	5/27/2007	60.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES
13-089-0002-1	5/31/2007	35.1	16.1	23.3	25.8	NO
13-089-2001-1	5/31/2007	37.9	15.3	21.3	24.4	YES
13-121-0032-1	5/31/2007	38.8	16.1	23.8	26.2	YES

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Georgia EPD claims that smoke from wildfires in Georgia and Florida caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. All of the requested values passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis, with exception of the values collected at the Georgia Tech site (AQS ID: 13-121-0048) for which historical data was not available and no initial two-step analysis could be performed.

The Bugaboo Scrub Fire (Figure 1a) was a wildfire that occurred from April to June in 2007 and ultimately became the largest fire in recent history of both Georgia and Florida. The Bugaboo, which was not actually named until it had burned for nearly a month, started in the Okefenokee Swamp, most of which is located in Georgia. It was previously known as the Sweat Farm Road Fire, which merged with the Big Turnaround Complex fire (Figure 1b). Due to the amount of acreage consumed from these wildfires, copious smoke impacted sites around Region 4 from May through the first week of June, in many cases causing very large increases in the 24 hour $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ mass.

Figure 2 shows an image taken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary Satellite Server (GOES). This image, taken on May 22, 2007, shows a large plume of smoke from the wildfires impacting the Atlanta area.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected at the South DeKalb site (AQS ID 13-089-0002) on a 1 in 3 day sampling schedule. Because of this schedule, speciation data was not collected on some of the days with claimed smoke impact, particularly May 22 and 31. In order to obtain a more complete picture of the air quality during this period, data from the Southern Company Southeastern Aerosol Research and Characterization (SEARCH) Study was used. Information about the SEARCH study can be found at:

<http://www.atmospheric-research.com/studies/SEARCH/index.html>.

A map of the location of the Jefferson Street SEARCH site, as well as the impacted GA EPD monitoring sites, is shown in Figure 3. Figures 4a and 4b show PM_{2.5} sulfate and organic carbon concentrations collected at the Jefferson St. and South DeKalb sites during May and June, 2007. Elevated levels of organic carbon were observed on May 22, 27, and 31, indicating impact from smoke. Also, sulfate levels were not observed to be above normal concentrations on any of these days suggesting that the observed elevated PM_{2.5} levels were not due to local stationary and mobile sources.

In order to more accurately assess the possible impact of smoke on this day, wind trajectories were analyzed for each of the requested days. Figure 5 illustrates backward wind trajectories that passed through southern Georgia and northern Florida on May 12, 22, 27, and 31. The figure confirms air transport from the claimed source region to the Atlanta area on May 22, 27, and 31, but does not show significant transport from the source region on May 12. Figure 6 shows the atmospheric aerosol concentrations observed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ozone Monitoring Instrument (OMI) satellite. These images confirm high aerosol concentrations in the claimed source region of southern Georgia and northern Florida.

The wildfires and their impact on air quality were also well documented by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and other local news sources. Several news articles and photographs from these days were submitted to EPA by the Georgia EPD.

C) Comparison to Historical Levels

In order to further assess the impacts of the Georgia and Florida fires, the values in question were compared to historical levels observed at each site. Table 1 shows that all of the values that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis are significantly greater than the 95th percentile calculated from data collected during the month of May for 2004-2006. This is good evidence that the data were influenced by an exceptional event. Figure 7 shows the spatially averaged 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations observed on each of the days in question. Figures 8 and 9 show the excess PM_{2.5} concentrations observed above the 84th and 95th percentiles, respectively, on each of the days. These maps show 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations above the normal range of values observed in the Atlanta area during the month of May in the past.

A scatter plot of all of the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations collected during 2004-2007 is shown in Figure 10. The concentrations observed during the month of May are shown in red.

This figure demonstrates that many concentrations recorded during May 2007 far exceeded the normal range of values observed in the Atlanta area.

D) Demonstration of No Exceedance “But For” the Event

In order to quantify the impacts of the fire on observed PM_{2.5} concentrations, speciation data collected at the Jefferson St. SEARCH site and the South DeKalb site during May and June, 2007 were used to approximate the organic mass increment of the observed PM_{2.5} mass that was caused by the wildfires. The organic mass increment was calculated using the following equation, adapted from Turpin and Lim (2001).

$$OMI = (OC_{Observed} - OC_{Average}) \times 2.0 \quad (Eq. 2)$$

Where OMI is the organic mass increment due to smoke from the wildfire, OC_{observed} is the observed organic carbon mass, and OC_{average} is the average organic carbon mass observed at the site during the month of May for 2004-2006. A multiplier of 2.0 is used to approximate the total PM_{2.5} mass associated with smoke from wildfires (Turpin and Lim 2001). The OMI values calculated for the Jefferson St. and South DeKalb sites during May and June, 2007 are shown in Figures 11a and 11b, respectively.

In order to approximate the PM_{2.5} concentration that would have been observed but for the fire, the OMI was subtracted from the observed 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentration. This procedure was then repeated for each day that PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected during May and June, 2007 to compare impacts of smoke on different days. The results of this analysis are shown in Figure 12a and 12b. Figure 12a illustrates the smoke impacts at the Jefferson St. SEARCH site, and Figure 12b shows the smoke impacts at the South DeKalb site. These figures show the relationship between the observed PM_{2.5} concentrations at each site and the calculated “adjusted PM_{2.5} mass” (Observed PM_{2.5} – OMI) that approximates the PM_{2.5} concentrations that would have been observed but for the smoke impact. The graph demonstrates that without the PM_{2.5} mass emitted by the fire on May 22, 27, and 31, 2007, the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentration would have been below the 24-hr PM_{2.5} NAAQS of 35 µg/m³, and thus that there would have been no exceedance but for the wildfire.

Since the values collected at the Jefferson St. site on each of the requested days met all of the requirements for exclusion from NAAQS calculations under the exceptional events rule, and since all of the requested values are in excess of the historical 95th percentile levels for the respective site (corroborating impact from an exceptional event), it can be assumed that all of the requested values were similarly impacted by the wildfires, even though speciation data was not collected at these sites (except for the South DeKalb site on 5/27). The overall body of evidence indicates that there would have been no NAAQS exceedances of the 24-hr PM_{2.5} standard during this period but for the wildfires.

EPA concurrence was given to all of the values requested on May 22, 27, and 31, 2007 except the concentration of 35.1 µg/m³ observed at the South DeKalb site on May 31 2007. Concurrence was not given to this value because by NAAQS rounding conventions, it is not an exceedance of the 24-hr PM_{2.5} standard of 35 µg/m³. This means that in order for this value to be excluded from NAAQS calculations, it must be demonstrated that there would have been no exceedance of the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS (15.0 µg/m³) but for the event. PM_{2.5} speciation data

was not collected at the South DeKalb site on May 31, but the data collected at the Jefferson St. SEARCH site does not show that the adjusted PM_{2.5} level excluding the OMI from the fires would have been below the annual NAAQS of 15.0 µg/m³ in the Atlanta area on this day (see Figure 12a, adjusted PM_{2.5} mass at the Jefferson St site on May 31 was 21.3 µg/m³).

EPA concurrence was also not given to the flagged concentration of 35 µg/m³ collected at the Georgia Tech site (AQS ID: 13-121-0048) on May 12th. This measurement was not an exceedance of the 24-hr PM_{2.5} standard of 35 µg/m³, which means that in order for this value to be excluded from NAAQS calculations, it must be demonstrated that there would have been no exceedance of the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS (15.0 µg/m³) but for the event. Figures 11a and 11b do not show significant values for the OMI on this day, suggesting that this exceedance of the annual NAAQS was likely caused by other sources and not by smoke from the wildfires. Also, the documentation submitted by Georgia EPD did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event.

Figure 1a: Big Turnaround fire April 29, 2007 Blaine Eckberg, USFWS



Figure 1b: Georgia Forestry Commission - Aerial View of Sweat Farm Road Fire on April 28, 2007.



Figure 2: NOAA GOES satellite image, May 22, 2007.

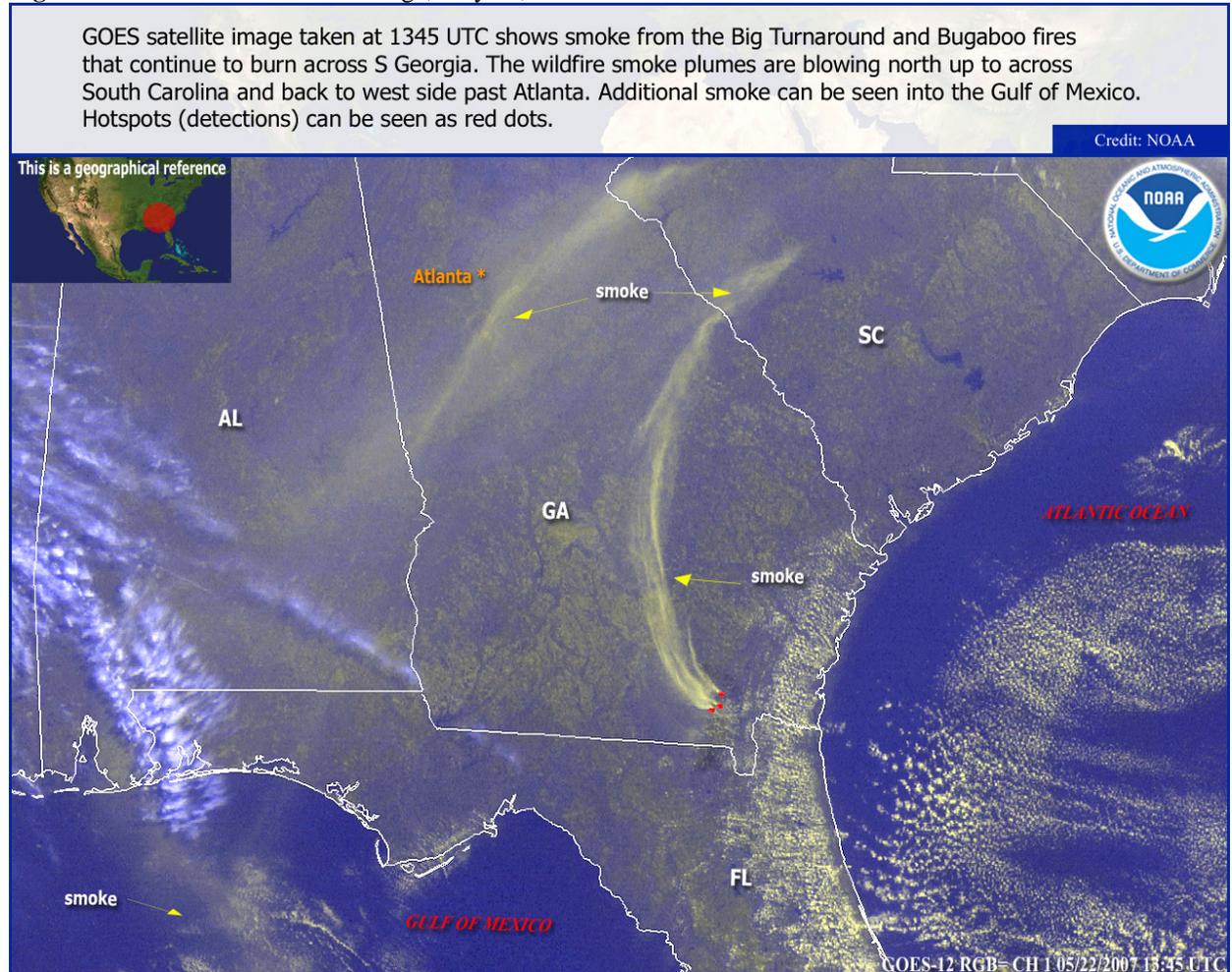


Figure 3: Map of PM_{2.5} monitoring sites in the Atlanta area.

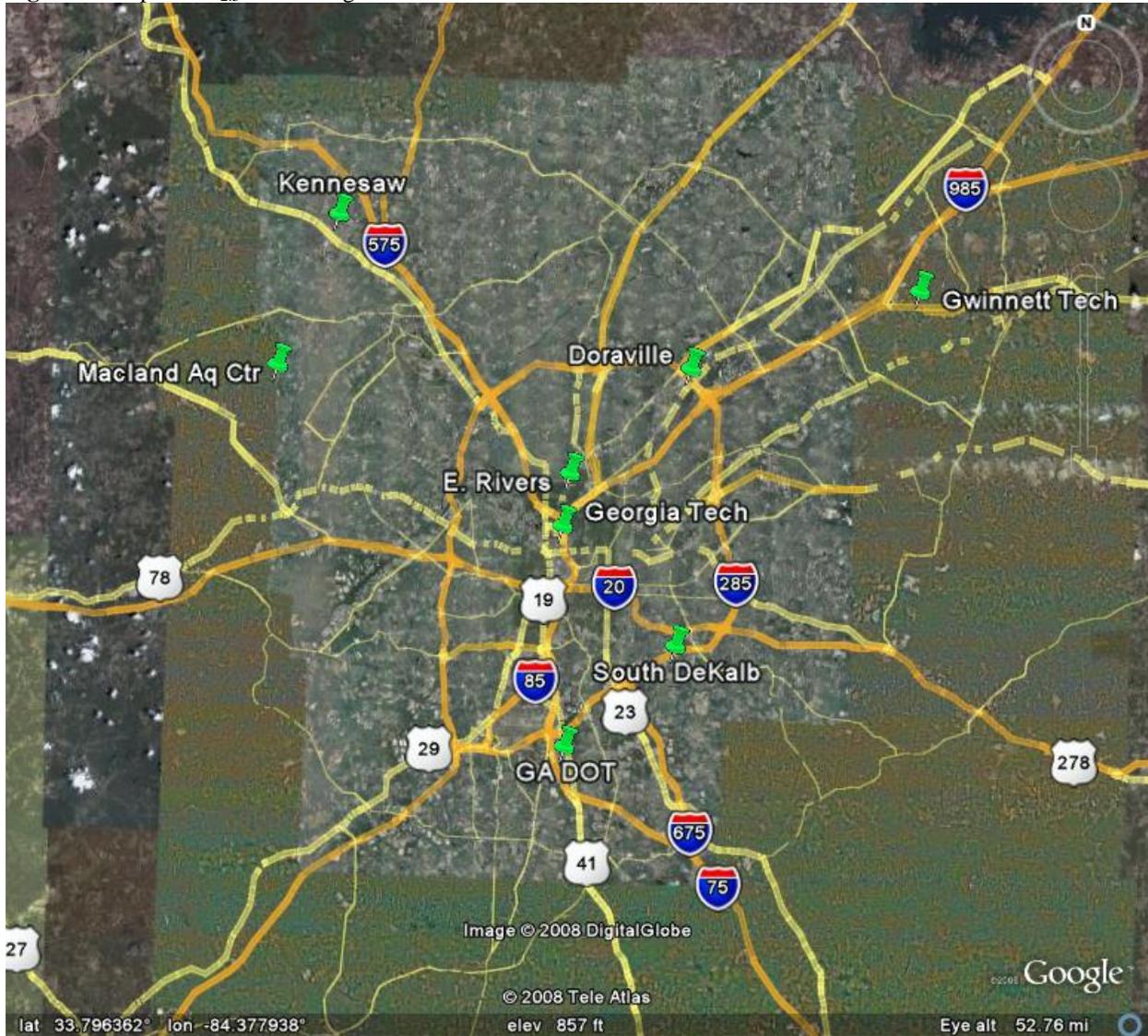


Figure 4a: Jefferson St. PM_{2.5} Organic Carbon and PM_{2.5} Sulfate compared to total PM_{2.5} mass, May –June, 2007.

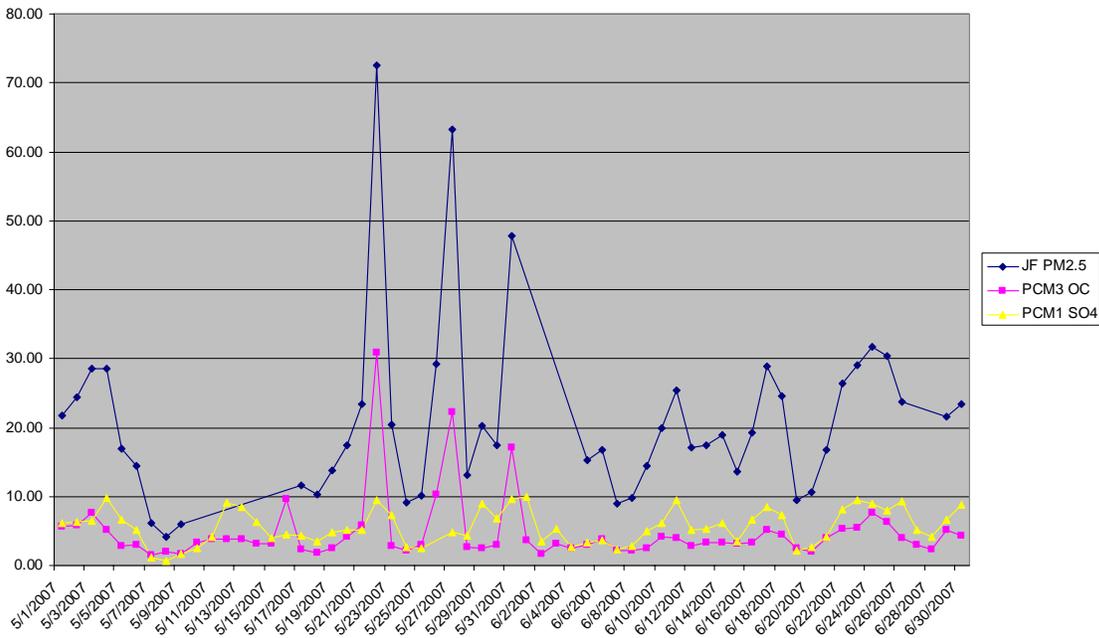


Figure 4b: South DeKalb PM_{2.5} Organic Carbon and PM_{2.5} Sulfate compared to total PM_{2.5} mass, May –June, 2007.

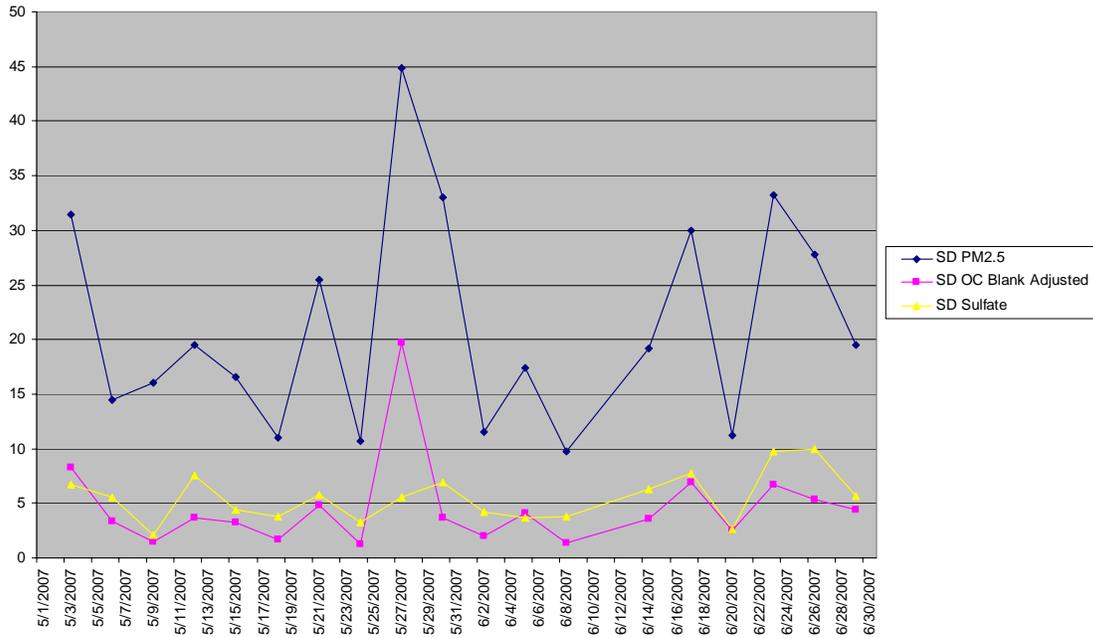


Figure 5: Backward wind trajectories passing through claimed source region, May 22, 27, and 31, 2007.

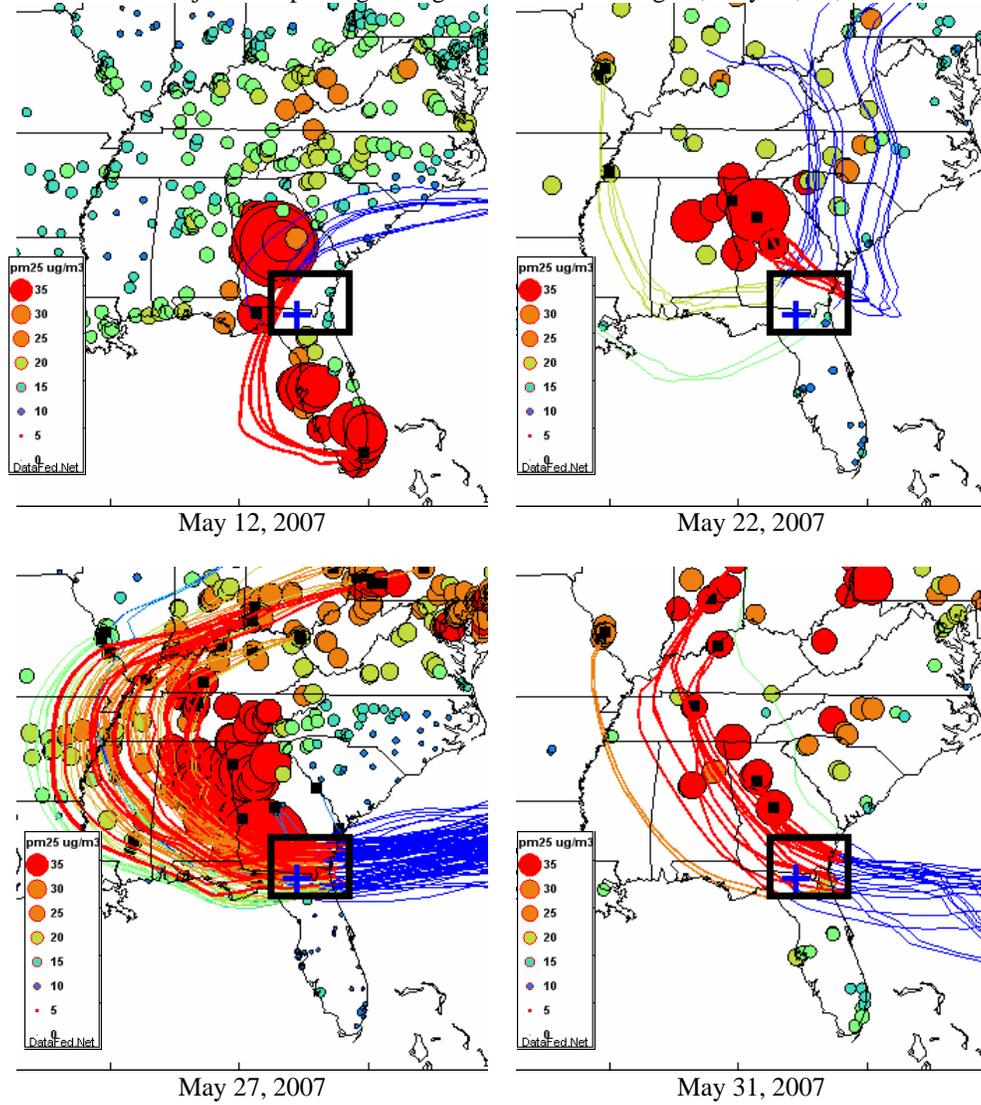


Figure 6: NASA OMI satellite aerosol index, May 22, 27, and 31, 2007.

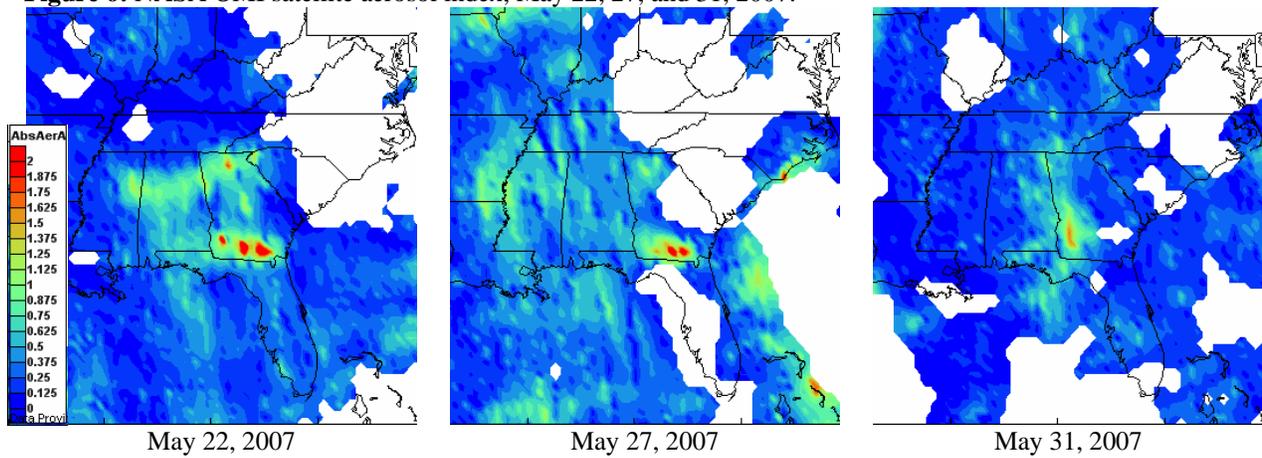


Figure 7: Spatially averaged observed PM_{2.5} concentrations, May 22, 27, and 31, 2007.

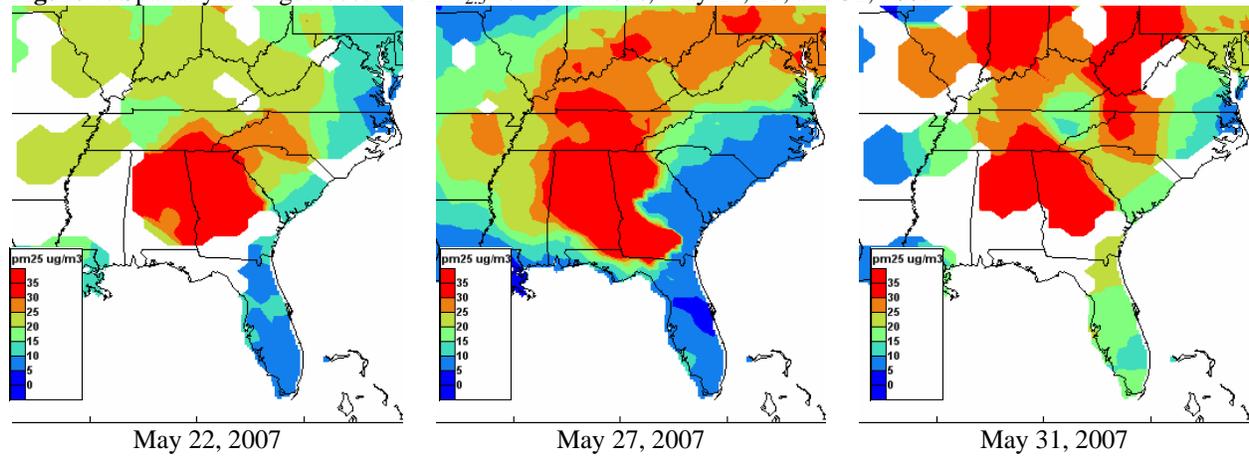


Figure 8: Spatially averaged excess PM_{2.5} concentrations above the 84th percentile, May 22, 27, and 31, 2007.

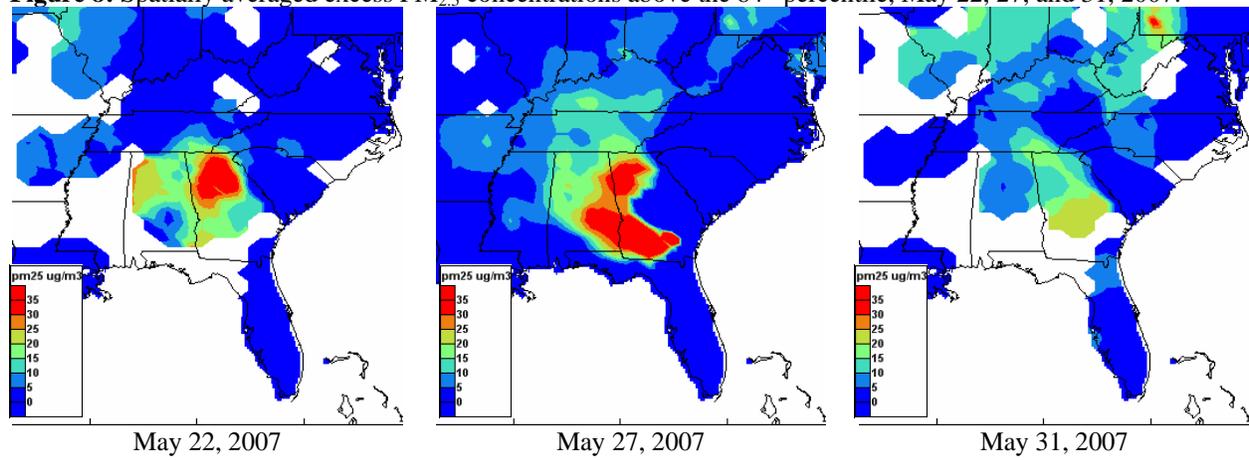


Figure 9: Spatially averaged excess PM_{2.5} concentrations above the 95th percentile, May 22, 27, and 31, 2007.

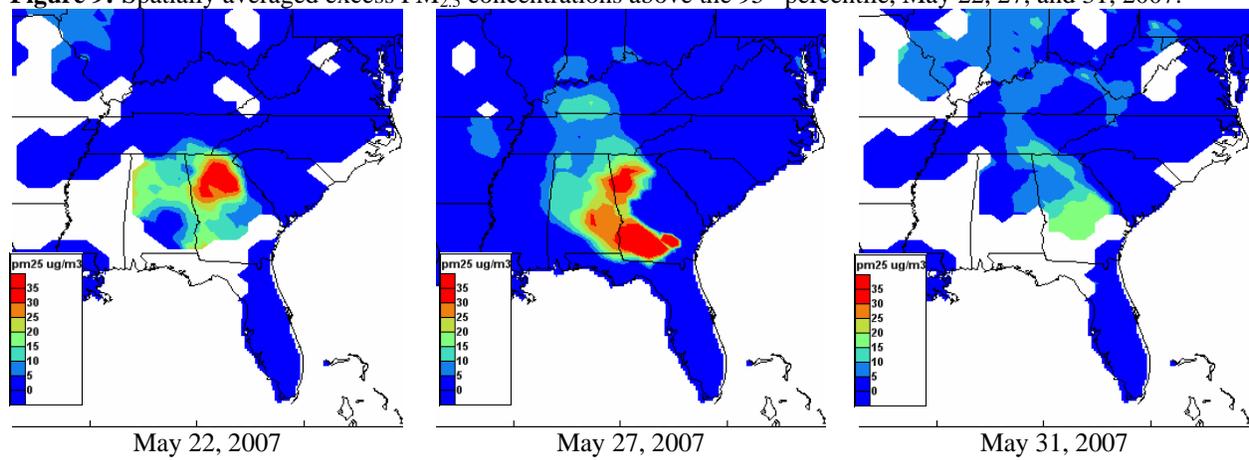


Figure 10: Scatter plot of all 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations recorded in the Atlanta area during 2004-2007. Values collected during the month of May are shown in red.

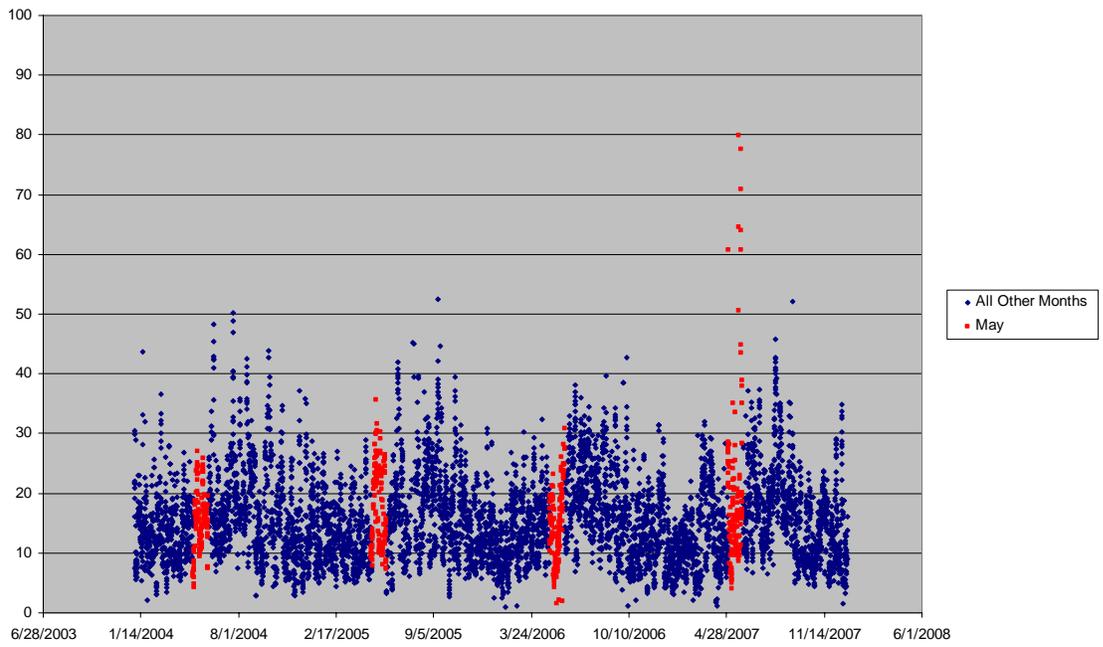


Figure 11a: Observed PM_{2.5} concentrations and calculated organic mass increment, Jefferson St. site, May – June, 2007.

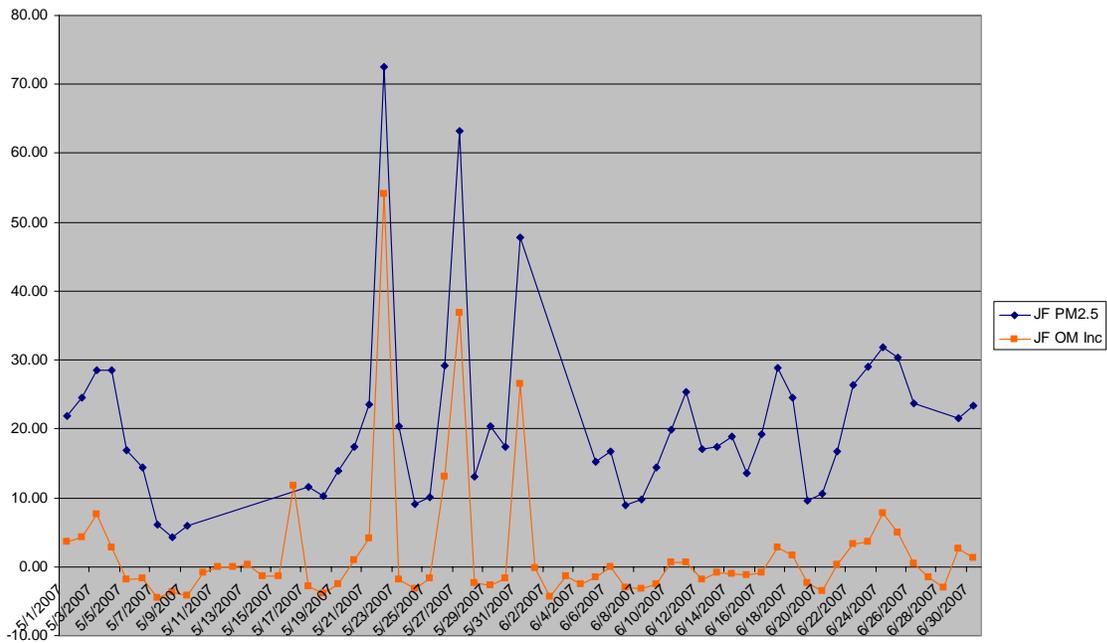


Figure 11b: Observed PM_{2.5} concentrations and calculated organic mass increment, South DeKalb site, May – June, 2007.

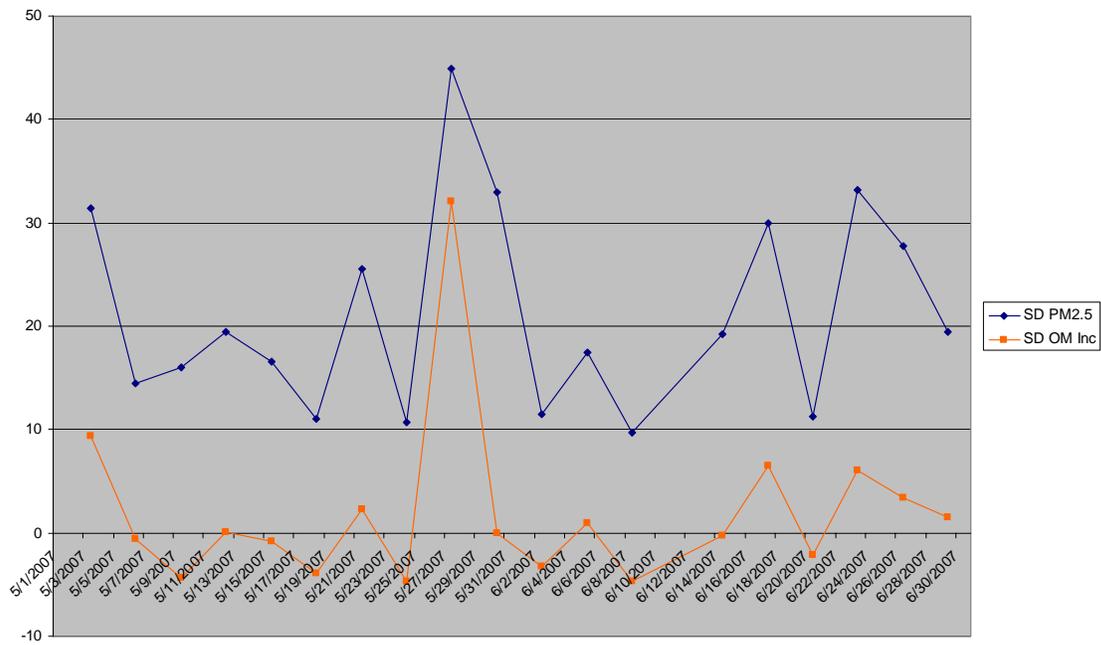


Figure 12a Observed PM_{2.5} concentrations and adjusted PM_{2.5} concentrations “but for” the fires, calculated by subtracting the organic mass increment from the observed PM_{2.5} concentration, Jefferson St. site, May – June, 2007.

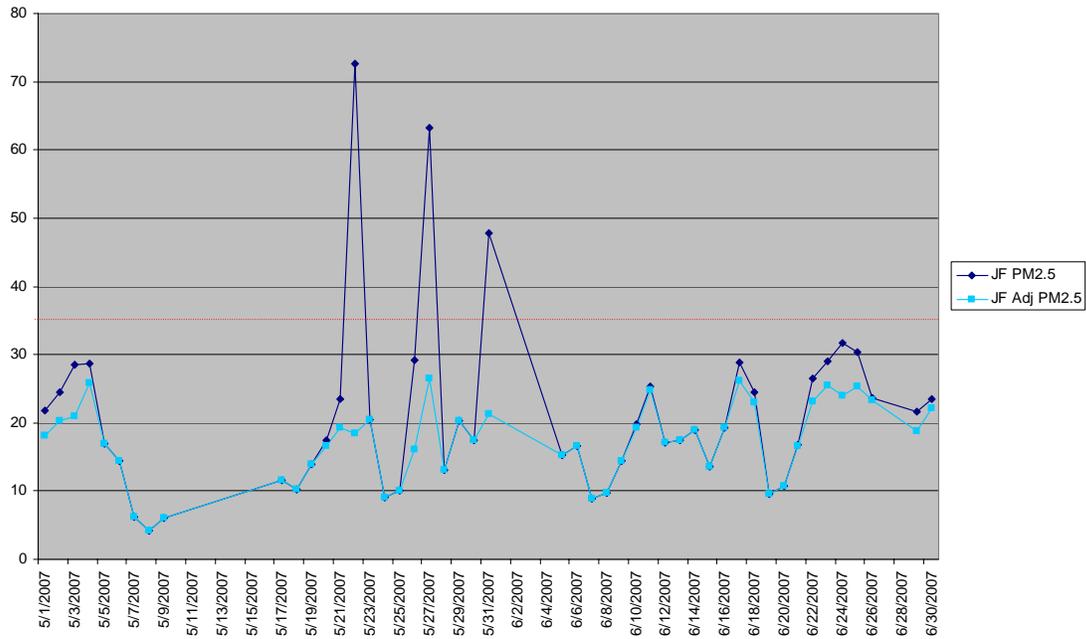
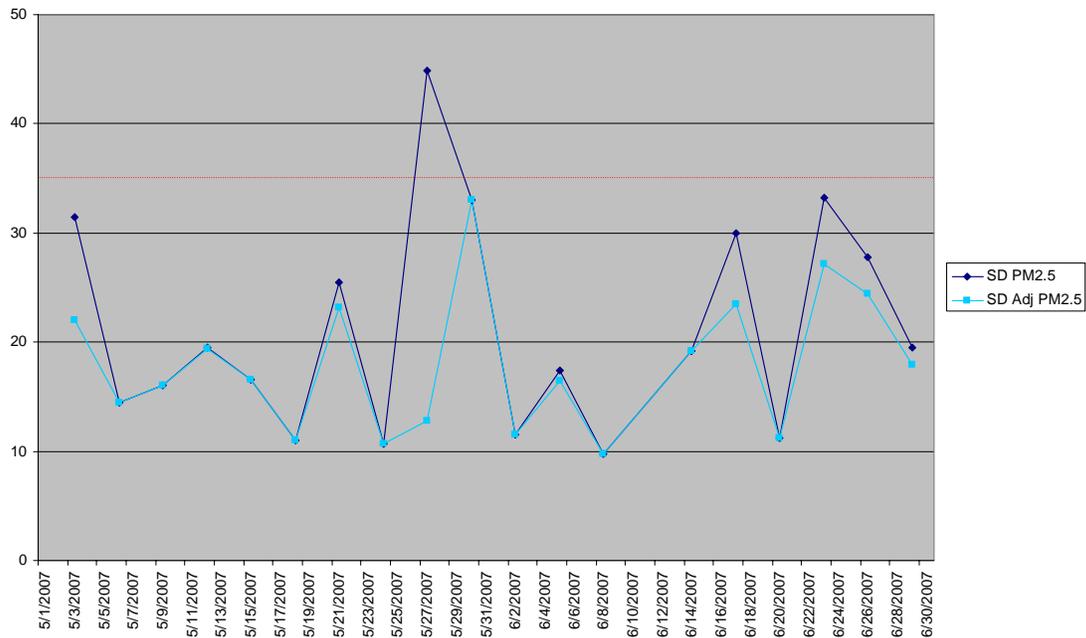


Figure 12b: Observed PM_{2.5} concentrations and adjusted PM_{2.5} concentrations “but for” the fires, calculated by subtracting the organic mass increment from the observed PM_{2.5} concentration, South DeKalb site, May – June, 2007.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Georgia / Florida Wildfires

Exceedance Dates:	5/12/07, 5/22/07, 5/27/07, 5/31/07
MSA:	Albany, GA
Event Description:	Transport of smoke from wildfires in Southern Georgia and northern Florida.

Table 2: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
13-095-0007-1	5/3/2007	34.6	15.1	21.8	25.0	NO ¹
13-095-0007-1	5/27/2007	112.7	15.1	21.8	25.0	YES

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Georgia EPD claims that smoke from wildfires in Georgia and Florida caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The only requested value that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis was the concentration of $112.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ collected on May 27, 2007. EPA concurrence was not given to the flagged value collected on May 3, 2007 because it is not an exceedance of the 24-hr PM_{2.5} standard, and the average concentration observed at the site during the month of May in 2004-2006 was greater than the annual PM_{2.5} standard of $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Also, the documentation submitted by the Georgia EPD did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event on May 3, 2007.

Documentation submitted by the Georgia EPD claims that smoke from the Bugaboo Scrub and Sweat Farm fires (see Figures 1a and 1b) caused an exceedance of the 24-hr PM_{2.5} NAAQS at the Albany site (AQS ID: 13-095-0007) on May 27, 2007. Due to the amount of acreage consumed from these wildfires, copious smoke impacted sites around Region 4 from May through the first week of June, in many cases causing very large increases in the 24 hour PM_{2.5} mass.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

PM_{2.5} speciation data was not collected in the Albany area during this time period. Backward wind trajectories passing through the claimed source region in southern Georgia and northern Florida are shown in Figure 13. High aerosol particulate concentrations can be seen in the source region on May 27, 2007 in Figure 6. The trajectories in Figure 13 strongly support smoke impacts in the Albany area from the fires.

C) Comparison to Background Levels

In order to further assess the impacts of the Georgia and Florida fires, the value in question was compared to historical levels observed at each site. Table 2 shows that the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentration observed on May 27 (112.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) was 87.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ greater than the 95th percentile concentration observed at the site during the month of May in 2004-2006. This indicates that air quality was influenced by an exceptional event. The PM_{2.5} concentrations observed in the region can be seen in Figure 7. The spatially averaged excess concentrations above the 84th and 95th percentiles on May 27 are shown in Figures 8 and 9 respectively. Again, these maps indicate that PM_{2.5} concentrations in the Albany area far exceeded the normally expected range of concentrations for the month of May.

A scatter plot of all of the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations collected at the Albany site during 2004-2007 is shown in Figure 14. The concentrations observed during the month of May are shown in red. This figure demonstrates that the value in question is greatly above the normally expected range of values at this site.

D) Demonstration of No Exceedance “But For” the Event

Since no PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected in the Albany area, an organic mass apportionment was not possible. The magnitude of the observed concentration compared to historical levels at the site, however, combined with wind trajectories that support the transport of smoke into the Albany area, are sufficient evidence that there would have been no exceedance of the 24-hr standard but for the event. EPA concurrence was given to the exceptional event flag on the May 27, 2007 concentration.

Figure 13: Backward wind trajectories passing through claimed source region, May 27, 2007.

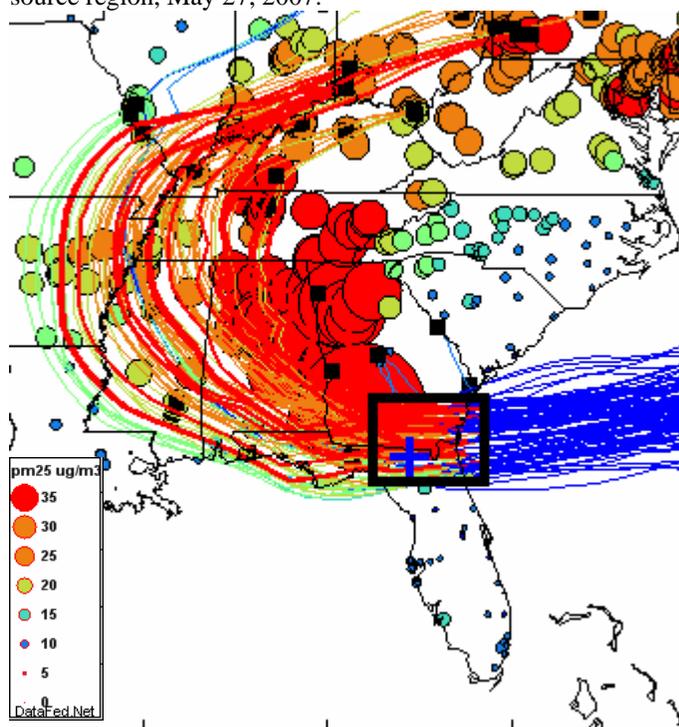
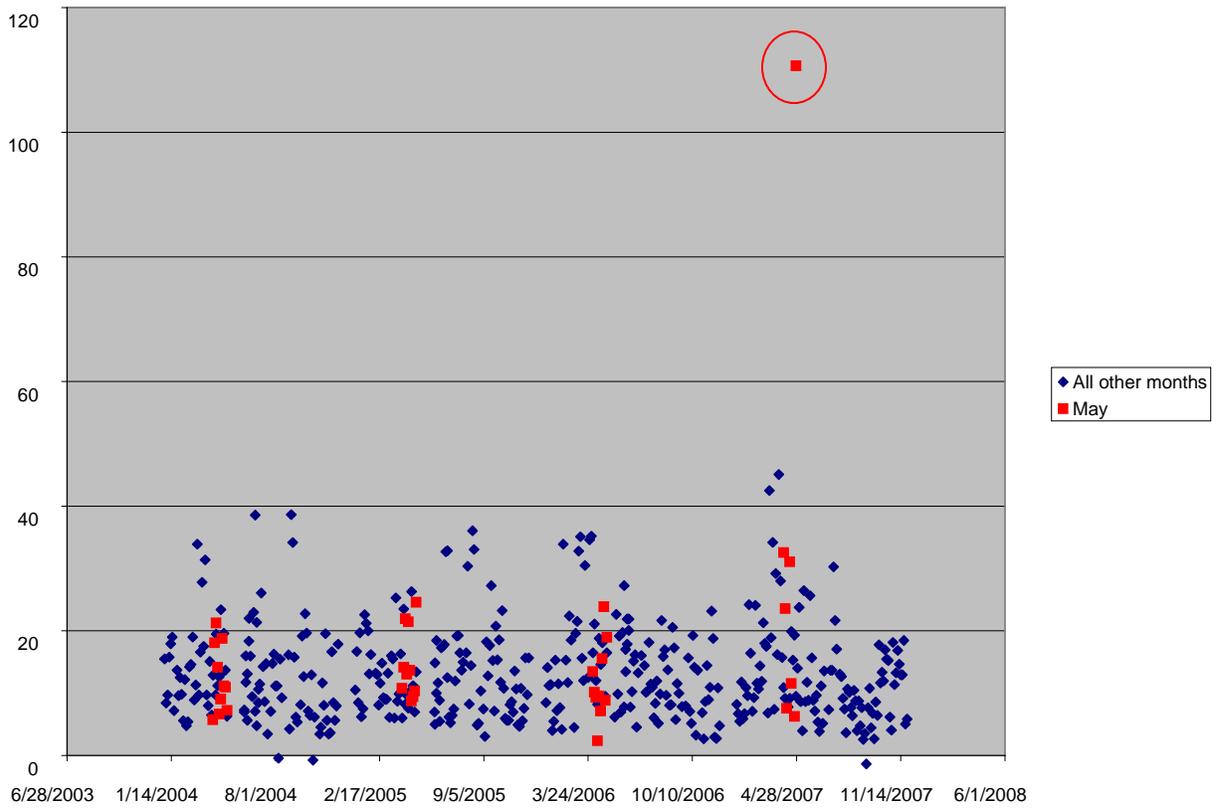


Figure 14: Scatter plot of all 24-hr average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations recorded at the Albany site during 2004-2007. Values collected during the month of May are shown in red.



References

Turpin, B.J., Lim, H.J., 2001. Species Contributions to PM_{2.5} Mass Concentrations: Revisiting common Assumptions for Estimating Organic Mass; *Aerosol Science and Technology*. Volume 35, Pages 602-610.

Appendix A

Summary of All Flagged Data

AQS ID	Date	Value	Monthly Avg	84th Perc	95th Perc	µg Over 95th	Approved?	Event
13-121-0032-1	2/28/2007	29.7	13.9	18.4	22.7	7.0	NO	Prescribed Burning
13-095-0007-1	5/3/2007	34.6	15.1	21.8	25.0	9.6	NO	GA FL Fires
13-121-0048-1	5/12/2007	35	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO	GA FL Fires
13-089-0002-1	5/22/2007	50.6	16.1	23.3	25.8	24.8	YES	GA FL Fires
13-089-2001-1	5/22/2007	79.8	15.3	21.3	24.4	55.4	YES	GA FL Fires
13-115-0005-1	5/22/2007	36.7	18.1	24.0	30.6	6.1	YES	GA FL Fires
13-121-0032-1	5/22/2007	64.5	16.1	23.8	26.2	38.4	YES	GA FL Fires
13-063-0091-1	5/27/2007	44.8	16.6	23.8	26.2	18.6	YES	GA FL Fires
13-067-0003-1	5/27/2007	77.6	16.3	23.4	27.8	49.8	YES	GA FL Fires
13-067-0004-1	5/27/2007	70.8	16.2	23.5	27.1	43.8	YES	GA FL Fires
13-089-2001-1	5/27/2007	43.4	15.3	21.3	24.4	19.0	YES	GA FL Fires
13-121-0048-1	5/27/2007	60.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	YES	GA FL Fires
13-095-0007-1	5/27/2007	112.7	15.1	21.8	25.0	87.7	YES	GA FL Fires
13-089-0002-1	5/31/2007	35.1	16.1	23.3	25.8	9.3	NO	GA FL Fires
13-089-2001-1	5/31/2007	37.9	15.3	21.3	24.4	13.5	YES	GA FL Fires
13-121-0032-1	5/31/2007	38.8	16.1	23.8	26.2	12.7	YES	GA FL Fires

Appendix B

AQS and SEARCH Site and Parameter Codes

AQS Site ID	Site Name	Address	Latitude	Longitude
13-063-0091-1	Georgia DOT	25 Kennedy Dr	+33.609722	-84.391111
13-067-0003-1	Kennesaw	GA National Guard, McCollum Pkwy	+34.015346	-84.607484
13-067-0004-1	Macland Aquatic Center	Macland Aquatic Center, Powder Springs	+33.899182	-84.661589
13-089-0002-1	South DeKalb	2390 Wildcat Rd	+33.688007	-84.290325
13-089-2001-1	Doraville Health Ctr	3760 Park St	+33.901251	-84.279989
13-089-2001-2	Doraville Health Ctr	3760 Park St	+33.901251	-84.279989
13-095-0007	Albany	Turner Elem. School, Albany	+31.576917	-84.100194
13-121-0032-1	E. Rivers School	8 Peachtree Battle Ave NW	+33.819424	-84.389791
13-121-0032-2	E. Rivers School	8 Peachtree Battle Ave NW	+33.819424	-84.389791
13-121-0048-1	Georgia Tech	Ford ES&T Bldg, 311 Ferst St	+33.779189	-84.395843

AQS Parameter Code	Description
88101	PM _{2.5} - Local Conditions (Federal Reference Method)
88502	PM _{2.5} Speciation Sampler Total Mass
88301	Ammonium Ion Pm _{2.5} (Local Conditions)
88305	Organic Carbon, Unadjusted PM _{2.5} (Local Conditions)
88307	Elemental Carbon PM _{2.5} (Local Conditions)
88403	Sulfate PM _{2.5} (Local Conditions)

SEARCH Parameter	Description
PCM1 SO ₄	Blank corrected PM _{2.5} sulfate concentrations from channel 1 of the Particulate Composition Monitor (PCM)
PCM3 OC	Blank corrected PM _{2.5} organic carbon concentrations from channel 3 of the Particulate Composition Monitor (PCM)
FRM Mass	24-hr average PM _{2.5} concentration collected by Federal Reference Method

PM_{2.5} Exceptional Events Technical Support Document

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4**

Chattanooga, TN-GA Metropolitan Statistical Area

2005-2007

Introduction

This document provides U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 rationale for concurrence or non-concurrence with exceptional event flags on the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations recorded at various Air Quality System (AQS) sites within the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau Ambient Air Monitoring Network. The exceptional event flags that EPA Region 4 has concurred with will be excluded from use in determinations of exceedances and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) violations.

According to 40 CFR 50.1(j):

“*Exceptional event* means an event that affects air quality, is not reasonably controllable or preventable, is an event caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or a natural event, and is determined by the Administrator in accordance with 40 CFR 50.14 to be an exceptional event. It does not include stagnation of air masses or meteorological inversions, a meteorological event involving high temperatures or lack of precipitation, or air pollution relating to source noncompliance.”

§50.14(b)(2) also states:

“EPA shall exclude data from use in determinations of exceedances and NAAQS violations where a State demonstrates to EPA's satisfaction that emissions from fireworks displays caused a specific air pollution concentration in excess of one or more national ambient air quality standards at a particular air quality monitoring location and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this section. Such data will be treated in the same manner as exceptional events under this rule, provided a State demonstrates that such use of fireworks is significantly integral to traditional national, ethnic, or other cultural events including, but not limited to July Fourth celebrations which satisfy the requirements of this section.”

Finally, §50.14(c)(3)(iii) states:

“The demonstration to justify data exclusion shall provide evidence that:

- (A) The event satisfies the criteria set forth in 40 CFR 50.1(j);
- (B) There is a clear causal relationship between the measurement under consideration and the event that is claimed to have affected the air quality in the area;
- (C) The event is associated with a measured concentration in excess of normal historical fluctuations, including background; and
- (D) There would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event.

Each PM_{2.5} 24-hr average concentration requested for exclusion was first evaluated against these criteria using a two-step analysis. This analysis was designed to compare the requested value to historical values observed at the site and determine whether any exceedances could have been caused by the claimed event.

Step 1: Monthly Average Comparison

Using 24-hr PM_{2.5} data from AQS for 2004-2007, a comparison three-year monthly average was calculated. The three-year monthly average concentration was calculated excluding data from the year in which the data in question was collected. For example, a requested value in May

2006 was compared to the average of all the samples collected at the site during May 2004, May 2005, and May 2007. If the three-year average was greater than the annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS (15.0 µg/m³) and the requested value was less than the 24-hr PM_{2.5} NAAQS (35 µg/m³), then EPA concurrence was not given to the requested value. This is because in EPA's judgment there is insufficient evidence that "there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event" as required by §50.14(c)(3)(iii)(D) because the normally expected concentration at the site (the three-year monthly mean concentration) is in excess of the NAAQS.

Step 2: Monthly 84th Percentile Comparison

Using 24-hr PM_{2.5} data from AQS for 2004-2007, a comparison three-year upper 84th percentile was calculated for the month in which the requested value was collected. The three-year monthly 84th percentile was calculated excluding data from the year in which the data in question was collected. For example, a requested value in May 2006 was compared to the upper 84th percentile calculated from all the samples collected at the site during May 2004, May 2005, and May 2007. The calculated three-year monthly upper 84th percentile was considered to represent the range of normally expected high values at that site due to normal local and background sources. If the requested value was below the calculated three-year monthly upper 84th percentile, EPA concurrence was not given to the requested value. This is because in EPA's judgment that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the NAAQS exceedance was caused by the claimed event as required by §50.14(c)(3)(iii)(D) and not by normal local and background sources at the site.

If a requested value did not meet the requirements described in one or more of the above steps and the State did not submit compelling evidence to demonstrate that the event satisfied the exceptional event criteria, then EPA concurrence was not given to the exceptional event flag on the requested value. The values that did meet all of the conditions described above were then evaluated against the requirements of §50.14(c)(3)(iii). A summary of the approval or disapproval of all flagged data can be found in Appendix A.

Summary of Maps and Graphs Used

A variety of maps and graphs were used in this document. Unless otherwise noted, these products were obtained from the DATAFED Data Views Catalog, which can be accessed at http://datafedwiki.wustl.edu/index.php/Data_Views_Catalog. This includes maps using data from AQS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Navy Aerosol Analysis and Prediction System (NAAPS). Some of the wind trajectories used in this document were obtained using the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory (HYSPLIT) utility, which can be accessed at <http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready/hysplit4.html>. Also, unless otherwise noted, all ambient air monitoring data used in this analysis was obtained from the EPA AQS database. A summary of AQS site and parameter codes used in this document can be found in Appendix B.

The following discussion will demonstrate that the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations observed at various Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau network monitoring sites on the following dates meet or fail to meet the criteria laid out in the Exceptional Events Rule, §50.14.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Mexican Wildfires

Exceedance Date:	5/19/2005
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Transport of smoke from Mexican wildfires.

Table 1: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-4002-1	5/19/2005	32.6	16.0	21.3	26.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	5/19/2005	33.8	15.9	21.3	26.5	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that smoke from wildfires in Mexico caused NAAQS exceedances at the site listed above. None of the requested values, however, passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, no further analysis of these events is necessary. EPA concurrence was not given to these exceptional event flags.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Canadian, Alaskan, and United States Wildfires

Exceedance Dates:	6/21/2005, 6/24/2005, 6/27/2005, 6/30/2005, 7/3/2005
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from Canadian and Alaskan wildfires.

Table 2: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-4002-1	5/19/2005	32.6	16.0	21.3	26.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	5/19/2005	33.8	15.9	21.3	26.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	6/21/2005	26.2	18.9	25.6	31.5	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	6/21/2005	24.2	19.3	24.4	26.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/21/2005	27	19.4	26.8	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	6/21/2005	28.1	19.0	26.8	29.9	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/24/2005	35	19.4	26.8	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	6/24/2005	34.9	19.0	26.8	29.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	6/27/2005	24.3	18.9	25.6	31.5	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	6/27/2005	25.9	19.3	24.4	26.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/27/2005	26.4	19.4	26.8	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/30/2005	22.4	19.4	26.8	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	6/30/2005	25.1	19.0	26.8	29.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	7/3/2005	29.5	17.2	22.2	30.6	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	7/3/2005	21.5	15.8	22.3	28.3	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	7/3/2005	25.5	17.7	26.4	30.6	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	7/3/2005	22.5	17.7	26.3	30.9	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that smoke from Canadian wildfires north of the Great Lakes in Quebec and Ontario, combined with smoke from wildfires in Alaska caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. None of the requested values, however, passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, no further analysis of these events is necessary. EPA concurrence was not given to these exceptional event flags.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Saharan Dust

Exceedance Dates:	7/24/05, 7/27/05
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of dust from the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Table 3: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	7/24/2005	27.6	17.2	22.2	30.6	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	7/24/2005	27.4	17.7	26.4	30.6	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	7/27/2005	32.9	15.8	22.3	28.3	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	7/27/2005	36.9	17.2	22.2	30.6	NO (sulfate)

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of fine particulate dust from the Sahara Desert caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The only requested value that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis was the $36.9\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ collected at the East Ridge site (AQS ID: 47-065-0031-1) on July 27, 2005. Figure 1 shows the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ozone Mapping Instrument (OMI) Satellite aerosol index observations for July 24th – 27th, 2005. These images do show evidence of long-range aerosol particulate transport across the Atlantic Ocean from Saharan Africa.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

In order to evaluate the impact of the event on air quality in Chattanooga, aerosol and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations of soil-specific compounds were analyzed for July 27, 2005. Figures 2 and 3 show this analysis. Figure 2 shows the observed $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentration of soil particles. This map uses data from the $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ speciation network. Figure 3 uses data from the Navy Aerosol Analysis and Prediction System (NAAPS) and estimates the aerosol concentrations of dust present in the atmosphere. Neither figure indicates significant $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations from dust in the Chattanooga area.

Figure 4 shows $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ speciation data collected at the nearby Riverside (AQS ID: 47-065-4002) site collected during July and August, 2005. Speciation data collected on July 27, 2005 indicates elevated sulfate concentrations, which is indicative of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ emissions from local stationary and mobile sources. Conversely, a large component of crustal material is not evident on this day, which does not support the claimed dust event. Figure 5 shows the spatially-averaged $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ sulfate concentrations on July 27. This map also shows a large sulfate event in the Chattanooga area on this day.

The lack of evidence of significant dust impact, combined with evidence of elevated sulfate levels, shows the elevated PM_{2.5} levels observed at the East Ridge site on July 27, 2005 were not caused by a Saharan dust event. Therefore, EPA concurrence was not given to any of these exceptional event flags.

Figure 1: Aerosol dust transport, July 24-27, 2005.

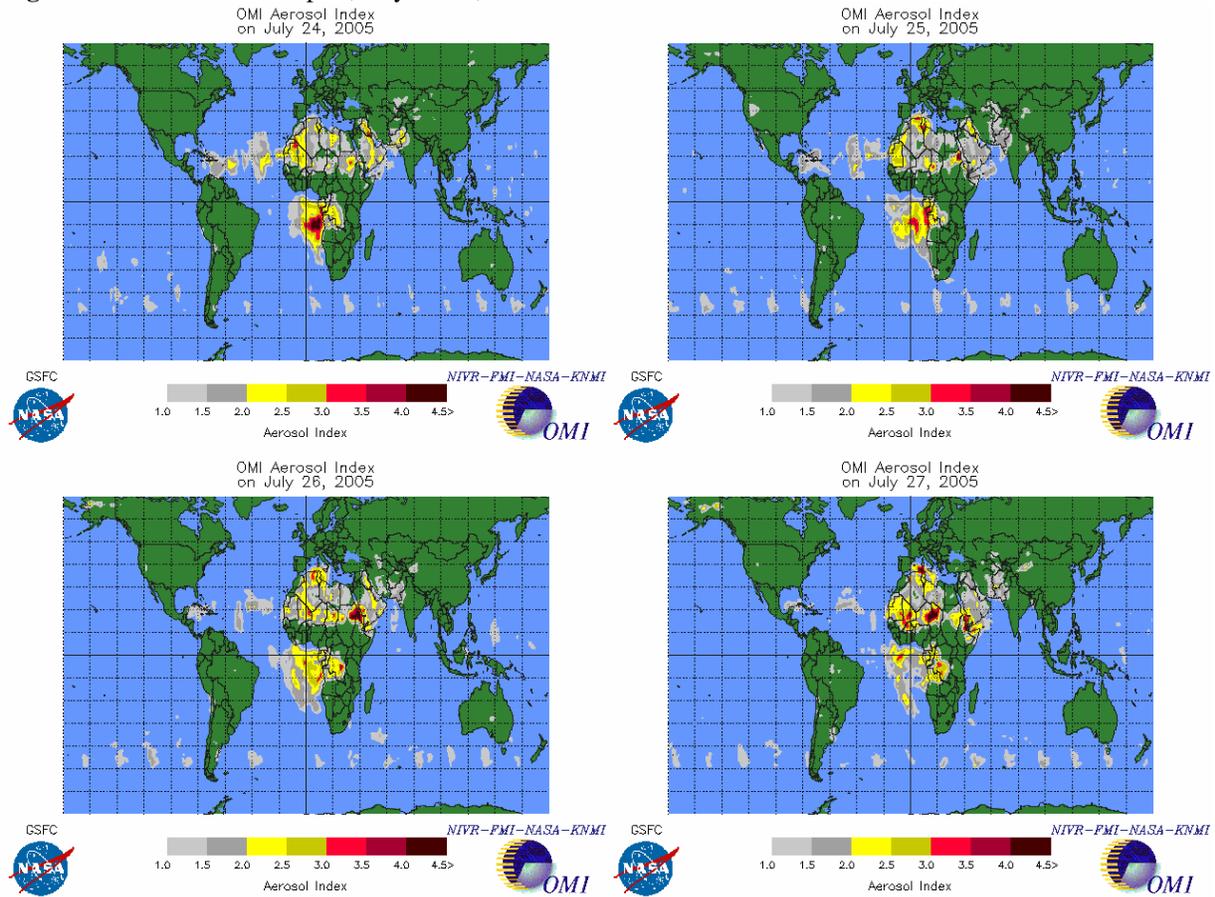


Figure 2: PM_{2.5} soil concentrations, July 27, 2005.

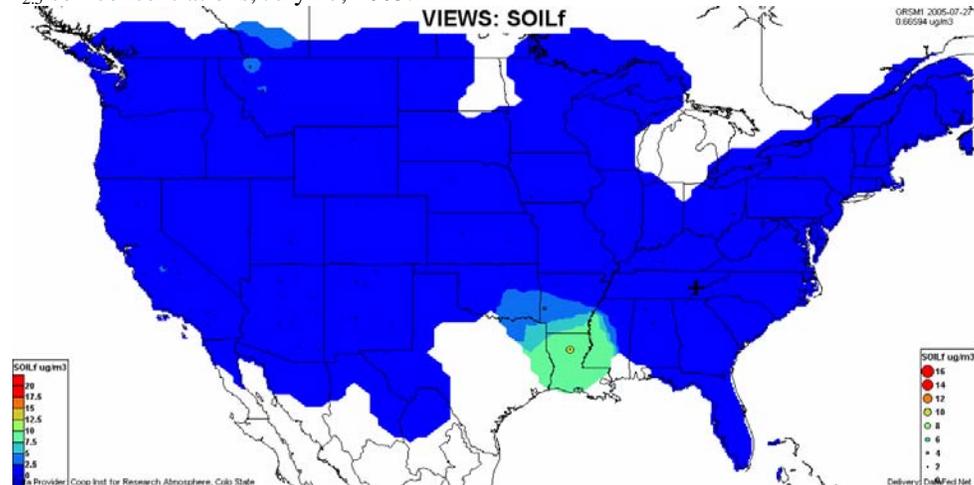


Figure 3: Aerosol dust concentrations from NAAPS satellite, July 27, 2005.

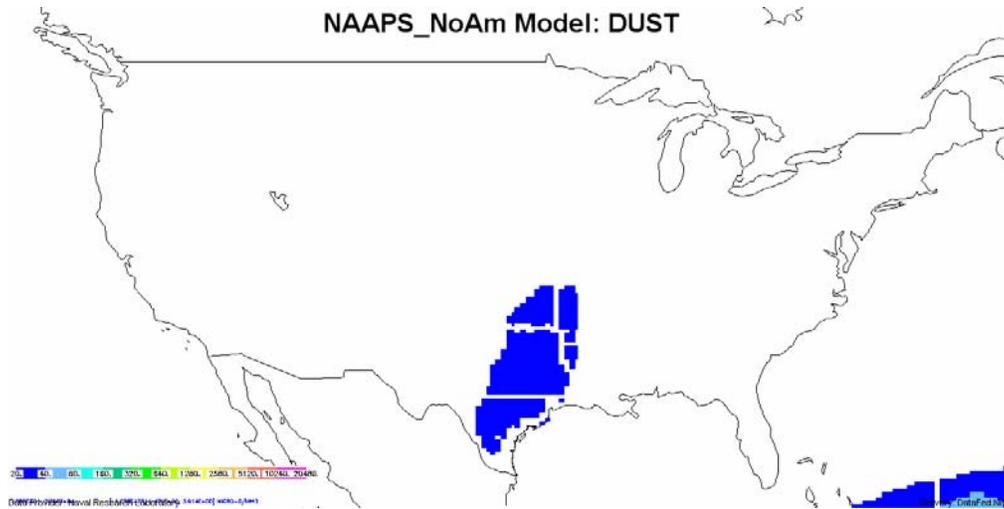
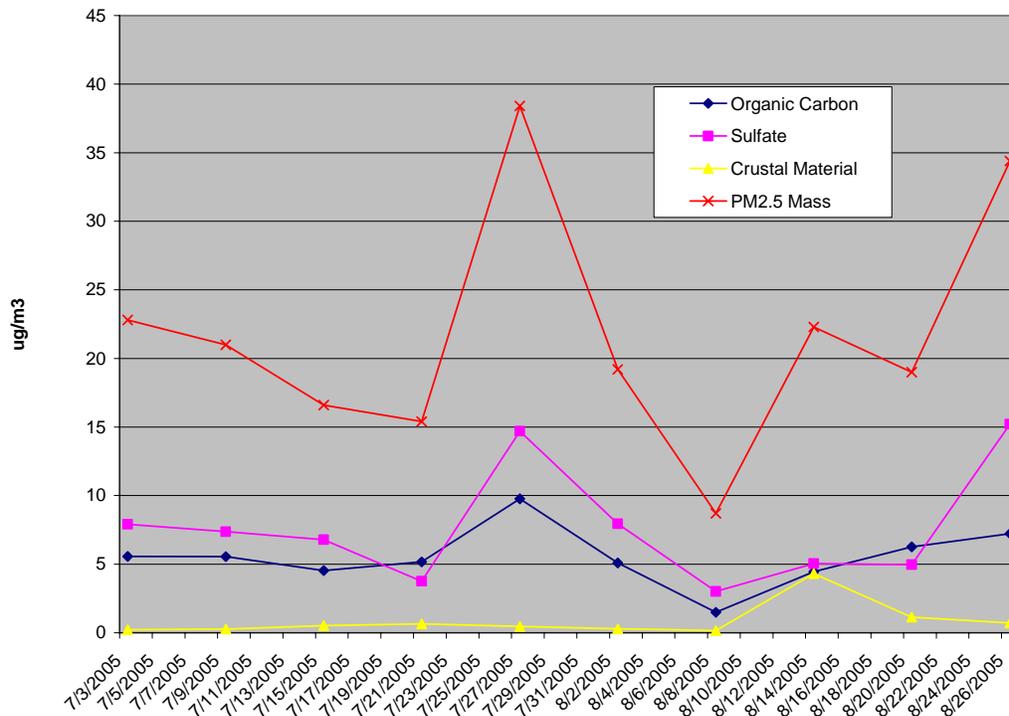


Figure 4: PM_{2.5} speciation concentrations at the Riverside site, July – August 2005.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Alaskan and Canadian Fires

Exceedance Dates:	8/5/05, 8/26/05
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in Alaska and Canada

Table 4: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-4002-2	8/5/2005	36.4	22.5	31.7	35.9	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-1	8/5/2005	36	22.6	32.7	36.2	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-1	8/26/2005	33.4	22.6	32.7	36.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	8/26/2005	33.1	22.5	31.7	35.9	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	8/26/2005	29.7	18.8	25.3	34.2	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/26/2005	28.2	21.7	29.1	33.0	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of smoke from wildfires in Alaska and northwestern Canada caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The only requested concentrations that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis were the $36.4\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $36\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ collected at the Riverside primary and collocated monitors on August 5, 2005.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

In order to evaluate the impact of the event on air quality in Chattanooga, wind trajectories were analyzed to assess the probability of smoke transport from the wildfires. Figure 5 shows a 48-hr backward trajectory for Chattanooga on August 5, 2005. This trajectory indicates air movement from the northeast down to Chattanooga, which does not support the claimed transport from the northwest.

To further analyze the possibility of impact from the fires, organic carbon (OC) concentrations were considered. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ speciation data was not collected in the Chattanooga area on August 5, but Figure 6 shows the spatially averaged $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ organic carbon concentrations for the day. This map, however, does not indicate significant OC concentrations in the Chattanooga area.

Figure 7 shows spatially averaged $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ sulfate values for August 5, 2005. A widespread sulfate event is evident across the southeast U.S. on this day. This evidence shows that the elevated $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ levels observed at the Riverside site on July 27, 2005 were not caused by a Saharan dust event. Therefore, EPA concurrence was not given to any of these exceptional event flags.

Figure 6: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} organic carbon concentrations, August 5, 2005.

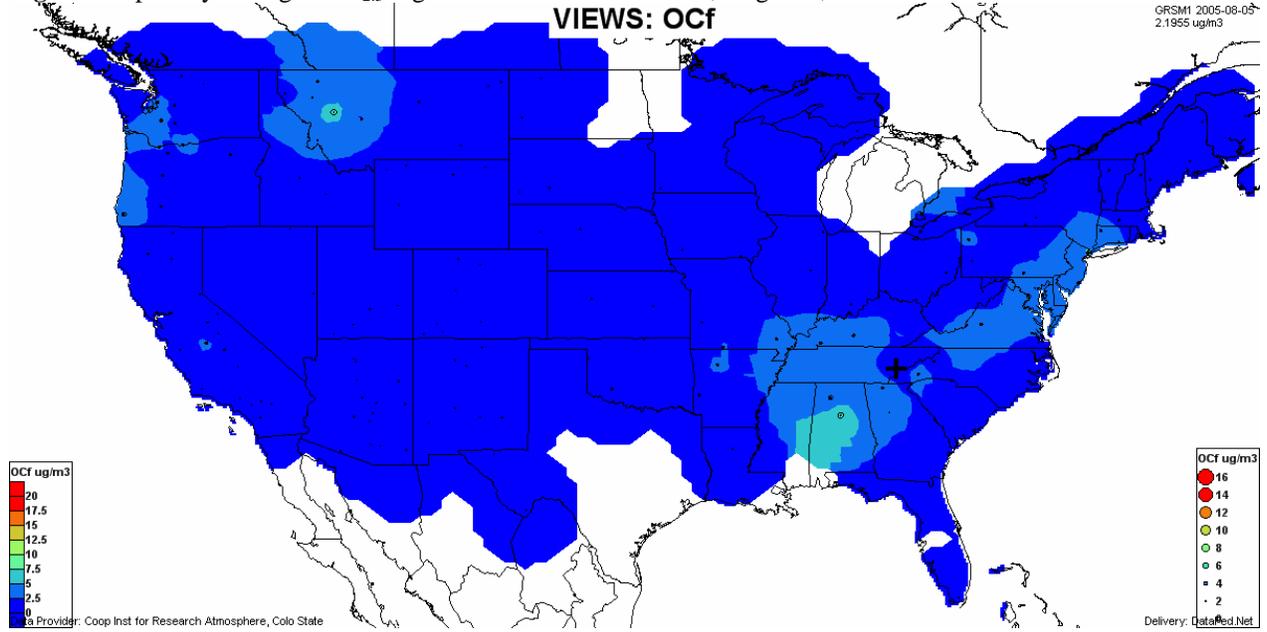
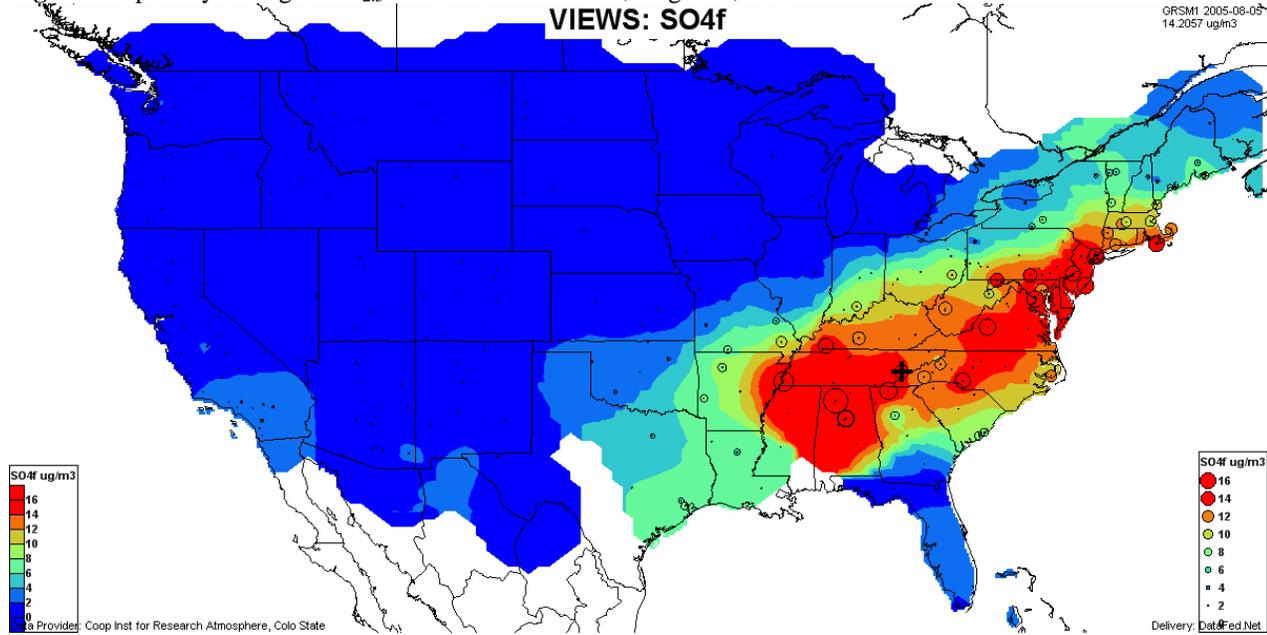


Figure 7: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} sulfate concentrations, August 5, 2005.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Northwestern U.S. Fires

Exceedance Dates:	9/7/05, 9/10/05, 9/13/05
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in Idaho and Montana

Table 5: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-4002-1	9/7/2005	15.9	17.1	26.0	28.7	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	9/10/2005	29.8	17.1	26.2	28.1	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	9/10/2005	30.1	17.1	26.0	28.7	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	9/13/2005	36.1	15.3	25.7	26.8	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-2	9/13/2005	36.2	17.1	26.2	28.1	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-1	9/13/2005	36.3	17.1	26.0	28.7	NO (sulfate)
47-065-0031-1	9/13/2005	35.8	17.8	25.6	31.2	NO (sulfate)

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

According to documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau, long range transport of smoke from wildfires in Idaho and Montana caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The only requested concentrations that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis were the values collected on September 13, 2005 at the Riverside, East Ridge, and Soddy Daisy (AQS ID: 47-065-1011) sites.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

To evaluate the possible causal relationship of the event on air quality in Chattanooga, wind trajectories were analyzed to assess the probability of smoke transport from the wildfires. Figure 8 shows a 48-hr backward trajectory for Chattanooga on September 13, 2005. These trajectories do indicate some air movement from the northwestern U.S. to Chattanooga, which supports the claimed transport from the northwest.

$\text{PM}_{2.5}$ speciation data collected on September 13, 2005, however, does not support the supposed smoke impact. High sulfate concentrations are evident on September 13th, as illustrated in Figure 9. This graph also indicates that organic carbon levels were not significantly above the normally expected range. Figure 10 shows very low $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ organic carbon concentrations across the southeast on this day, and does not even indicate elevated high OC levels in the claimed source region. Conversely, Figure 11 illustrates a widespread sulfate event across the eastern U.S. on this day. These observations show that the elevated $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations observed in Chattanooga on September 13, 2005 were most likely caused by emissions from local stationary and mobile sources, and that the air quality was not significantly influenced by wildfires in the

northwest. EPA concurrence was not given to any of the exceptional event flags related to this event.

Figure 8: 48-hr Backward trajectory, Chattanooga, TN, September 13, 2005
 NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL
 Backward trajectories ending at 23 UTC 13 Sep 05
 EDAS Meteorological Data

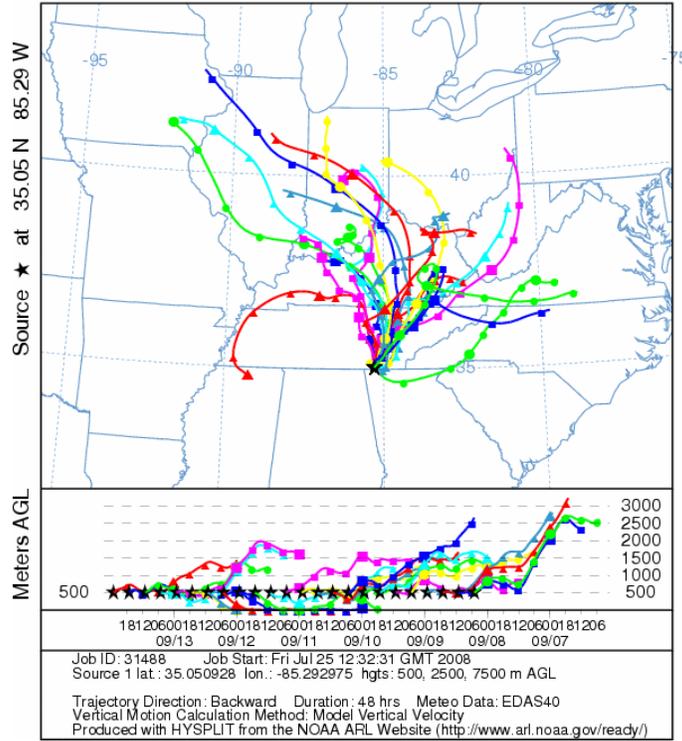


Figure 9: PM_{2.5} speciation data, Riverside and Rossville sites during the month of September, 2004-2007

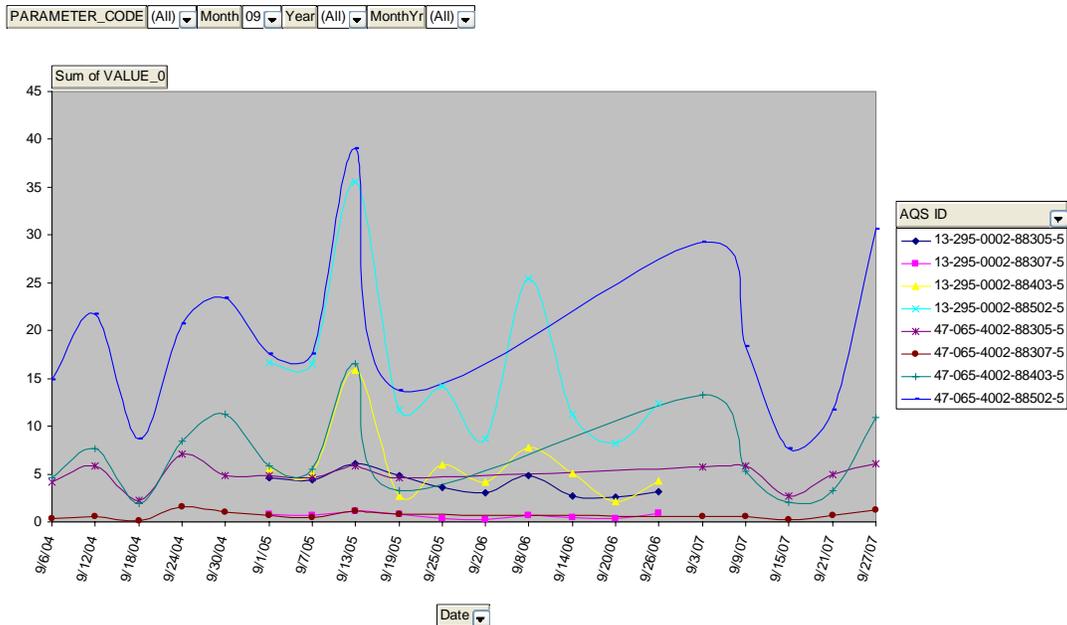


Figure 10: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} organic carbon concentrations, September 13, 2005.

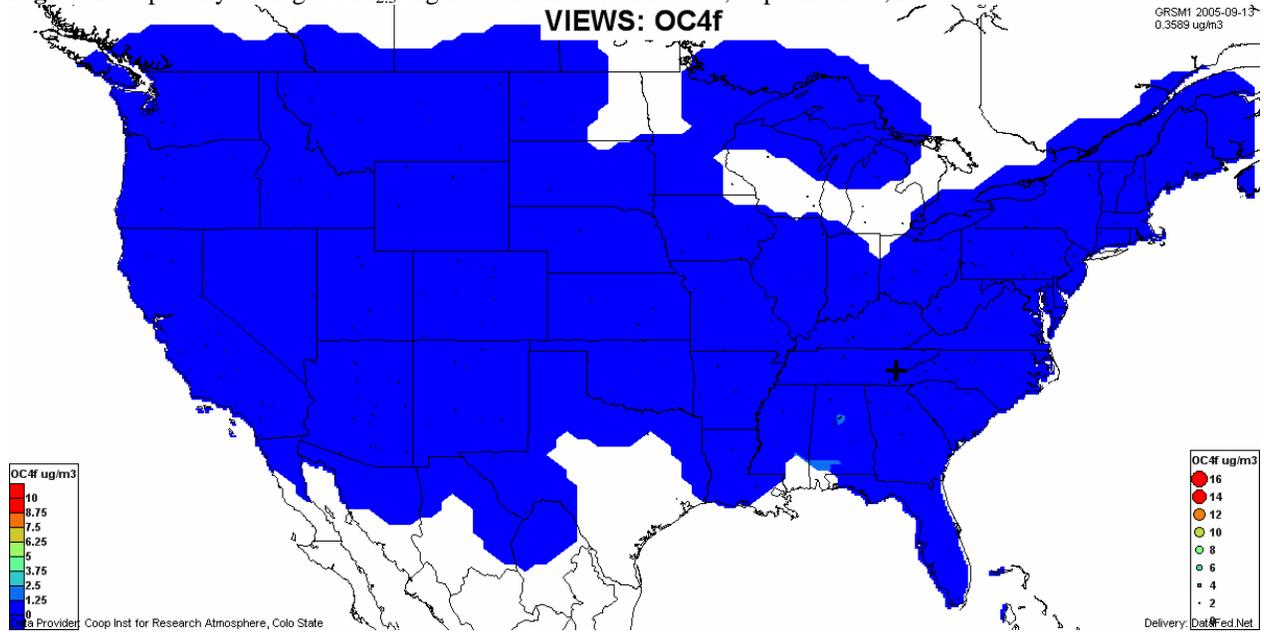
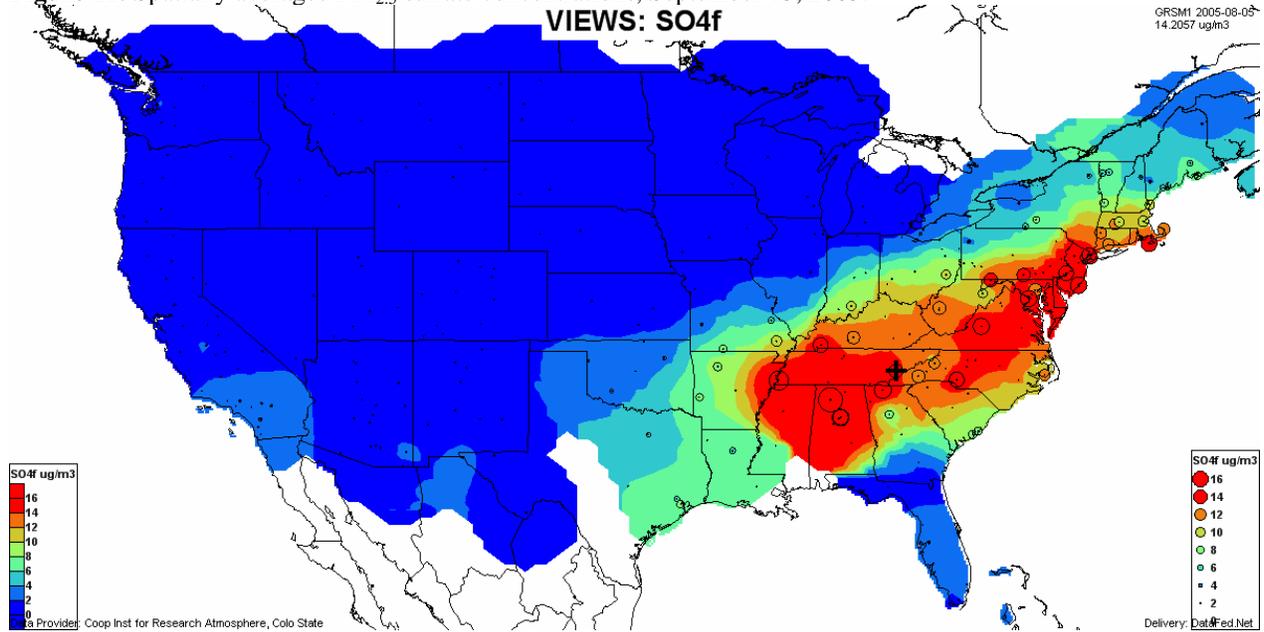


Figure 11: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} sulfate concentrations, September 13, 2005.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Canadian Fires

Exceedance Dates:	6/16/2006, 6/19/2006, 7/16/06, 7/19/06
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in central Canada

Table 6: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-4002-2	6/16/2006	30.4	18.7	27.3	29.9	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/16/2006	30.8	19.2	27.0	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	6/16/2006	25.5	19.0	24.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	6/19/2006	17.1	18.7	27.3	29.9	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/19/2006	17	19.2	27.0	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	7/16/2006	23	16.4	24.3	27.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	7/16/2006	22.3	16.0	22.1	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	7/16/2006	21.6	16.2	22.2	27.2	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	7/16/2006	23.2	17.0	22.3	30.4	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	7/19/2006	32.3	16.0	22.1	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	7/19/2006	31.7	16.4	24.3	27.2	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of smoke from wildfires in central Canada caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. None of the requested values, however, passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, no further analysis of these events is necessary. EPA concurrence was not given to any of these exceptional event flags.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Independence Day Fireworks Displays

Exceedance Date:	7/4/2006
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Local fireworks displays in celebration of Independence Day holiday.

Table 7: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	7/4/2006	49.2	17.0	22.3	30.4	YES
47-065-4002-2	7/4/2006	38.6	16.0	22.1	26.9	YES
47-065-4002-1	7/4/2006	38.5	16.4	24.3	27.2	YES
47-065-1011-1	7/4/2006	37.1	16.2	22.2	27.2	YES

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that fireworks displays around the Chattanooga area caused NAAQS exceedances at the above sites. 24-hr NAAQS exceedances were observed at the East Ridge, Riverside, and Soddy Daisy sites. All four values passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ speciation data collected on July 4, 2006 at the Riverside and Rossville sites showed significantly elevated levels of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ Strontium and Potassium, which according to Perry (1999) and Vecchi et al. (2008), is correlated with particulate matter emissions from fireworks. Figure 12 shows a map of the Chattanooga area, including monitoring sites and permitted fireworks displays on July 4, 2006. Permits issued for each of these fireworks displays can be found in Appendix C. Figure 13 shows 24-hour average $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations for the East Ridge site for June – August 2006. A peak can be seen in this figure on July 4th. Figure 14 shows the AIRNOW 24-hr average $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations measured across the southeastern United States on July 4, 2006.

Figure 12: Chattanooga, TN monitoring sites and fireworks displays, July 4, 2006.

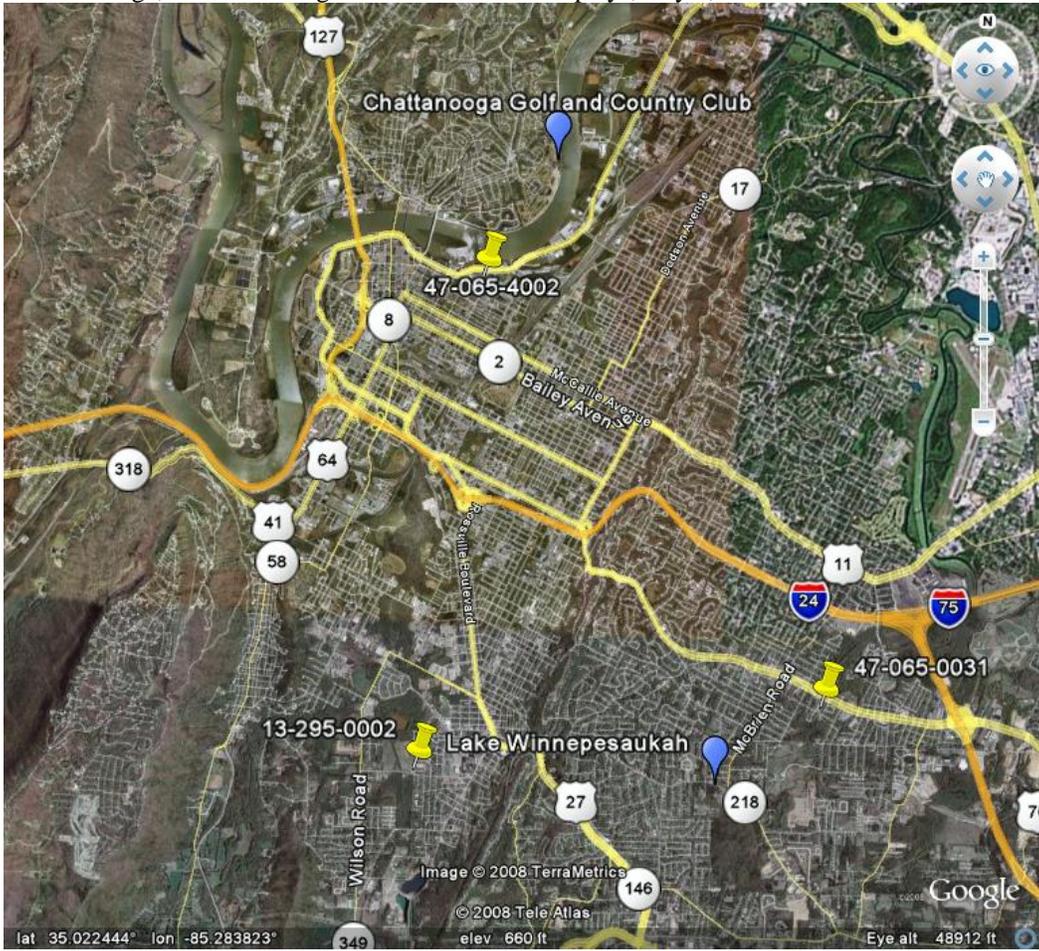


Figure 13: 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations collected by Federal Reference Method (FRM) at the East Ridge site during June – August 2006.

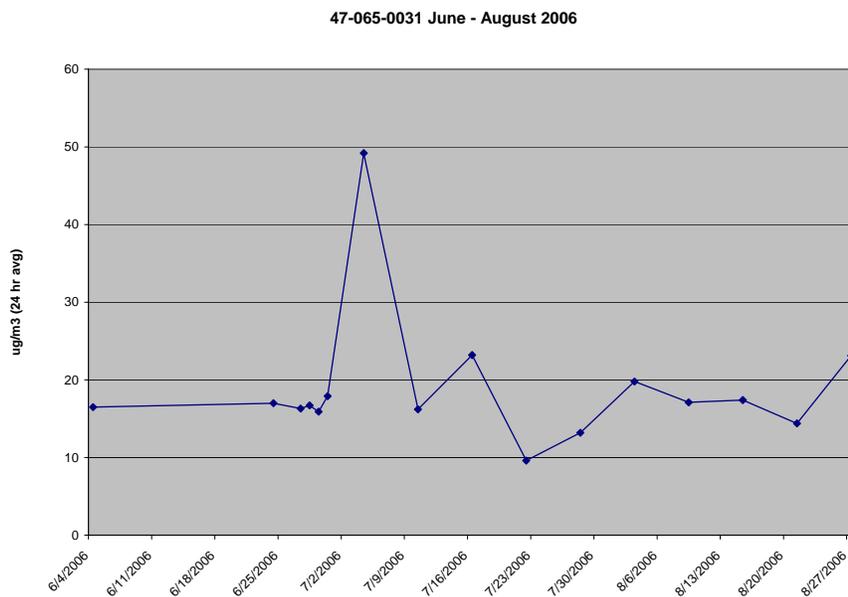
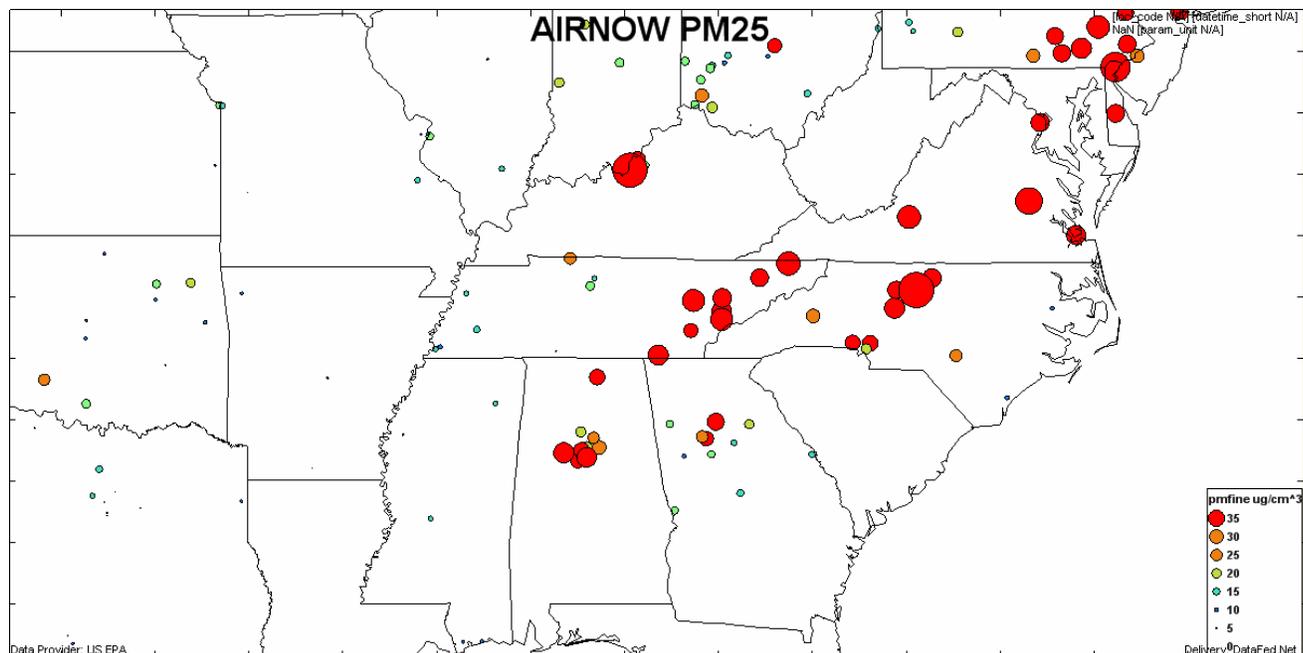


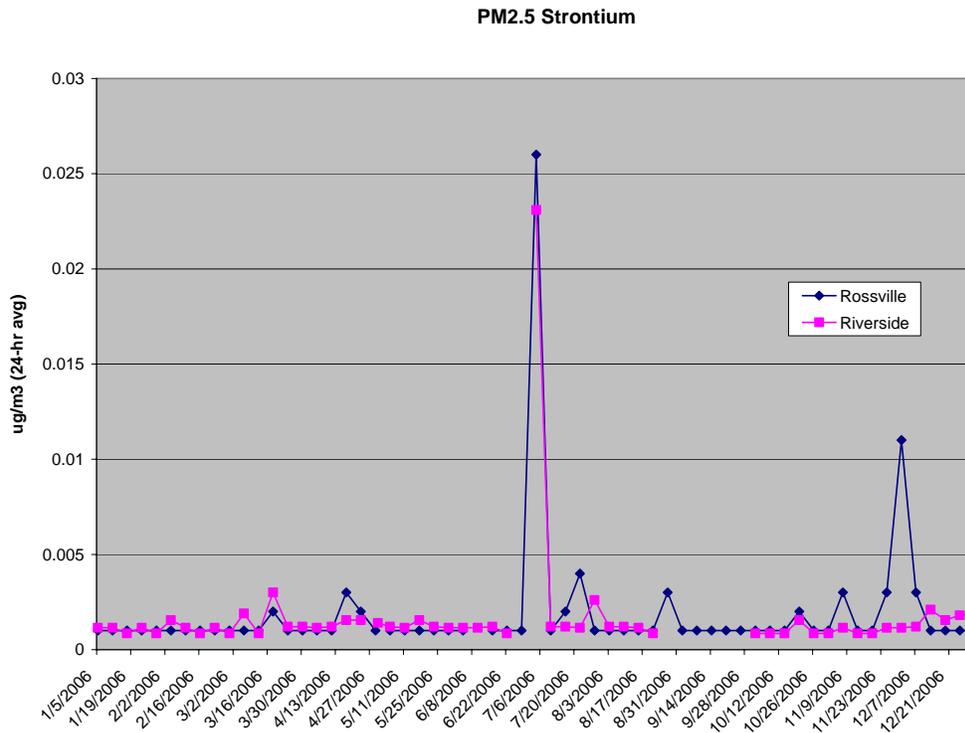
Figure 14: 24-hr average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations reported to AIRNOW across the southeastern US on July 4, 2006.



B) Causal Connection Between the Event and Air Quality

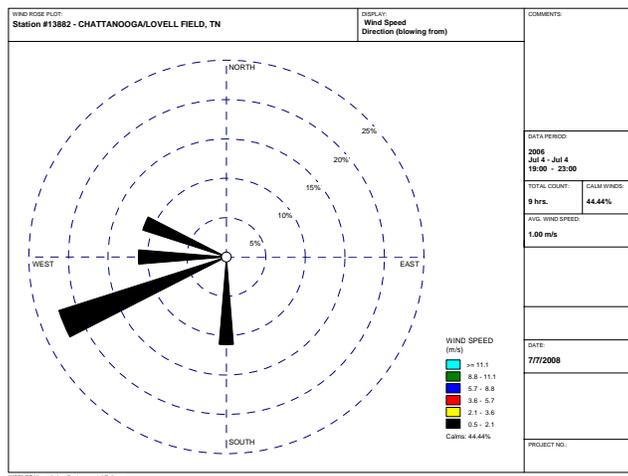
A causal connection between the fireworks displays and the observed exceedance of the $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS is demonstrated by using $PM_{2.5}$ speciation data collected on July 4th in the Chattanooga area, and by comparing the value observed on July 4, 2006 to the historical values measured at the site. Figure 15 shows the $PM_{2.5}$ strontium values collected at the nearby Riverside and Rossville sites during 2006. Both sites observed a spike of $PM_{2.5}$ strontium concentrations on July 4, 2006. According to Perry (1999) and Vecchi et al. (2008), strontium is widely used in fireworks to create red coloring, and is normally present in the atmosphere at very low levels. According to Vecchi et al. (2008), “Sr was recognized as the best fireworks tracer because its concentration was very high during the [fireworks] event and lower than, or comparable with, minimum detection limits during other time intervals, indicating that it was mainly due to pyrotechnic displays.”

Figure 15: PM_{2.5} strontium concentrations observed at Riverside and Rossville sites during 2006.



The causal relationship between fireworks displays and the elevated PM_{2.5} levels at the East Ridge site is strengthened upon consideration of local meteorological conditions on July 4, 2006. Figure 16 displays a wind rose for July 4th based on measurements taken at Lovell Field in Chattanooga. The wind rose shows that the prevailing wind on the night of July 4, 2006 was from the southwest. This indicates that the East Ridge site was directly downwind of the permitted fireworks display at Lake Winnepesaukah (See Figure 12 and Appendix C).

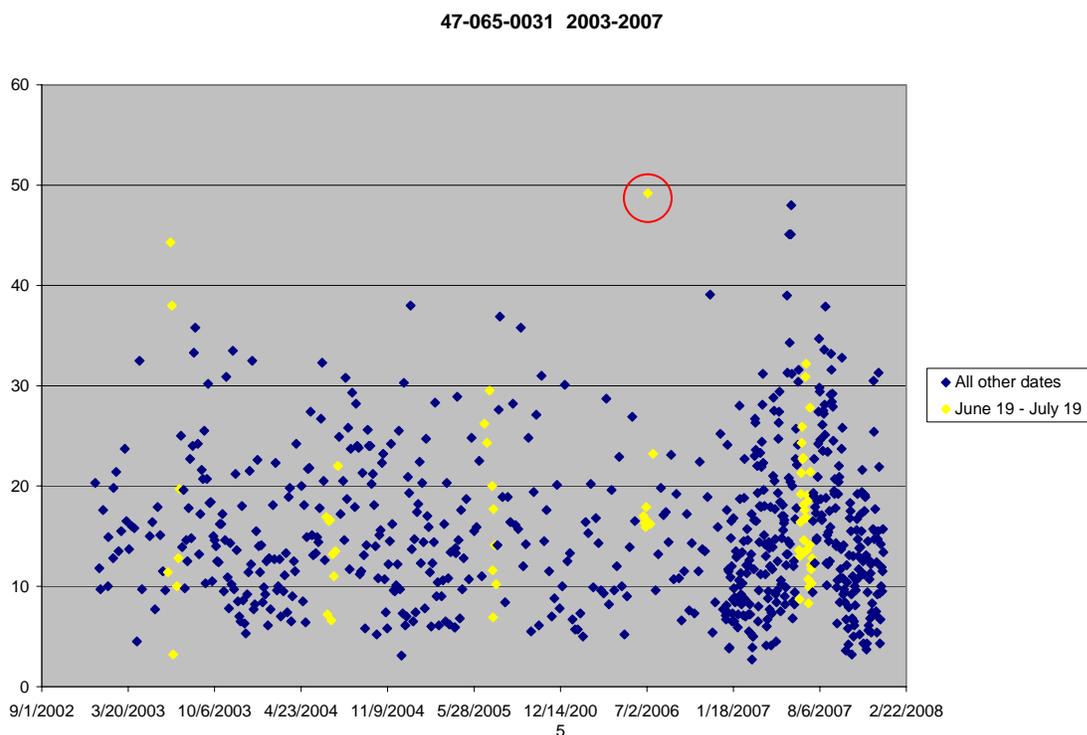
Figure 16: Wind rose from Lovell Field in Chattanooga for 7:00 PM to 12:00 AM on July 4, 2006.



C) Comparison to Historical Levels

The next step in determining whether the data collected at the East Ridge site on July 4, 2006 is to determine how unusual the measured $PM_{2.5}$ concentration was. Figure 17 shows all 24-hr average $PM_{2.5}$ measurements collected at the East Ridge site from 2003-2006. Values collected each year from June 19 – July 19 each year (the 30-day period centered around the event) are shown in yellow. As the figure illustrates, not only is this value the maximum value observed at this site over the three year period, it is also well above the normal range of values observed during this time period each year.

Figure 17: 24-hr $PM_{2.5}$ values collected during 2003-2006 at the East Ridge Site



Figures 18, 19, and 20 show the spatially averaged normal high values for 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations across the southeastern US, and how the observed values on July 4, 2006 compare to these normal high values. Figure 18 shows the 84th percentile 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations observed across the southeast during 2004-2006. These values were interpreted to represent the high end of normally observed values. Figure 19 shows the difference between 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations observed on July 4, 2006 and the 84th percentile concentrations for 2004-2006. This map shows values about $20\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above the normal high values in the Chattanooga area. Figure 20 shows a similar comparison as Figure 19, except Figure 20 shows the difference between observed concentrations and the 95th percentile concentrations for 2004-2006. Again, this map shows values about $10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above the 95th percentile values for 2004-2006. These figures demonstrate that the 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations measured at the East Ridge site on this day were in fact unusual and well above background or normal high levels. This conclusion is also supported by the elevated $PM_{2.5}$ strontium levels observed on July 4th (see Figure 15), which are also above background or normal high levels.

Figure 18: 84th percentile “normal high” 24-hr PM_{2.5} values, 2004-2006

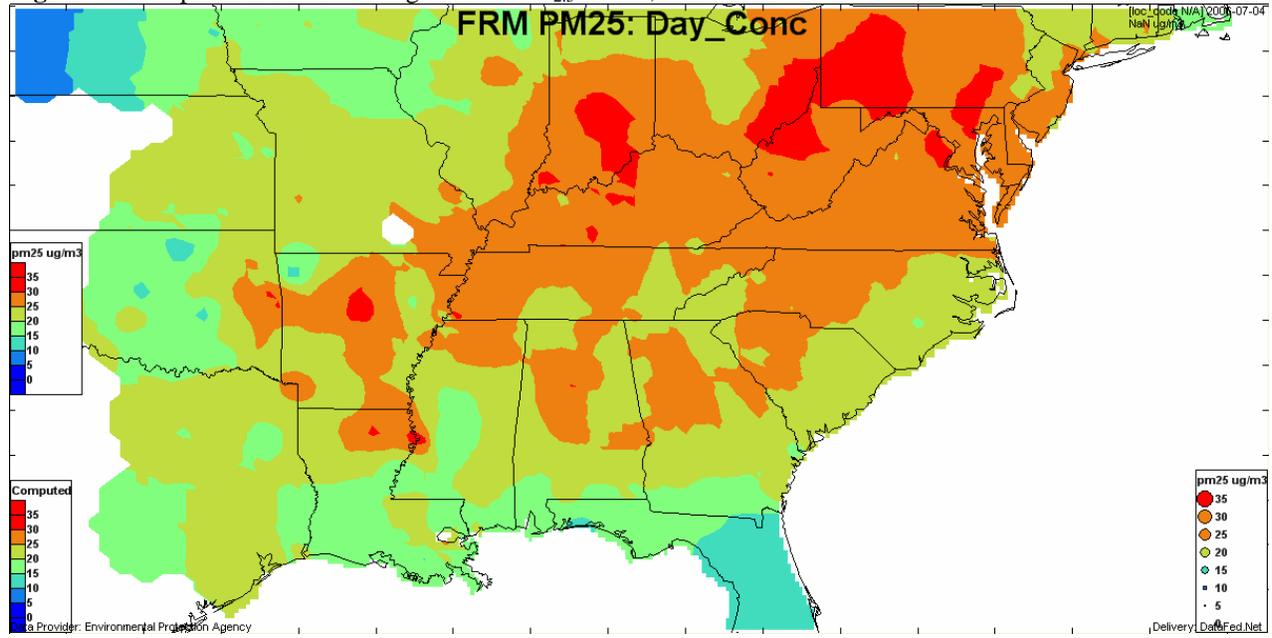


Figure 19: Values above 84th percentile 24-hr PM_{2.5} values on July 4, 2006

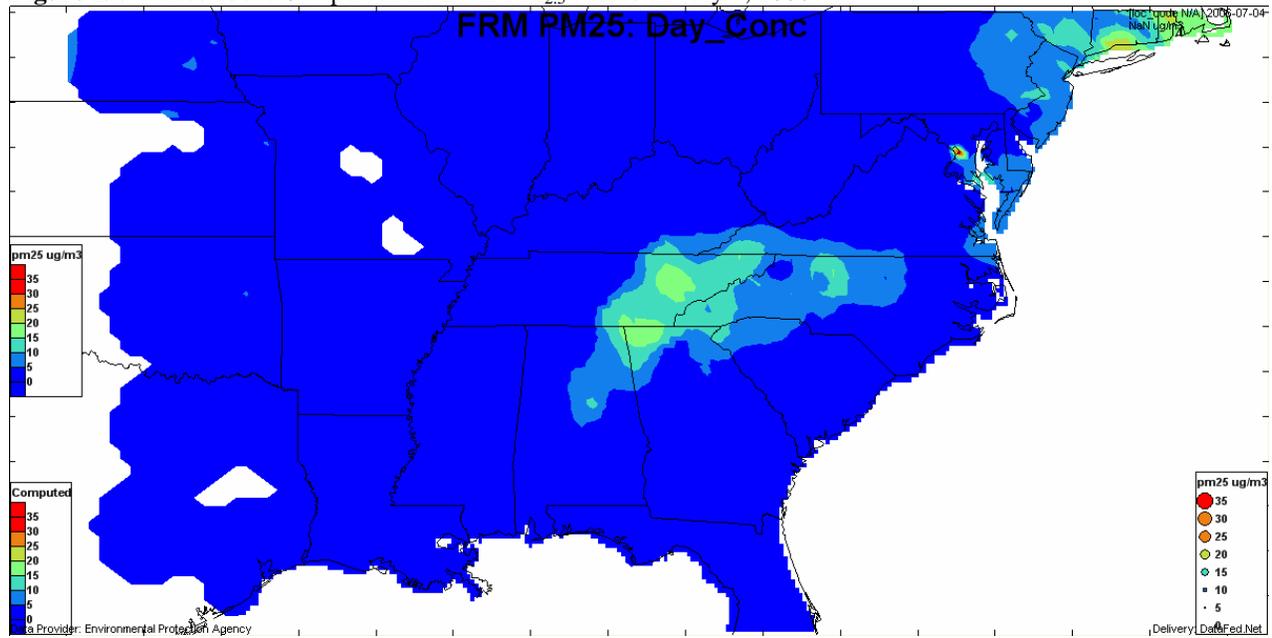
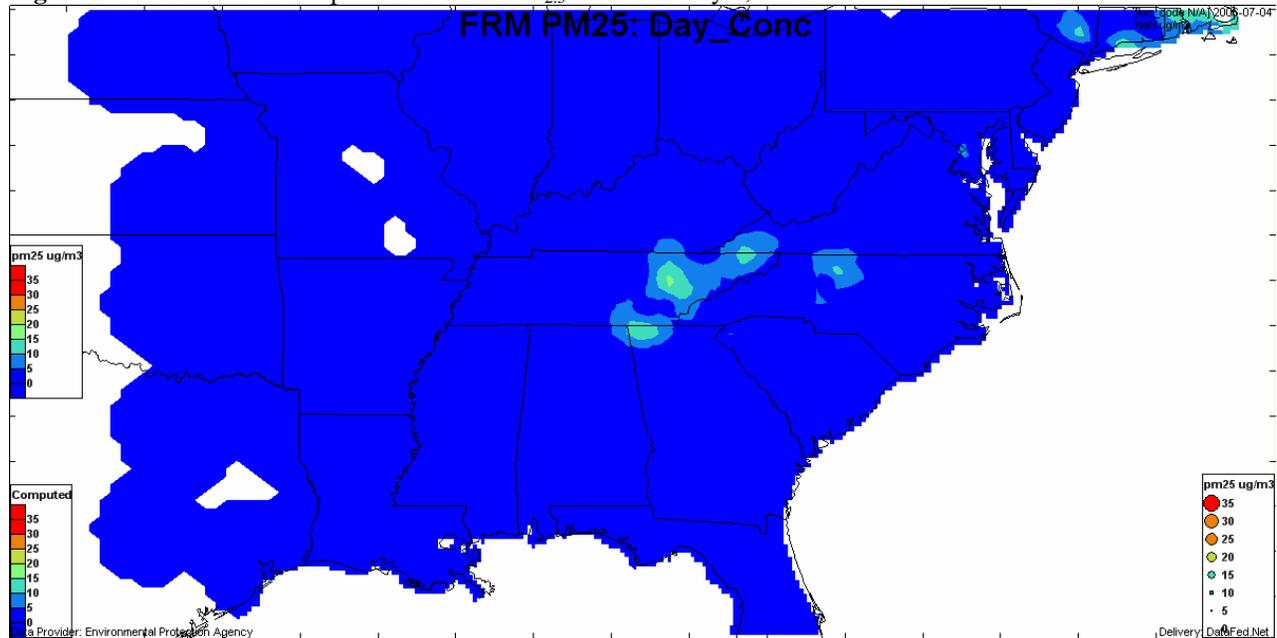


Figure 20: Values above 95th percentile 24-hr PM_{2.5} values on July 4, 2006



D) Demonstration of No Exceedance “But For” the Event

In order to corroborate the estimated 10-20 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increment over historically high values, a PM_{2.5} source apportionment analysis was conducted using PM_{2.5} speciation data collected on July 4, 2006 at the nearby Riverside and Rossville sites, and using fireworks source apportionment data collected by Perry (1999).

First, PM_{2.5} Speciation data for the Riverside site was collected for June 22 – July 19, 2006 from EPA’s Air Explorer website, which uses data from the EPA Air Quality System (AQS) database. Data for the Rossville site was not available on Air Explorer, and so was obtained directly from AQS. Speciation data collected at the Rossville site on June 22, 2006 was not used due to QA concerns (the PM_{2.5} mass measured by the PM_{2.5} speciation sampler was 28.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ higher than the value measured by the FRM sampler at the site). Next, data collected by Perry (1999) on the percent variance in PM_{2.5} mass explained by each of three source categories (fireworks, wind-blown soil, and other sources) for each of 18 PM_{2.5} speciated parameters (Al, Ba, Br, Ca, Cu, Fe, K, Mg, Mn, Na, Pb, S, Si, Sr, Ti, V, Zn, and Soot) was identified. This data was based on PM_{2.5} speciation data collected from July 1 – 7, 1990 across western Washington State. The application of data collected in a different region of the country to data collected in the southeast is a potential source of uncertainty. For purposes of this analysis, however, it was assumed that the total aerosol mixture observed by Perry (1999) was of similar composition to the mixture observed in Chattanooga during this event.

Next, for each day that PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected during June 19 – July 19, 2006, a PM_{2.5} strontium ratio was calculated by dividing the measured PM_{2.5} strontium mass on a given day by the measured PM_{2.5} strontium mass at that site on July 4th. The purpose of this calculation was to quantify the relative impact of PM_{2.5} from fireworks on different days. Next, a PM_{2.5} mass apportionment was conducted for each measured speciation component for each day that speciation data was available. This was accomplished using the following equation:

$$M_{source} = \%V_{source} \times M_{measured} \quad (Eq. 1)$$

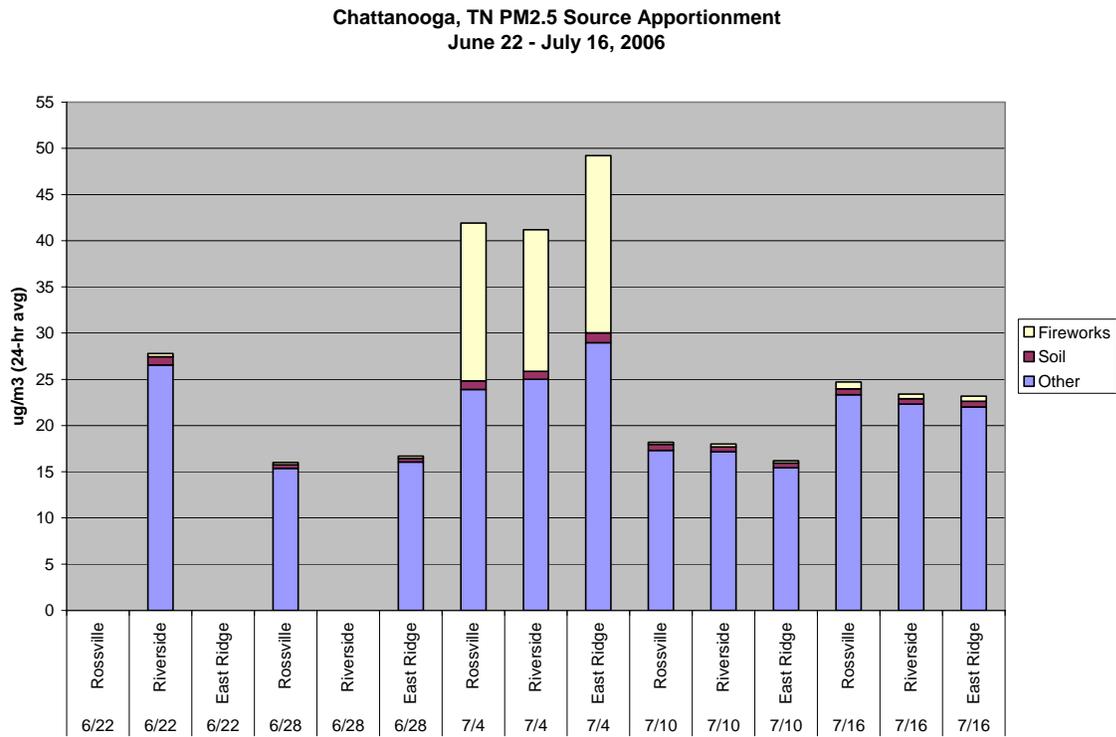
Where M_{source} is the mass of a specific $PM_{2.5}$ speciated component attributed to a source (i.e. fireworks, wind-blown soil, or other), $\%V_{source}$ is the percent variance that is explained by the source, obtained from Perry (1999), and $M_{measured}$ is the measured $PM_{2.5}$ mass of the speciated component. This analysis was conducted for each of the 18 speciated components discussed in Perry (1999). Because no data was available for the $\%V_{source}$ values for sulfate mass, the $\%V_{source}$ values for elemental sulfur were used, assuming that sulfur mass and sulfate mass are directly proportional. Also, the $\%V_{source}$ values calculated by Perry (1999) for soot were used for both elemental and organic carbon. For all other speciated parameters for which no $\%V_{source}$ values were available, the mass was assumed to be entirely from “other sources.”

One limitation of this analysis method is that the $\%V_{source}$ values for each of the three source categories do not add up to 100%. As a result, the entire $PM_{2.5}$ mass observed could not be directly accounted for (mean unaccounted mass fraction = 30.3%). To compensate for this problem, the percentage of the accounted mass was calculated for each of the three sources. The unaccounted mass (observed $PM_{2.5}$ mass – accounted mass) was then apportioned according to these percentages.

The final step in the source apportionment calculations was to account for day to day variability of source categories. Due to the fact that fireworks were only a documented source on July 4th, the $M_{fireworks}$ calculated for each day was multiplied by the $PM_{2.5}$ strontium ratio described above, in order to quantify the relative significance of fireworks as an emissions source on different days. The resulting value for each sample was considered the final $PM_{2.5}$ mass attributed to fireworks. A leftover mass was then calculated by subtracting the final mass attributed to fireworks from the $M_{fireworks}$. This leftover mass was then added to the “other sources” category. In order to estimate the source apportionment for the East Ridge site, the mass percentages calculated for the Riverside and Rossville sites were averaged for each day and applied to the $PM_{2.5}$ mass measured at the East Ridge site. The resulting source apportionment analysis is shown in Figure 21. This figure demonstrates that this event satisfies the requirement of §50.14(c)(3)(iii)(D) that “there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event.”

EPA concurrence was given to all four of the requested values on this day. The above discussion and documentation provides sufficient evidence that each of these four values satisfies all of the criteria required by the exceptional events rule, and may be excluded from use in determinations of exceedances and NAAQS violations

Figure 21: PM_{2.5} Source apportionment for June 22 – July 16, 2006. PM_{2.5} mass data for the Riverside and Rossville sites is from the PM_{2.5} speciation sampler. PM_{2.5} mass data for the East Ridge site is from the Federal Reference Method (FRM) sampler.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Northwestern U.S. and Canadian Fires

Exceedance Date:	8/18/06, 8/24/06, 9/11/06
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in the northwestern U.S. and Canada

Table 8: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-4002-1	8/18/2006	38.5	22.4	33.2	35.7	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-2	8/18/2006	38.4	22.4	31.7	35.6	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-1	8/24/2006	32.9	22.4	33.2	35.7	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	8/24/2006	32.6	22.4	31.7	35.6	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	9/11/2006	32.9	18.2	26.5	29.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	9/11/2006	32.7	18.3	26.2	29.7	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

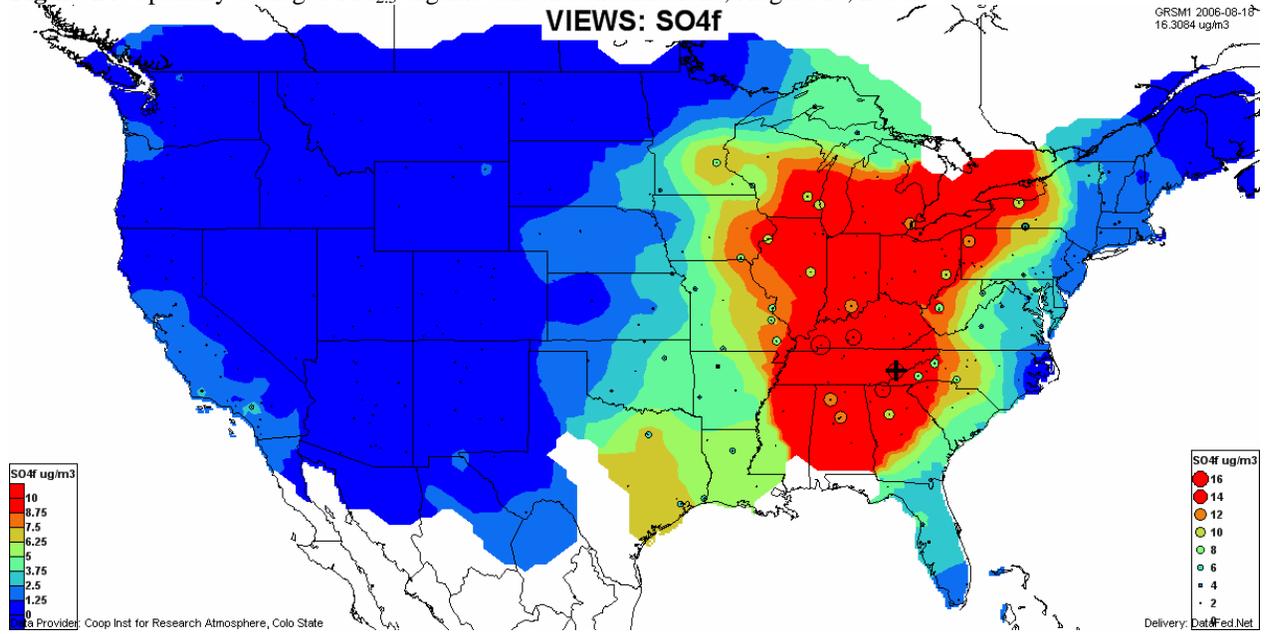
Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of smoke from wildfires in western Canada and the northwestern U.S. caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The only requested concentrations that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis were the values collected on August 18, 2006 at the Riverside site.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

To evaluate the possible causal relationship of the event on air quality in Chattanooga, wind trajectories were analyzed to assess the probability of smoke transport from the wildfires. Figures 22a and 22b show backward trajectories for Chattanooga on August 18, 2006. 48-hr trajectories are shown in Figure 22a, while 96-hr trajectories are shown in Figure 22b. These trajectories indicate air movement from the northeastern U.S. to Chattanooga, which does not support the claimed transport of smoke from the northwest U.S. and Canada.

In order to more accurately assess the possible impact of smoke on this day, however, $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ organic carbon and sulfate levels were considered. No $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ speciation was collected in the Chattanooga area on August 18, 2006, so spatially averaged maps were used to assess the possible impacts of smoke on air quality. Figure 23 shows the observed $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ organic carbon levels on August 18th, and Figure 24 shows the observed $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ sulfate levels. These figures show high levels of organic carbon in the claimed source area, but relatively low levels near Chattanooga. Also, high sulfate levels are evident across the eastern U.S., which shows that these NAAQS exceedances are due to local and regional stationary and mobile sources, and were

Figure 24: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} organic carbon concentrations, August 18, 2006.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Local and Southeastern U.S. Fires

Exceedance Date:	3/8/07, 3/9/07, 3/10/07, 3/11/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Smoke from local wildfires and wildfires around the southeast

Table 9: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	3/8/2007	23	12.2	17.5	20.2	NO
47-065-0031-1	3/9/2007	26.7	12.2	17.5	20.2	NO
47-065-0031-1	3/10/2007	26.3	12.2	17.5	20.2	NO
47-065-4002-1	3/10/2007	24.4	11.1	15.1	19.3	NO
47-065-4002-2	3/10/2007	23.5	11.3	14.9	18.8	NO
47-065-0031-1	3/11/2007	23.6	12.2	17.5	20.2	NO

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that smoke from wildfires in the counties surrounding Chattanooga and from wildfires around the southeast U.S. caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. All of the requested values passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

PM_{2.5} speciation data was not collected in the Chattanooga area during the claimed event, from March 8 – 11, 2007. Figure 25 shows speciation data collected during the month of March for 2004-2007. Slightly higher than normal levels of organic carbon were observed on other days of March 2007, suggesting possible impacts from fires.

Next, aerosol smoke and sulfate maps from the NAAPS satellite were analyzed for the time period in question. Some aerosol smoke was observed in the southeast on these days, although none is evident in the Chattanooga area, as illustrated by figure 26. Figure 27 shows aerosol sulfate maps for the same time period. These maps show moderate sulfate levels in the Chattanooga area.

C) Comparison to Historical Levels

In order to further evaluate the impacts due to fires, data collected from March 8 -11 was compared to background levels. Figure 28 displays all of the 24-hr PM_{2.5} concentrations collected in the Chattanooga area during 2004-2007. Samples collected during the month of March are shown in light blue, and samples collected during the rest of the year are shown in dark blue. The values requested to be excluded due to the local and southeast are shown in red.

As this figure illustrates, these values are in the high end of values collected in March, but appear to be within the range of normally observed values.

Figures 29, 30, and 31 show the spatially averaged normal high values for 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations across the southeastern US, and how the observed values on March 8-11, 2007 compare to these normal high values. Figure 29 shows the observed 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations across the southeast during March 8-11. Figure 30 shows the difference between 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations observed on March 8-11 and the 84th percentile concentrations observed during the month of March for 2004-2006. These maps show concentrations about 5-10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above the 84th percentile. Figure 31 shows a similar comparison as Figure 30, except Figure 31 shows the difference between observed concentrations and the 95th percentile concentrations for 2004-2006. These maps show values slightly above the 95th percentile in the Chattanooga area on March 9-10.

Although the 24-hr average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations observed during March 8-11 were slightly elevated, there is no definitive evidence that these NAAQS violations were caused by smoke impacts. $PM_{2.5}$ speciation data was not collected on these days (see figure 25), and NAAPS aerosol smoke maps do not show significant concentrations on any of the days in question (see figure 26). Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, EPA concurrence was not given to any exceptional event flags during this event.

Figure 25: $PM_{2.5}$ speciation data, Riverside and Rossville sites during the month of March, 2004-2007

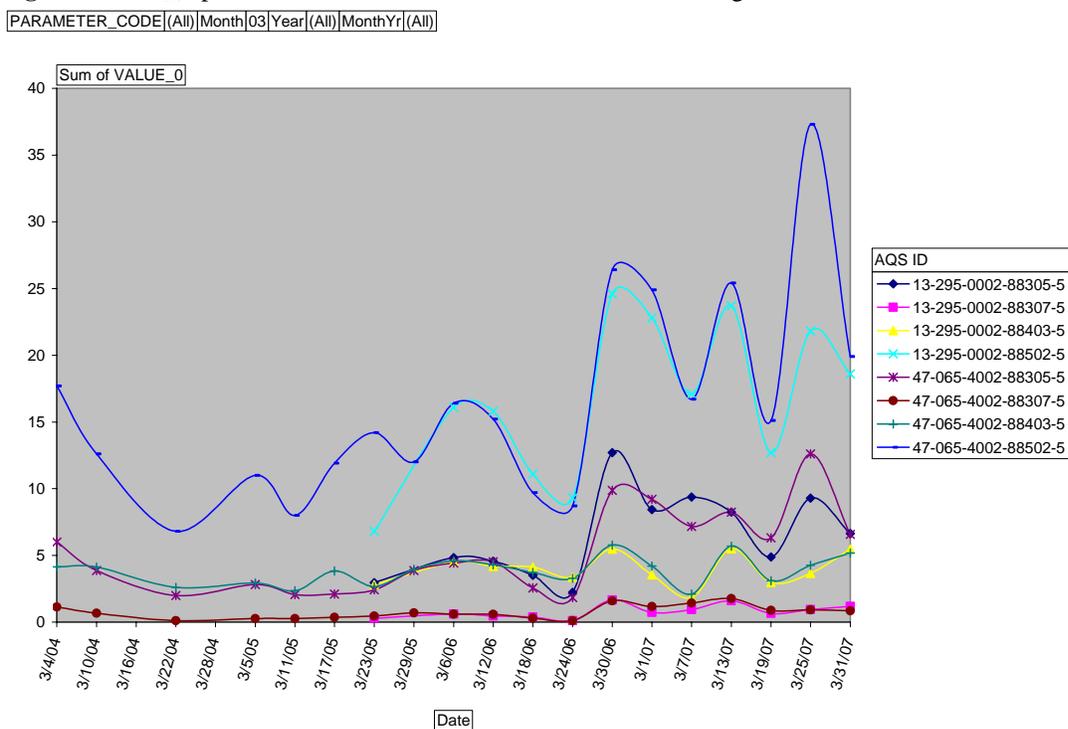
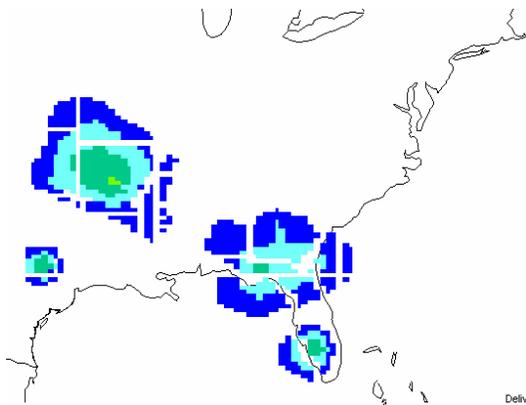
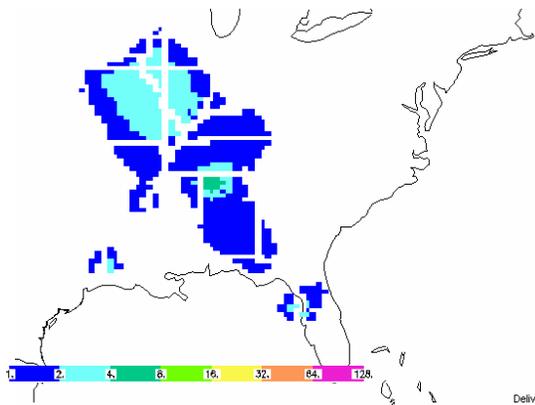


Figure 26: Aerosol smoke concentrations from NAAPS satellite, March 8 – 11, 2007.



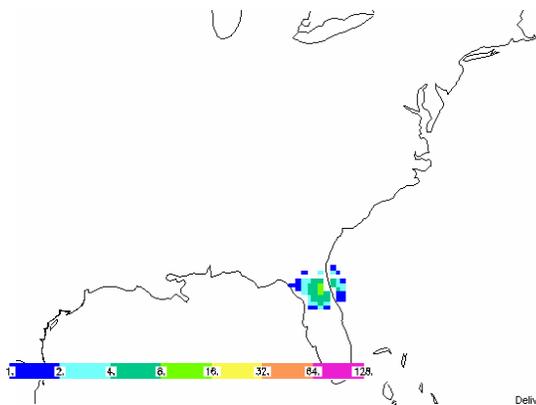
March 8, 2007

Delivery: DataFed.Net



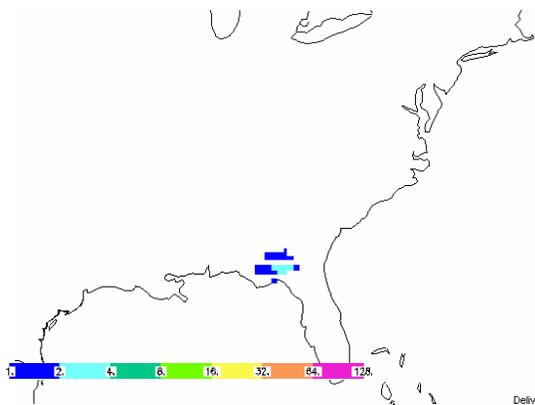
March 9, 2007

Delivery: DataFed.Net



March 10, 2007

Delivery: DataFed.Net



March 11, 2007

Delivery: DataFed.Net

Figure 27: Aerosol sulfate concentrations from NAAPS satellite, March 8 – 11, 2007.

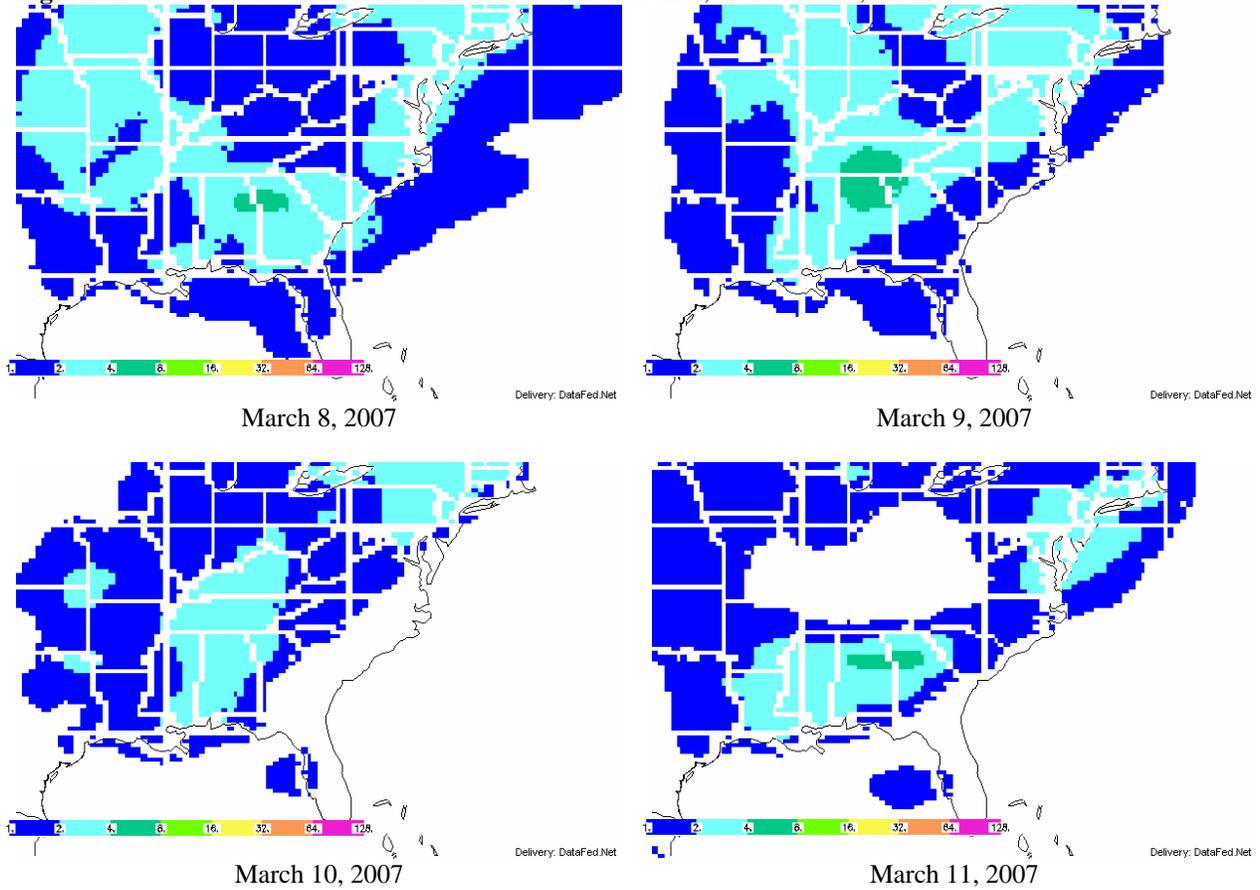


Figure 28: All 24-hr $PM_{2.5}$ measurements collected in the Chattanooga area, 2004-2007.

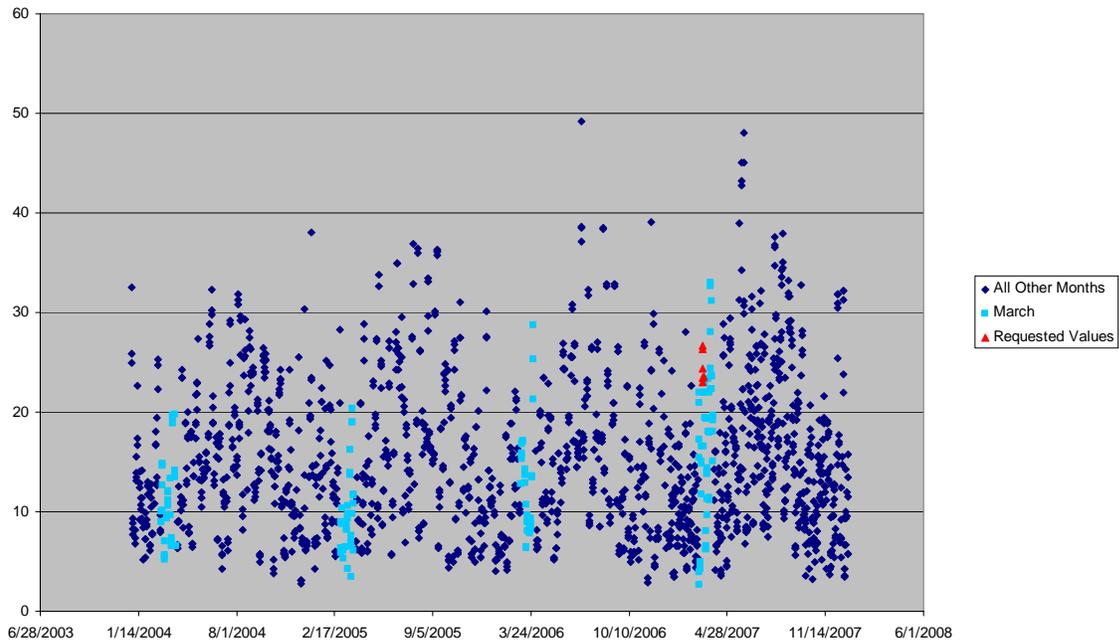
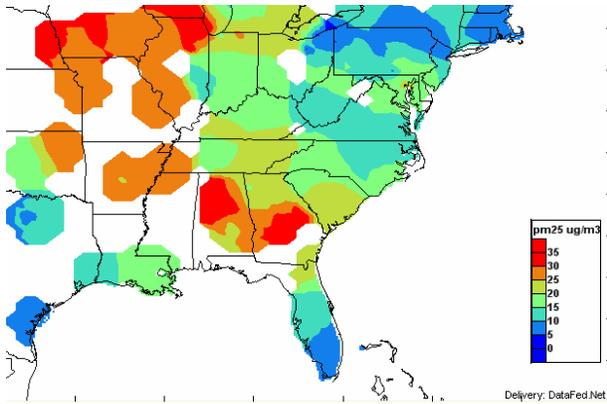
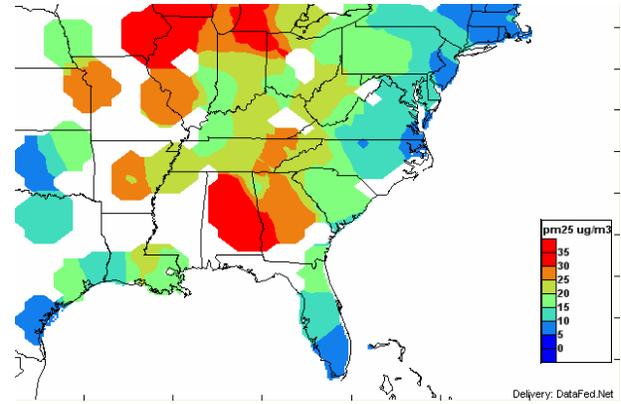


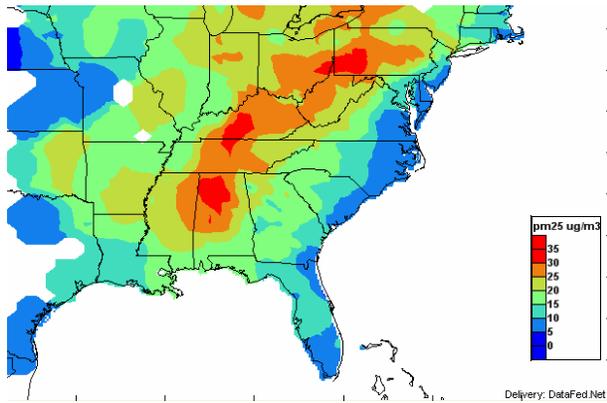
Figure 29: Spatially averaged $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations, March 8 – 11, 2007.



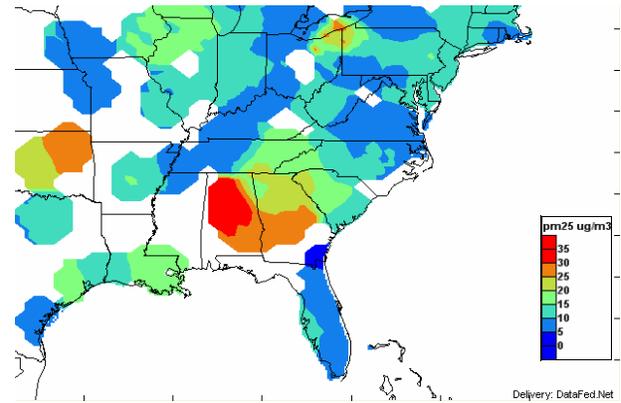
March 8, 2007



March 9, 2007



March 10, 2007



March 11, 2007

Figure 30: Spatially averaged excess PM_{2.5} concentrations above the 84th percentile, March 8 – 11, 2007.

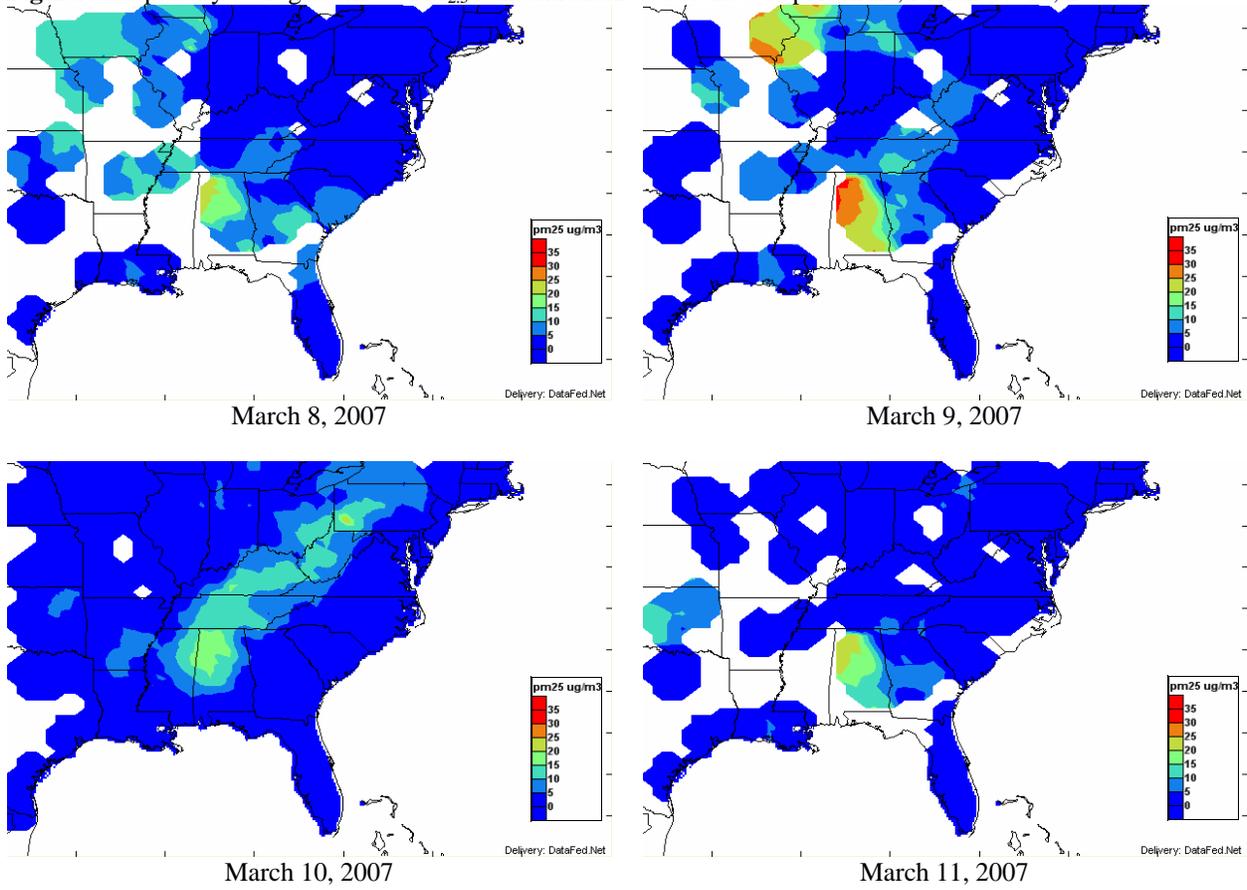
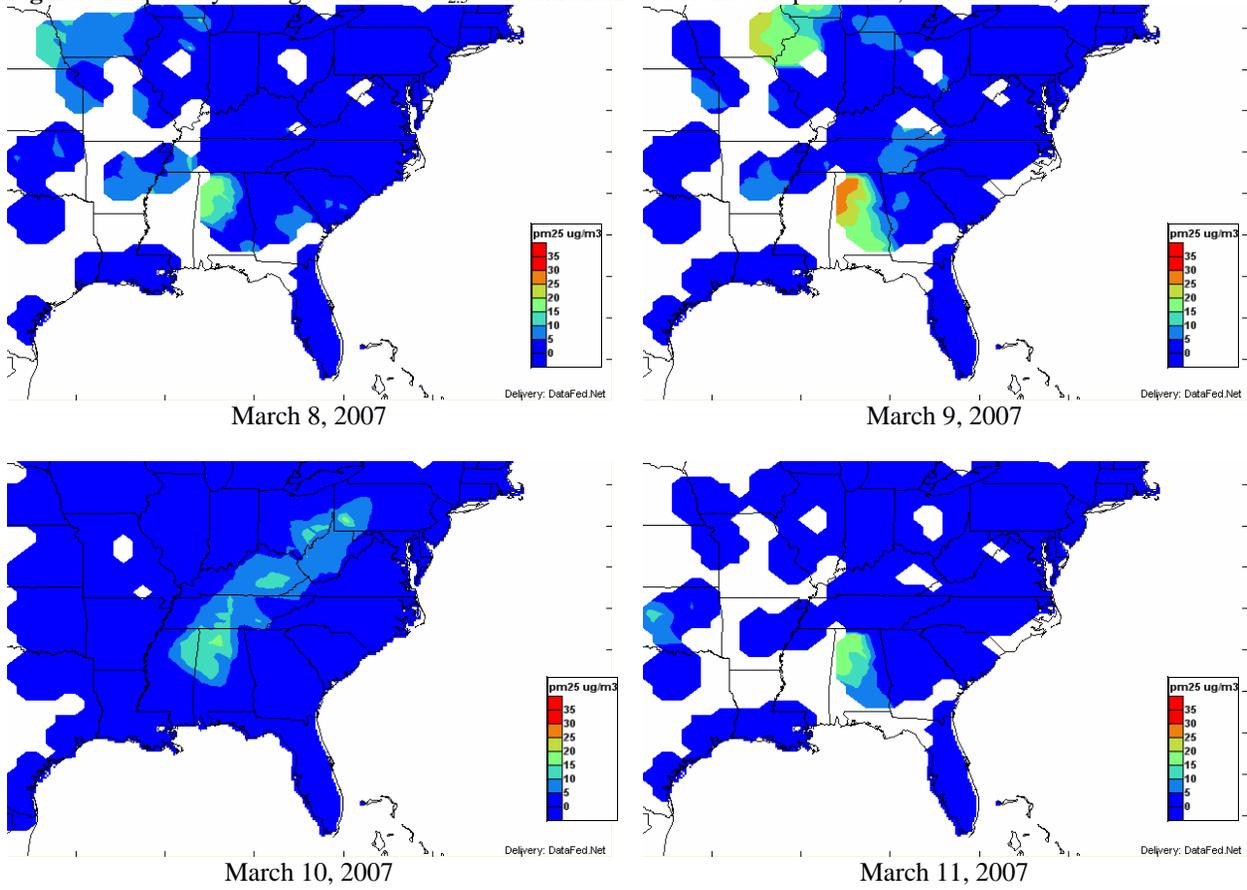


Figure 31: Spatially averaged excess PM_{2.5} concentrations above the 95th percentile, March 8 – 11, 2007.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Signal Mountain Fires

Exceedance Date:	3/24/07, 3/25/07, 3/26/07, 3/27/07, 3/28/07, 3/29/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Wildfire on Signal Mountain northwest of Chattanooga

Table 10: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	3/24/2007	21.9	12.2	17.5	20.2	YES
47-065-4002-2	3/25/2007	33	11.3	14.9	18.8	YES
47-065-4002-1	3/25/2007	32.7	11.1	15.1	19.3	YES
47-065-0031-1	3/25/2007	24.4	12.2	17.5	20.2	YES
47-065-1011-1	3/25/2007	22.3	9.4	12.3	17.3	YES
47-065-0031-1	3/26/2007	28.1	12.2	17.5	20.2	YES
47-065-0031-1	3/27/2007	31.2	12.2	17.5	20.2	YES
47-065-4002-2	3/28/2007	23.7	11.3	14.9	18.8	YES
47-065-4002-1	3/28/2007	23.6	11.1	15.1	19.3	YES
47-065-0031-1	3/28/2007	22.3	12.2	17.5	20.2	YES
47-065-0031-1	3/29/2007	19.6	12.2	17.5	20.2	YES

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that smoke from a local wildfire on Signal Mountain northwest of Chattanooga caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. All of these values passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. The fire was well documented in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, and articles submitted to EPA by Chattanooga-Hamilton County are contained in Appendix D. Figure 32 shows a map of the location of the Signal Mountain fire relative to the affected monitoring sites. The fire was approximately 8 miles northwest of the Riverside site, which measured the highest concentration during the event.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected at the Riverside and Rossville sites on March 25, 2007, the day that the highest concentration was recorded during the event. Figure 33 shows speciation data collected during the month of March for 2004-2007. A peak of organic carbon is shown on March 25th, indicating impact from the fire. Also, documentation of the fire in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* helps establish the causal link.

Next, spatially averaged PM_{2.5} organic carbon and sulfate maps were analyzed for March 25, 2007. Figure 34 shows the spatially averaged PM_{2.5} organic carbon concentrations, and Figure

35 shows the PM_{2.5} sulfate levels. These maps do not indicate significant levels of organic carbon or sulfates in the region surrounding Chattanooga. This is consistent, however, with the small scale of the event in question.

C) Comparison to Historical Levels

In order to further assess the impacts of the Signal Mountain fire, the data in question was compared to historical levels observed at each site. Table 10 shows that all of the values flagged except the concentration at the East Ridge site on March 29th are greater than the 95th percentile calculated from data collected during the month of March for 2004-2006. This is good evidence that the data were influenced by an exceptional event. Figure 36 shows the spatially averaged 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentrations observed on March 25, 2007, and the excess PM_{2.5} levels above the historical 84th and 95th percentiles. These maps show that the observed PM_{2.5} concentrations in Chattanooga were significantly above the historical 84th percentile and slightly above the historical 95th percentile.

D) Demonstration of No Exceedance “But For” the Event

In order to quantify the impacts of the fire on observed PM_{2.5} concentrations, speciation data collected at the Riverside site on March 25, 2007 was used to approximate the organic mass increment of the observed PM_{2.5} mass that was caused by the wildfire. The organic mass increment was calculated using the following equation, adapted from Turpin and Lim (2001).

$$OMI = (OC_{observed} - OC_{average}) \times 2.0 \quad (Eq. 2)$$

Where OMI is the organic mass increment due to smoke from the wildfire, OC_{observed} is the observed organic carbon mass, and OC_{average} is the average organic carbon mass observed at the site during the month of March for 2004-2006. A multiplier of 2.0 is used to approximate the total PM_{2.5} mass associated with smoke from wildfires (Turpin and Lim 2001). In order to approximate the PM_{2.5} concentration that would have been observed but for the fire, the OMI was subtracted from the observed 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentration. This procedure was then repeated for each day that PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected during March 2007 to compare impacts of smoke on different days. The results of this analysis are shown in Figure 37. This figure shows the calculated OMI and the adjusted PM_{2.5} mass (Observed PM_{2.5} – OMI). The graph demonstrates that without the PM_{2.5} mass emitted by the fire on March 25, 2007, the 24-hr average PM_{2.5} concentration would have been approximately 14.9µg/m³, and thus that there would have been no exceedance but for the wildfire.

Since the highest recorded value during the event (32.7 µg/m³ at the Riverside site on 3/25) met all of the requirements for exclusion from NAAQS calculations under the exceptional events rule, it can be assumed that the other requested values were similarly impacted by the wildfire, even though speciation data was not collected on these days. The overall body of evidence shows that there would have been no NAAQS exceedances during this period but for the Signal Mountain wildfire. EPA concurrence was given to all of the values requested during this event.

Figure 32: Map of monitoring sites in relation to the Signal Mountain Fire

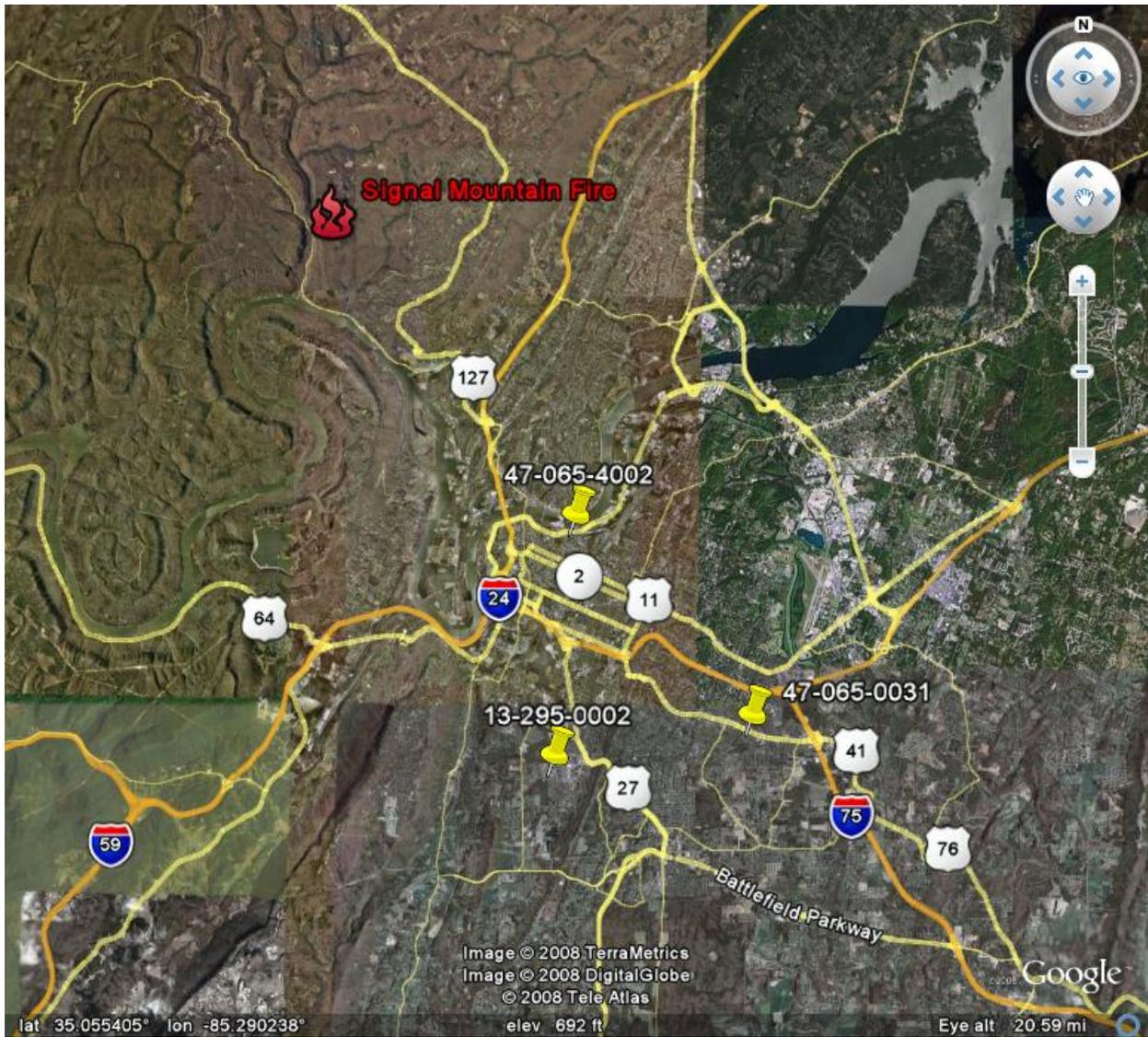


Figure 33: PM_{2.5} speciation data, Riverside and Rossville sites during the month of March, 2004-2007

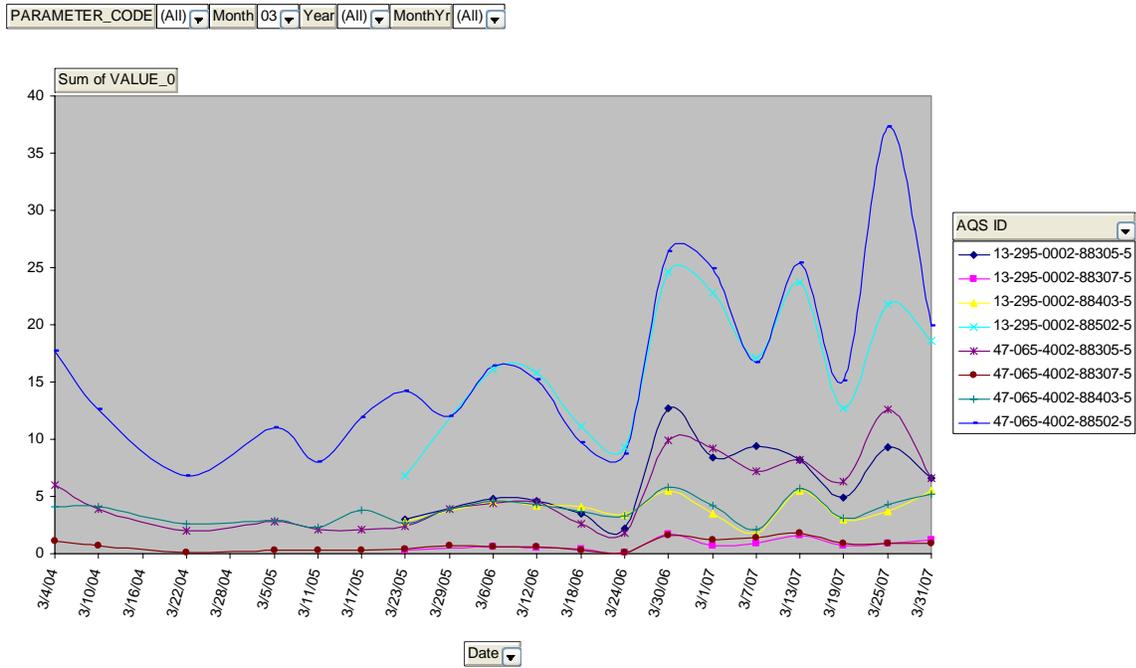


Figure 34: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} organic carbon concentrations, March 25, 2007

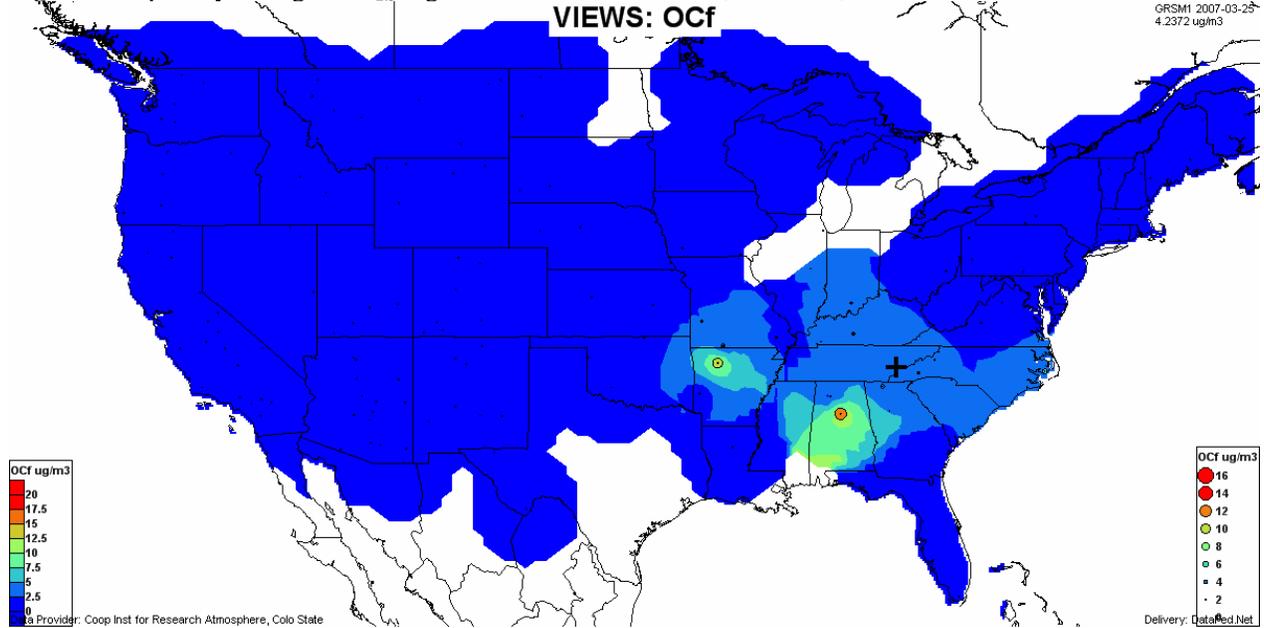


Figure 35: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} sulfate concentrations, March 25, 2007

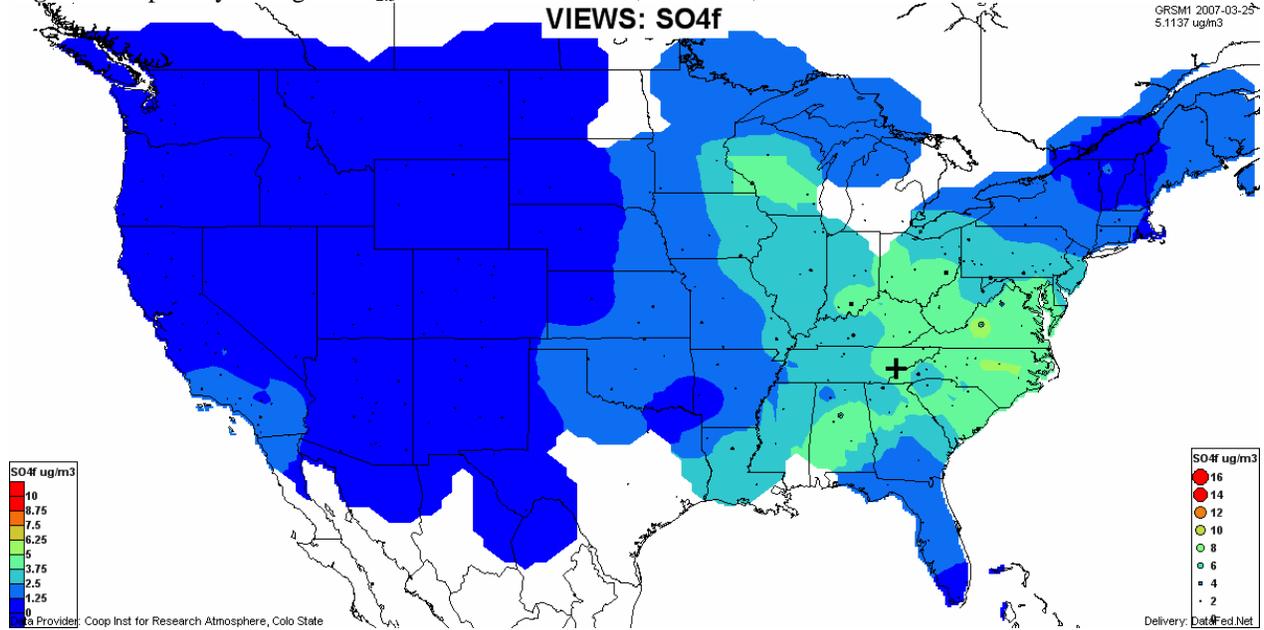


Figure 36: Comparison of PM_{2.5} concentrations observed on March 25, 2007 to historical levels

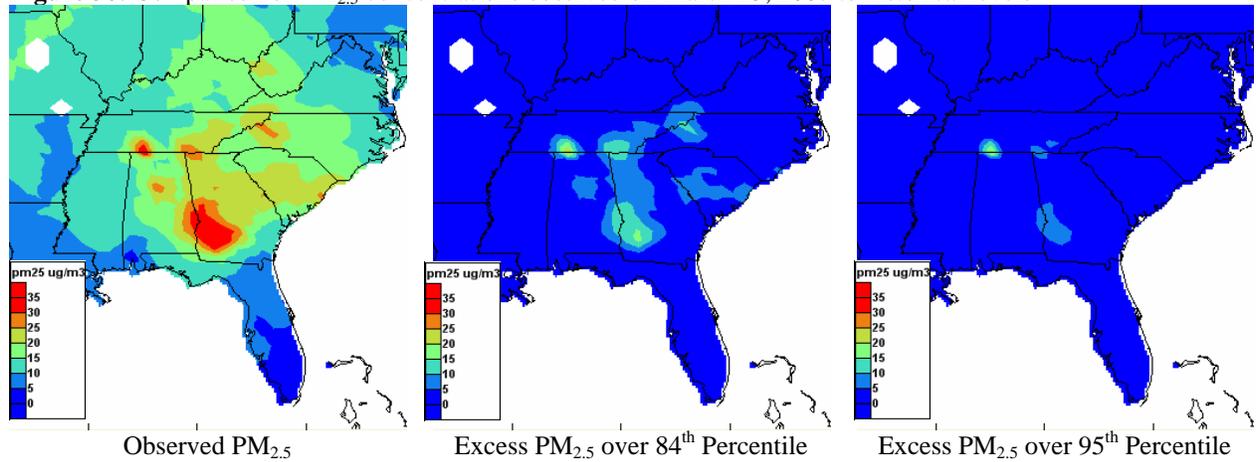
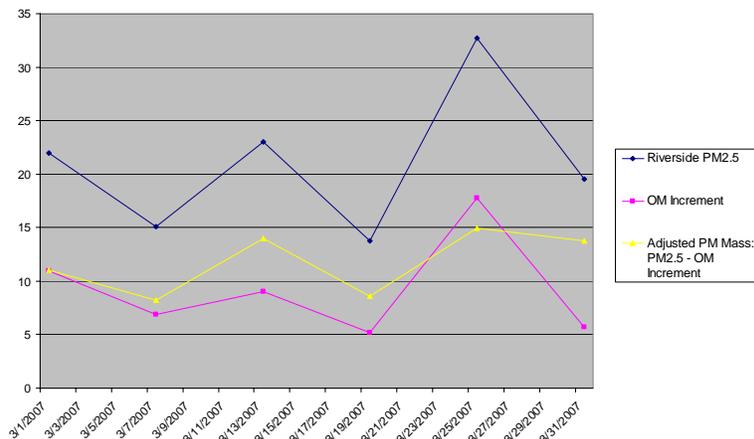


Figure 37: Adjusted PM_{2.5} mass for demonstration of no exceedance but for the event.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Georgia and Florida Wildfires

Exceedance Date:	5/2/07, 5/3/07, 5/4/07, 5/5/07, 5/22/07, 5/23/07, 5/27/07, 5/28/07, 5/31/07, 6/1/07, 6/2/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Transport of smoke from wildfires in southern Georgia and northern Florida.

Table 11: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	5/2/2007	24.7	15.3	21.8	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	5/3/2007	27	15.6	23.0	26.6	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	5/3/2007	26.8	15.5	22.7	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	5/3/2007	26.3	15.3	21.8	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	5/4/2007	27.4	15.3	21.8	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	5/5/2007	29.4	15.3	21.8	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	5/22/2007	39	15.3	21.8	26.9	YES
47-065-0031-1	5/23/2007	31.3	15.3	21.8	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	5/27/2007	45.1	15.3	21.8	26.9	YES
47-065-4002-1	5/27/2007	43.2	15.5	22.7	26.7	YES
47-065-4002-2	5/27/2007	42.8	15.6	23.0	26.6	YES
47-065-0031-1	5/28/2007	34.3	15.3	21.8	26.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	5/31/2007	45.1	15.3	21.8	26.9	YES
47-065-0031-1	6/1/2007	48	18.2	23.9	26.7	YES
47-065-0031-1	6/2/2007	31.2	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/2/2007	30.7	19.6	27.0	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	6/2/2007	29.9	19.4	27.3	30.2	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that smoke from wildfires in Georgia and Florida caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The values that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis were the concentrations collected at the East Ridge site on May 22, 27, 28, 31, and June 1, and the Riverside site on May 27.

The Bugaboo Scrub Fire (Figure 38a) was a wildfire that occurred from April to June in 2007 and ultimately became the largest fire in the history of both Georgia and Florida. The Bugaboo, which was not actually named until it had burned for nearly a month, started in the Okefenokee Swamp, most of which is located in Georgia. It was previously known as the Sweat Farm Road Fire, which merged with the Big Turnaround Complex fire (Figure 38b). Due to the amount of acreage consumed from these wildfires, copious smoke impacted sites around Region 4 from

May through the first week of June, in many cases causing very large increases in the 24 hour $PM_{2.5}$ mass.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

$PM_{2.5}$ speciation data was not collected in the Chattanooga area on any of the days under consideration. Other sites in Region 4, however, were able to definitively demonstrate a causal relationships between the wildfires and regional air quality for the same time period.

In order to more accurately assess the possible impact of smoke on this day, however, wind trajectories were analyzed for each of the requested days. Figure 39 illustrates 48-hr backward wind trajectories for each of the days under consideration. Figure 40 shows wind trajectories that passed through the claimed source region in southern Georgia and northern Florida on each day. These trajectories support the possible transport of smoke to Chattanooga on these days. Figure 41 depicts the NASA OMI aerosol index observed on each of the days in question, and confirms high aerosol particulate concentrations in southern Georgia and northern Florida.

Next, $PM_{2.5}$ organic carbon and sulfate levels were analyzed. Spatially averaged maps were used to assess the possible impacts of smoke on air quality since $PM_{2.5}$ speciation data was not available. Figure 42 shows the observed $PM_{2.5}$ organic carbon levels for each of the days in question, and Figure 43 shows the observed $PM_{2.5}$ sulfate levels. Though these maps are somewhat inconclusive, they do show some smoke impact, particularly on May 22.

C) Comparison to Historical Levels

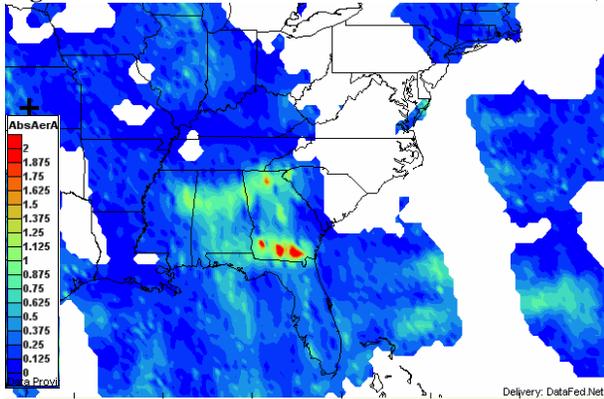
In order to further assess the impacts of the Georgia and Florida fires, the data in question was compared to historical levels observed at each site. Table 11 shows that all of the values that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis are significantly greater than the 95th percentile calculated from data collected during the month of May for 2004-2006. This evidence shows that the data were influenced by an exceptional event. Figure 44 shows the spatially averaged 24-hr average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations observed on each of the days in question. Figures 45 and 46 show the excess $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations observed above the 84th and 95th percentiles, respectively, on each of the days. These maps show 24-hr average $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations above the normal range of values observed in the Chattanooga area during the month of May in the past.

D) Demonstration of No Exceedance “But For” the Event

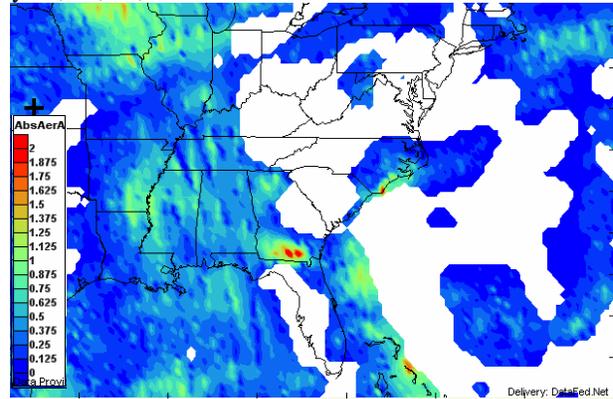
Since no $PM_{2.5}$ speciation data was collected on any of the days in question, an organic mass apportionment was not possible. For the violations of the 24-hr $PM_{2.5}$ standard ($35\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), however, each value was between $12.1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $21.3\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in excess of the historical 95th percentile for the respective site in the month of May. This is an indication that these monitors were significantly impacted by the fires, and that there would have been no exceedance of the 24-hr standard but for the event. EPA concurrence was given to all of the flagged values during the event that exceeded the 24-hr NAAQS of $35\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Without $PM_{2.5}$ speciation data for any of the requested values below the 24-hr standard, there is not enough evidence that there would have been no exceedance (of the annual NAAQS of $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) but for the fires. Also, because all of the historical three-year monthly averages for

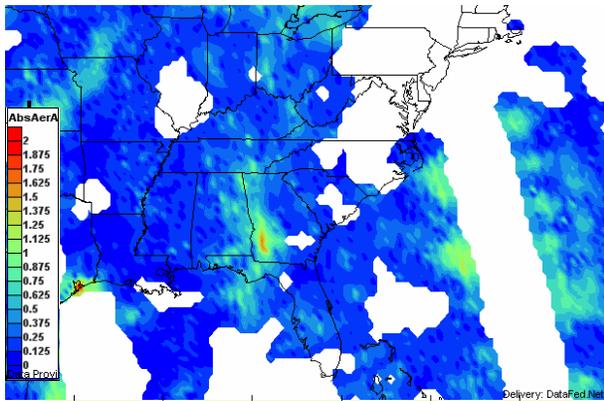
Figure 41: NASA OMI satellite aerosol concentrations, May 22, 27, 21, and June 1.



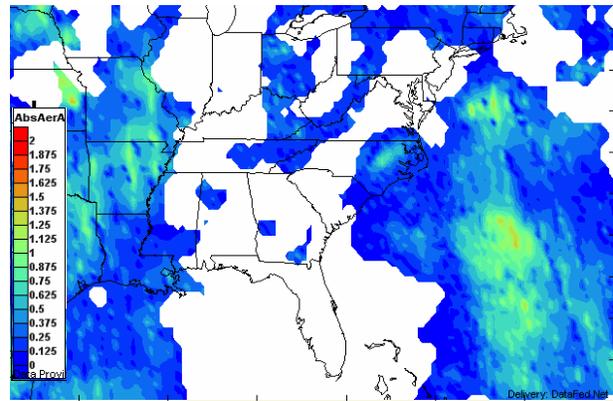
May 22, 2007



May 27, 2007



May 31, 2007



June 1, 2007

Figure 42: Aerosol smoke concentrations from NAAPS satellite, May 22, 27, 21, and June 1.

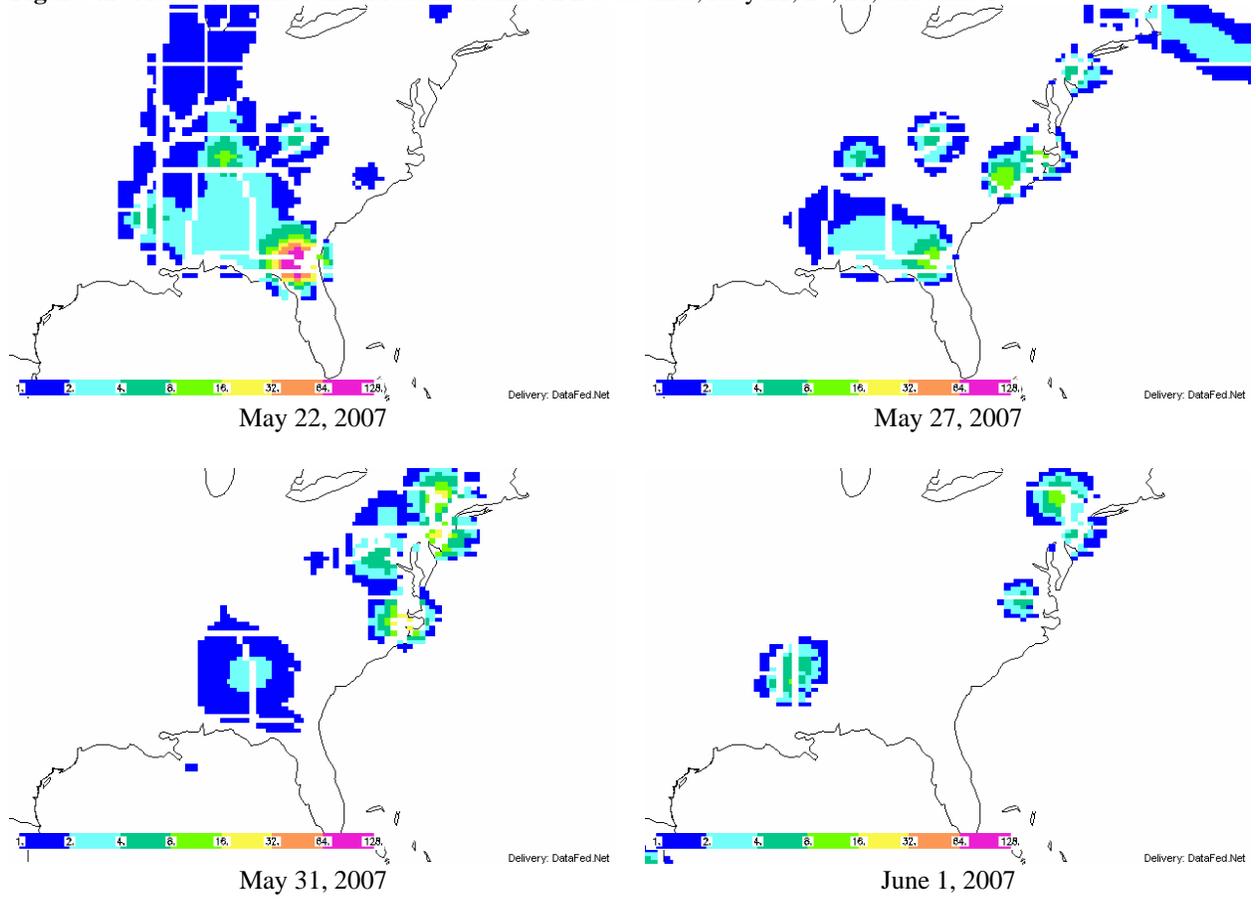


Figure 43: Aerosol sulfate concentrations from NAAPS satellite, May 22, 27, 21, and June 1.

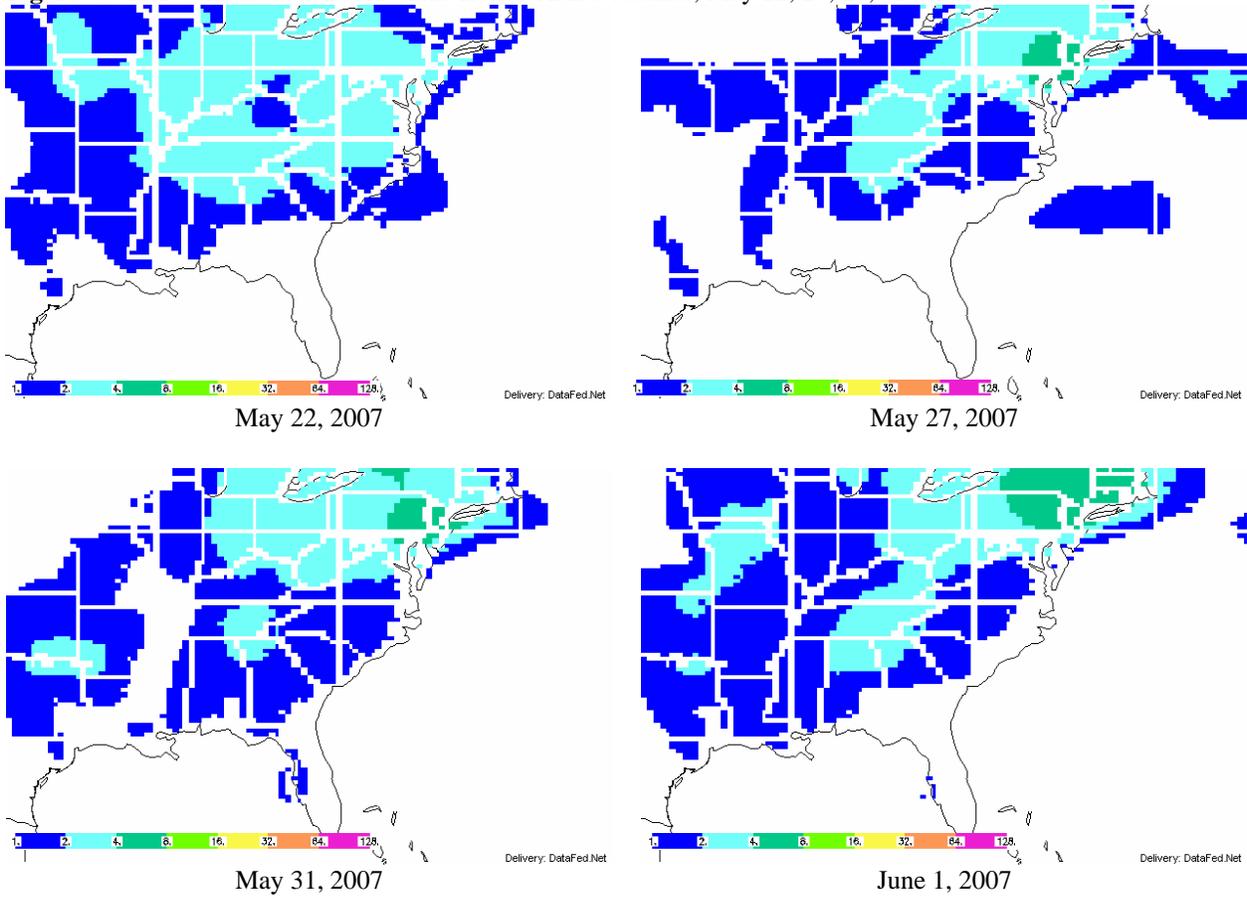


Figure 44: Spatially averaged PM_{2.5} concentrations, May 22, 27, 21, and June 1..

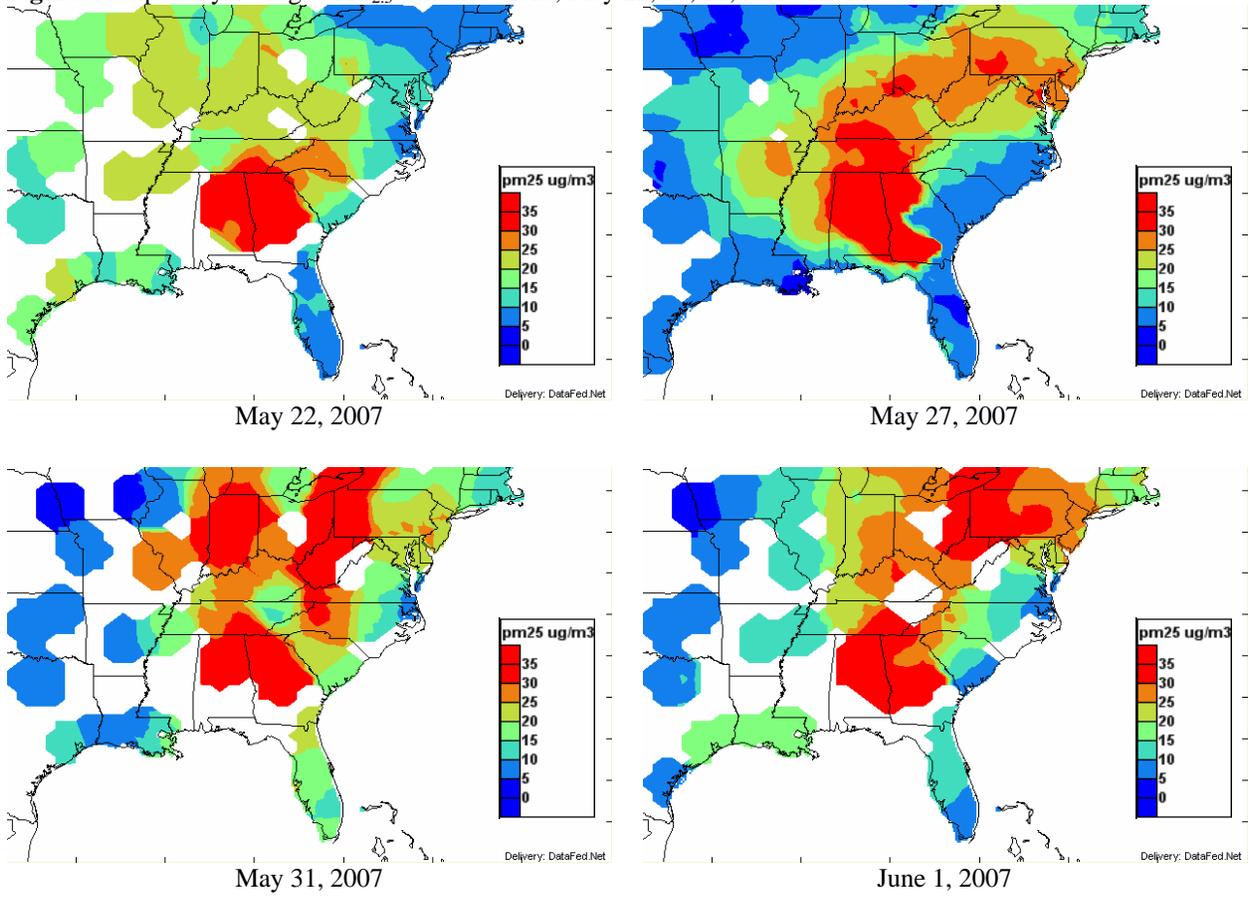


Figure 45: Spatially averaged excess PM_{2.5} concentrations above the 84th percentile, May 22, 27, 31, and June 1, 2007.

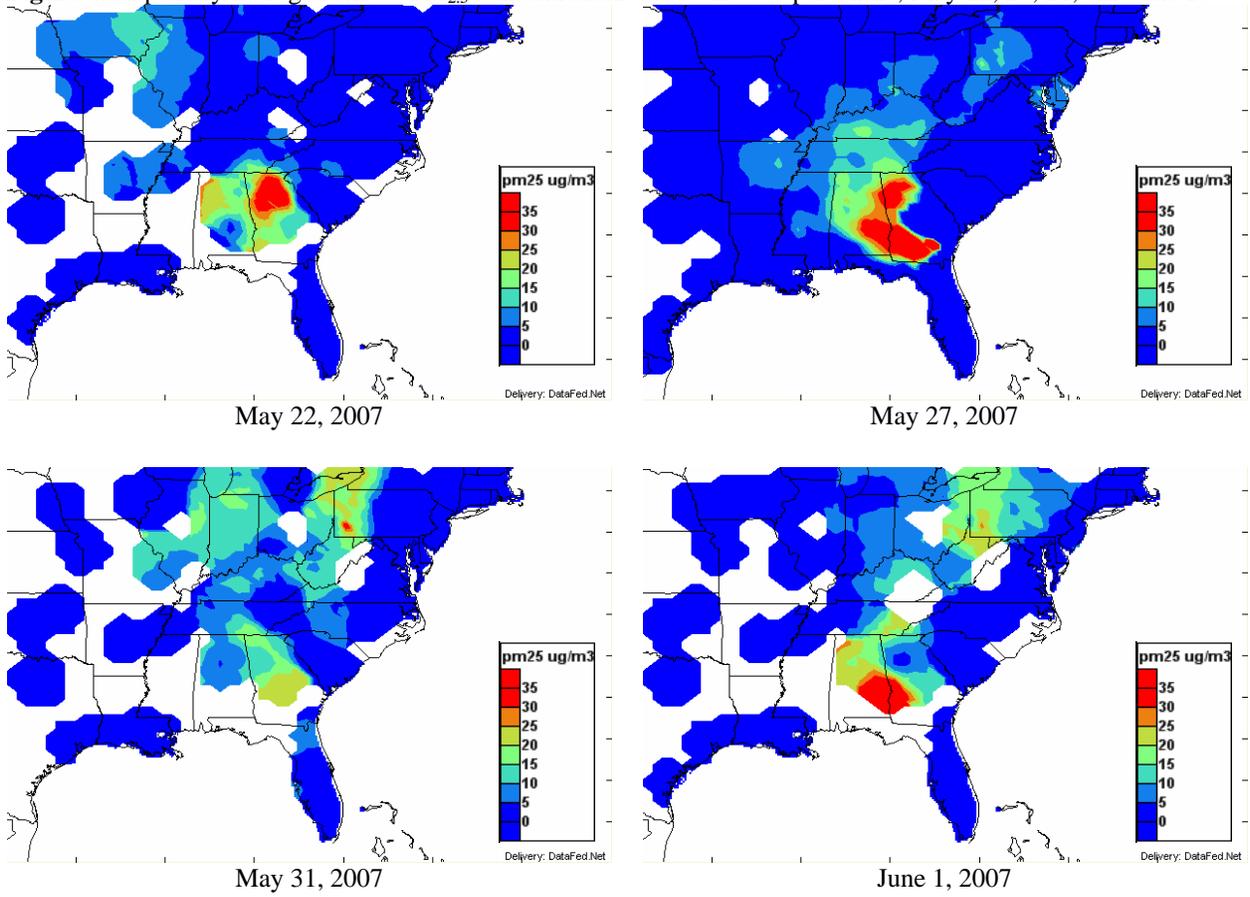
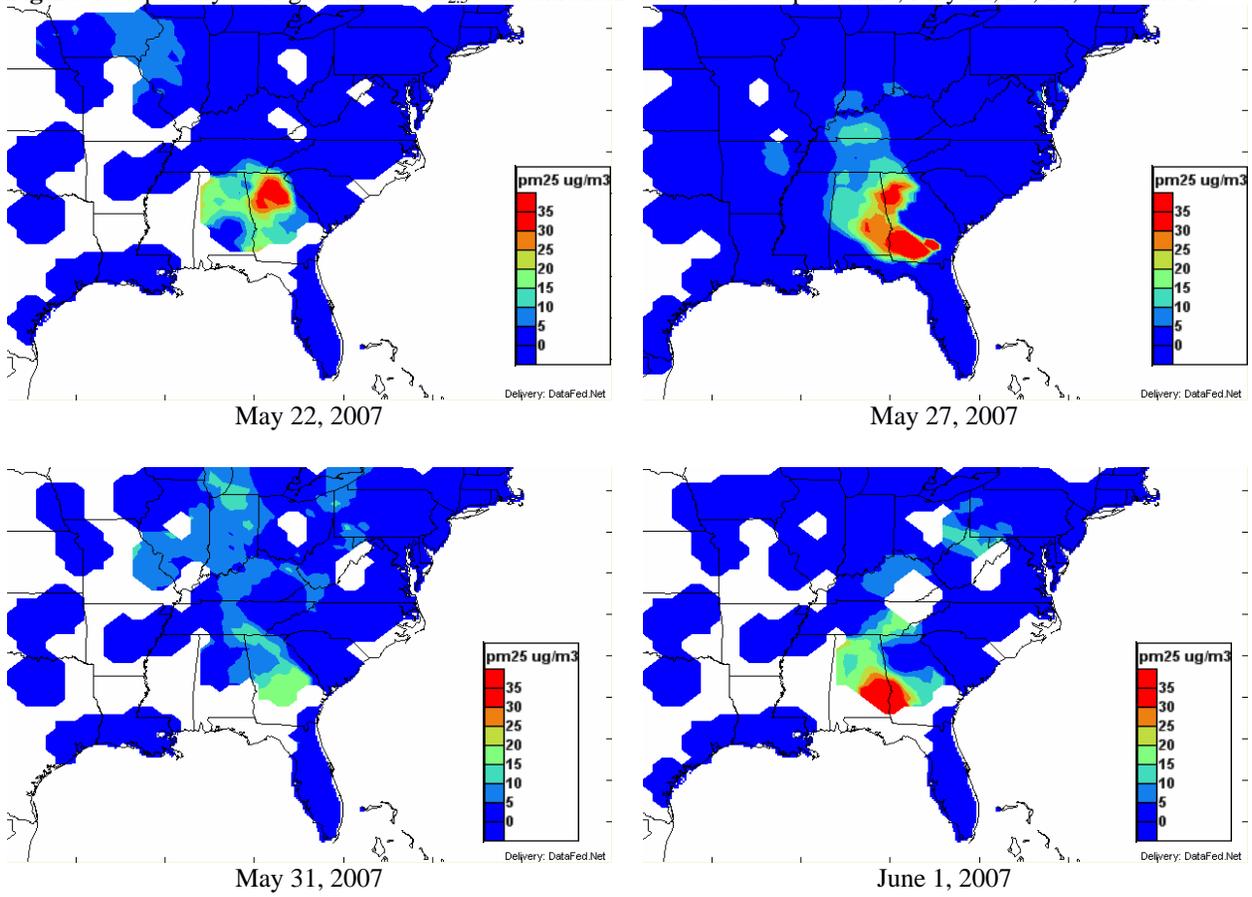


Figure 46: Spatially averaged excess PM_{2.5} concentrations above the 95th percentile, May 22, 27, 21, and June 1.



EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Canadian Fires

Exceedance Dates:	6/12/07, 6/17/07, 6/18/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in northeast Canada

Table 12: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	6/12/2007	25.7	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	6/17/2007	30.4	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	6/17/2007	25.4	19.7	25.0	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/17/2007	28.3	19.6	27.0	30.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	6/18/2007	31.6	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of smoke from wildfires in northeast Canada caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. None of the requested values, however, passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, no further analysis of these events is necessary. EPA concurrence was not given to any of these exceptional event flags.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Saharan Dust

Exceedance Dates:	6/24/07, 6/25/07, 6/26/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of dust from the Sahara Desert in Africa

Table 13: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	6/24/2007	21.3	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	6/25/2007	24.3	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	6/26/2007	25.9	18.2	23.9	26.7	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	6/26/2007	26.7	19.4	27.3	30.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	6/26/2007	26.6	19.6	27.0	30.5	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of dust from the Sahara Desert in Africa caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. None of the requested values, however, passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, no further analysis of these events is necessary. EPA concurrence was not given to any of these exceptional event flags.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Canadian Fires

Exceedance Dates:	7/4/07, 7/5/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in northeast Canada

Table 14: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	7/4/2007	30.9	18.6	26.2	36.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	7/5/2007	26.8	17.7	25.8	30.6	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	7/5/2007	32.2	18.6	26.2	36.2	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	7/5/2007	26.9	17.8	23.8	31.8	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	7/5/2007	25.3	16.9	22.4	34.2	NO ²

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of smoke from wildfires in northeast Canada caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. None of the requested values, however, passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Due to these reasons, no further analysis of these events is necessary. EPA concurrence was not given to any of these exceptional event flags.

EXCEEDANCE EVENT: Northwestern U.S. Fires

Exceedance Dates:	8/3/07 – 9/6/07
MSA:	Chattanooga, TN-GA
Event Description:	Long-range transport of smoke from wildfires in Idaho and Montana

Table 15: Site-specific information used in analysis, concentrations in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

AQS ID	Date	Observed Concentration	Monthly Average	84 th Percentile	95 th Percentile	EPA Concurrence
47-065-0031-1	8/3/2007	27.4	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/4/2007	34.7	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	8/4/2007	37.6	17.2	22.0	27.3	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-2	8/4/2007	36.8	21.0	30.5	34.9	NO (sulfate)
47-065-4002-1	8/4/2007	36.6	20.9	31.3	35.4	NO (sulfate)
47-065-0031-1	8/5/2007	29.8	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/6/2007	29.4	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/7/2007	24.6	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	8/7/2007	25.4	20.9	31.3	35.4	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	8/7/2007	24.7	21.0	30.5	34.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/13/2007	23.5	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	8/13/2007	23.9	20.9	31.3	35.4	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	8/13/2007	23.2	21.0	30.5	34.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/14/2007	27.5	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/15/2007	27.2	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	8/16/2007	32.8	17.2	22.0	27.3	NO ²
47-065-0031-1	8/16/2007	33.6	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	8/16/2007	34.3	20.9	31.3	35.4	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/17/2007	28.1	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/18/2007	25.1	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	8/19/2007	34.5	21.0	30.5	34.9	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/19/2007	37.9	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO
47-065-4002-1	8/19/2007	35.1	20.9	31.3	35.4	NO
47-065-0031-1	8/20/2007	18.8	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/24/2007	23.4	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	8/31/2007	29.1	20.2	28.2	29.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	8/31/2007	31.6	21.0	30.5	34.9	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	8/31/2007	31.9	20.9	31.3	35.4	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	9/1/2007	33.2	16.4	24.0	26.1	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	9/2/2007	31.6	16.4	24.0	26.1	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	9/3/2007	28.4	16.4	24.0	26.1	NO ¹
47-065-1011-1	9/3/2007	28.1	16.2	24.1	29.0	NO ²
47-065-4002-1	9/3/2007	29.1	17.4	25.4	31.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	9/3/2007	28.5	17.4	25.6	31.5	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	9/4/2007	29.2	16.4	24.0	26.1	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	9/5/2007	27.9	16.4	24.0	26.1	NO ¹
47-065-0031-1	9/6/2007	24.5	16.4	24.0	26.1	NO ¹
47-065-4002-1	9/6/2007	27.2	17.4	25.4	31.5	NO ¹
47-065-4002-2	9/6/2007	26.7	17.4	25.6	31.5	NO ¹

Notes: ¹Three-year monthly average above $15.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Detailed Discussion of Evidence

A) Event Description

Documentation submitted by the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau claims that long range transport of smoke from wildfires in Idaho and Montana caused NAAQS exceedances at the sites listed above. The only requested concentrations that passed both steps of the initial two-step analysis, however, were the values collected on August 4, 2007 and August 19, 2007.

B) Causal Relationship Between the Event and Air Quality

To evaluate the possible causal relationship of the event on air quality in Chattanooga, wind trajectories were analyzed to assess the probability of smoke transport from the wildfires. Figure 47 shows 48-hr backward trajectories for Chattanooga on August 4th and 19th. These trajectories, however, do not support significant air transport from the northwest. Figure 48 shows the NASA OMI aerosol concentrations observed on each day. This figure does confirm high aerosol concentrations in the claimed source region.

PM_{2.5} speciation data collected on August 4, 2007 does not support the supposed smoke impact. High sulfate concentrations are evident on August 4th, as illustrated in Figure 49. This graph also indicates that organic carbon levels were not significantly above the normally expected range. No PM_{2.5} speciation data was collected on August 19th.

Since speciation data was not available for August 19, 2007, NAAPS aerosol smoke and sulfate maps were used instead as an indicator of possible smoke impact (Figures 50 and 51). Figure 50 shows aerosol smoke levels on August 19th, and does not indicate significant levels in the Chattanooga area. Figure 51, however, does show a moderate sulfate event on this day centered around the Chattanooga area.

The evidence discussed above shows that on both August 4, 2007, and August 19, 2007, the Chattanooga area was not significantly impacted by smoke from the northwestern wildfires. Speciation and satellite aerosol data show, rather, that these NAAQS exceedances were more likely driven by elevated PM_{2.5} sulfate levels, indicating impact from local stationary and mobile sources. Also, the documentation submitted by Chattanooga-Hamilton County did not demonstrate a clear causal relationship between the measured concentration and the event, and did not demonstrate that there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Therefore, EPA concurrence was not given to any of the values flagged during this event.

Figure 47: 48-hr backward wind trajectories for Chattanooga, August 4, 2007 and August 19, 2007.

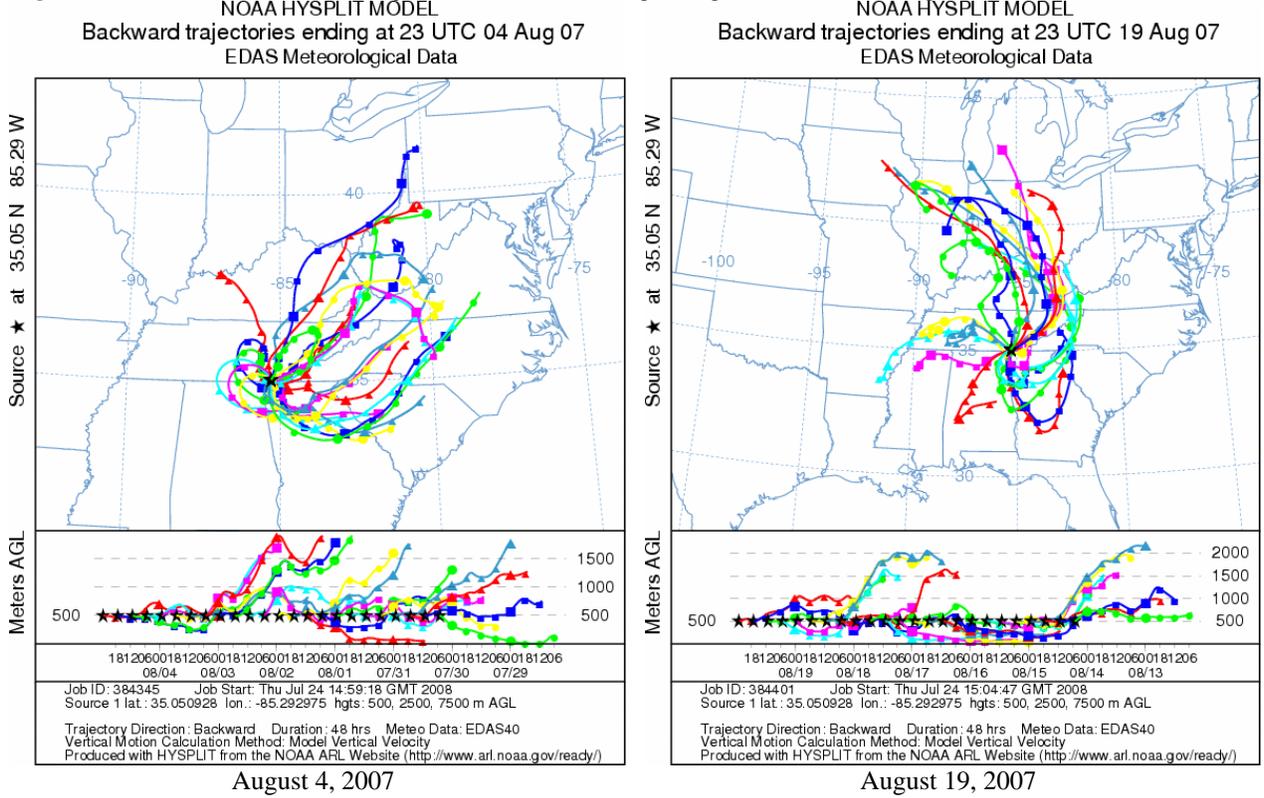


Figure 48: NASA OMI aerosol concentrations, August 4, 2007 and August 19, 2007.

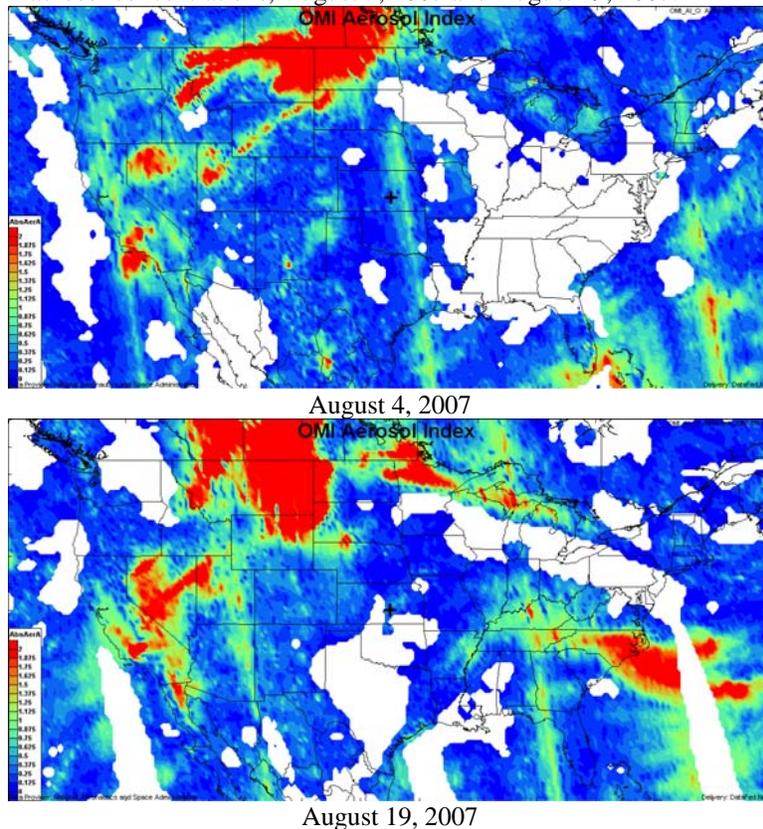


Figure 49: PM_{2.5} speciation data collected at the Rossville and Riverside sites during the month of August, 2004-2007

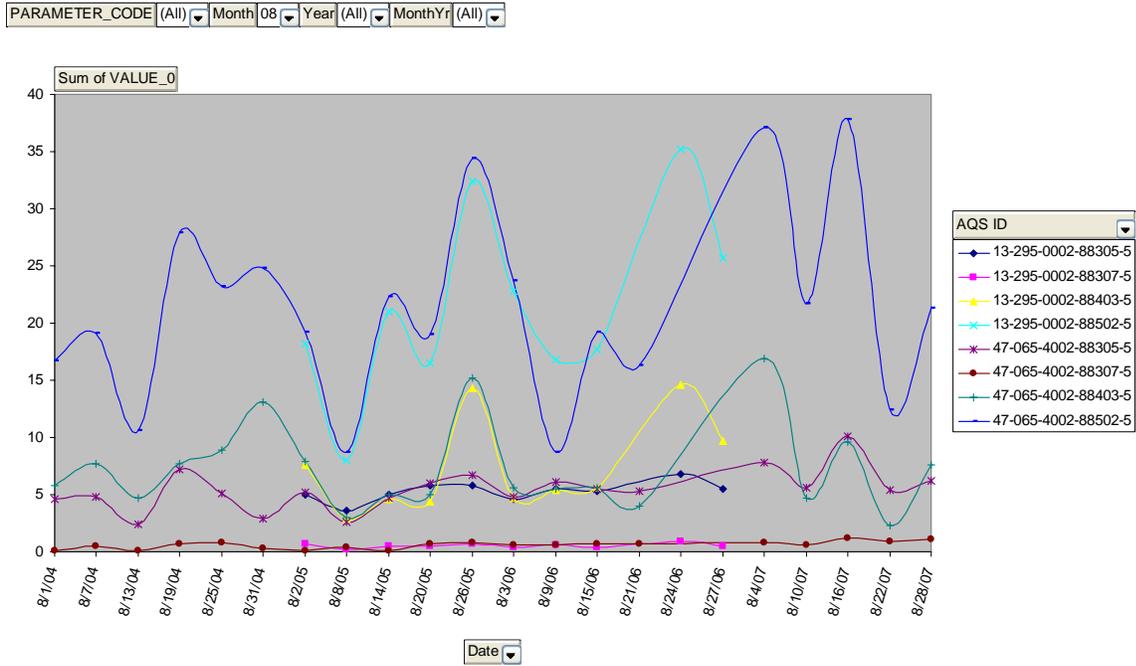


Figure 50: Aerosol smoke concentrations from NAAPS satellite, August 19, 2007.

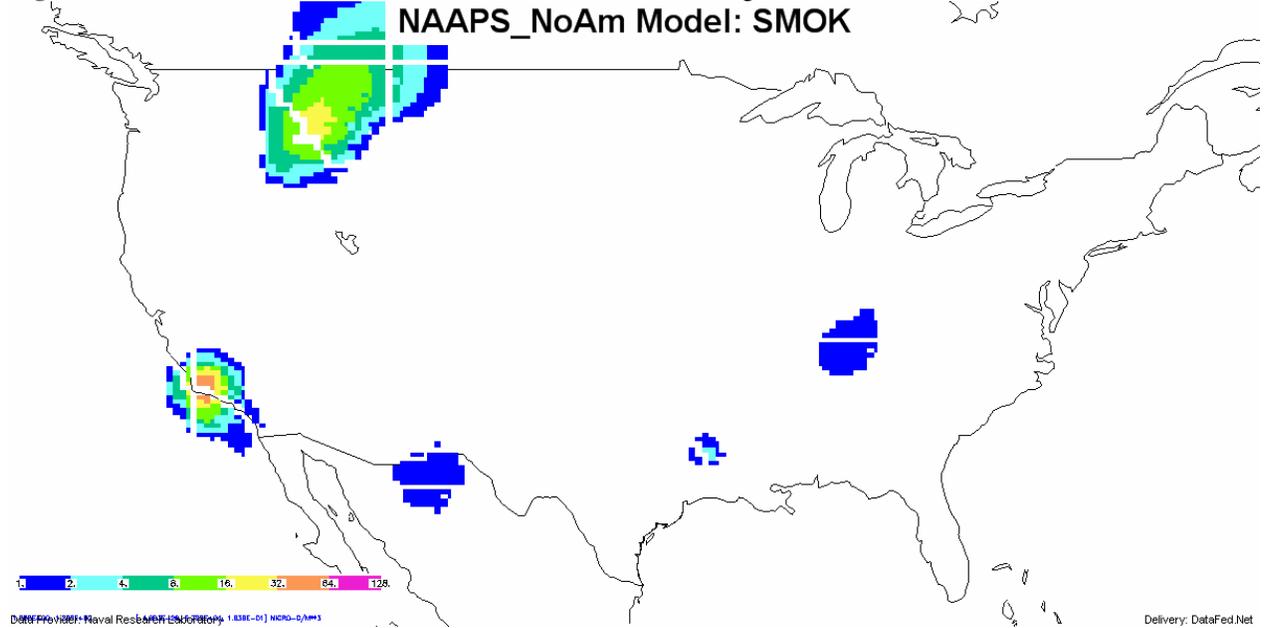
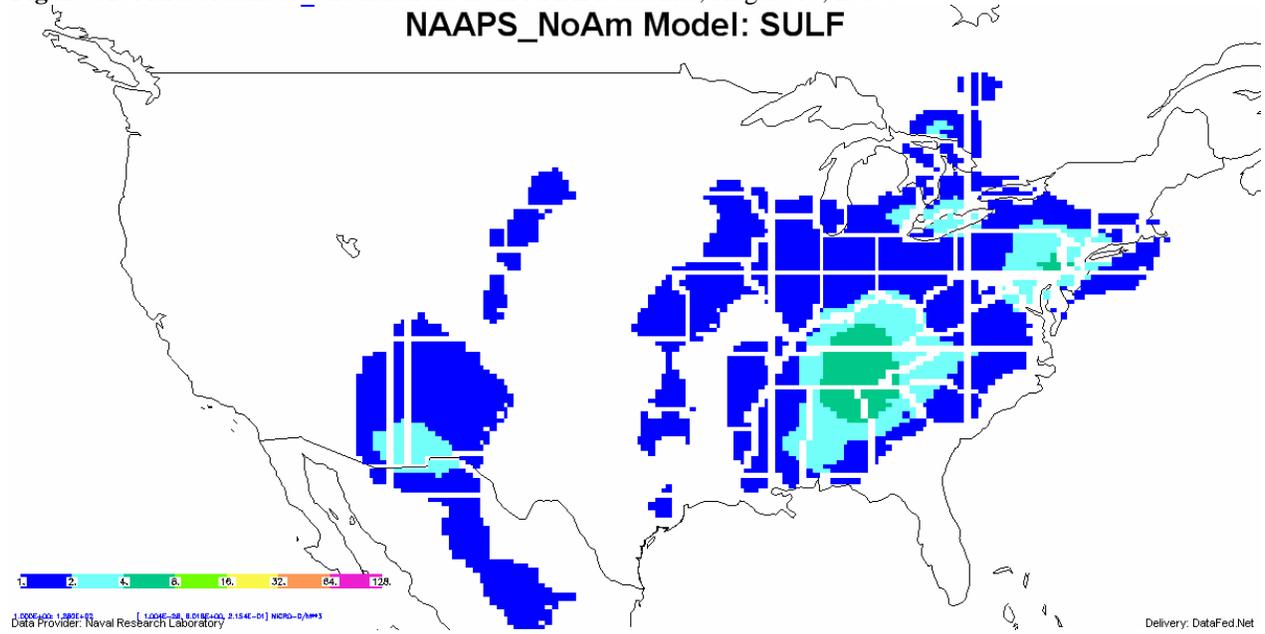


Figure 51: Aerosol sulfate concentrations from NAAPS satellite, August 19, 2007.



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Appendix A

Summary of All Flagged Data

AQS ID	Date	Value	Monthly Avg	84th Perc	95th Perc	µg Over 95th	Approved?	Event
47-065-4002-1	5/19/2005	32.6	16.0	21.3	26.5	6.1	NO (Mo Avg)	Mexican Fires
47-065-4002-2	5/19/2005	33.8	15.9	21.3	26.5	7.3	NO (Mo Avg)	Mexican Fires
47-065-0031-1	6/21/2005	26.2	18.9	25.6	31.5	-5.3	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-1011-1	6/21/2005	24.2	19.3	24.4	26.2	-2.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-1	6/21/2005	27	19.4	26.8	30.5	-3.5	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-2	6/21/2005	28.1	19.0	26.8	29.9	-1.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-1	6/24/2005	35	19.4	26.8	30.5	4.5	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-2	6/24/2005	34.9	19.0	26.8	29.9	5.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-0031-1	6/27/2005	24.3	18.9	25.6	31.5	-7.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-1011-1	6/27/2005	25.9	19.3	24.4	26.2	-0.3	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-1	6/27/2005	26.4	19.4	26.8	30.5	-4.1	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-1	6/30/2005	22.4	19.4	26.8	30.5	-8.1	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-2	6/30/2005	25.1	19.0	26.8	29.9	-4.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-0031-1	7/3/2005	29.5	17.2	22.2	30.6	-1.1	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-1011-1	7/3/2005	21.5	15.8	22.3	28.3	-6.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-1	7/3/2005	25.5	17.7	26.4	30.6	-5.1	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-4002-2	7/3/2005	22.5	17.7	26.3	30.9	-8.4	NO (Mo Avg)	Can, AK, US Fires
47-065-0031-1	7/24/2005	27.6	17.2	22.2	30.6	-3.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-4002-1	7/24/2005	27.4	17.7	26.4	30.6	-3.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-1011-1	7/27/2005	32.9	15.8	22.3	28.3	4.7	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-0031-1	7/27/2005	36.9	17.2	22.2	30.6	6.3	NO (sulfate)	Saharan Dust
47-065-4002-1	8/5/2005	36	22.6	32.7	36.2	-0.1	NO (sulfate)	AK, Can fires
47-065-4002-2	8/5/2005	36.4	22.5	31.7	35.9	0.5	NO (sulfate)	AK, Can fires
47-065-0031-1	8/26/2005	28.2	21.7	29.1	33.0	-4.8	NO (Mo Avg)	AK, Can fires
47-065-1011-1	8/26/2005	29.7	18.8	25.3	34.2	-4.5	NO (Mo Avg)	AK, Can fires
47-065-4002-1	8/26/2005	33.4	22.6	32.7	36.2	-2.8	NO (Mo Avg)	AK, Can fires
47-065-4002-2	8/26/2005	33.1	22.5	31.7	35.9	-2.8	NO (Mo Avg)	AK, Can fires
47-065-4002-1	9/7/2005	15.9	17.1	26.0	28.7	-12.8	NO (Mo Avg)	NW Fires
47-065-4002-1	9/10/2005	30.1	17.1	26.0	28.7	1.4	NO (Mo Avg)	NW Fires
47-065-4002-2	9/10/2005	29.8	17.1	26.2	28.1	1.7	NO (Mo Avg)	NW Fires
47-065-0031-1	9/13/2005	35.8	17.8	25.6	31.2	4.6	NO (sulfate)	NW Fires
47-065-1011-1	9/13/2005	36.1	15.3	25.7	26.8	9.3	NO (sulfate)	NW Fires
47-065-4002-1	9/13/2005	36.3	17.1	26.0	28.7	7.6	NO (sulfate)	NW Fires
47-065-4002-2	9/13/2005	36.2	17.1	26.2	28.1	8.1	NO (sulfate)	NW Fires
47-065-0031-1	3/30/2006	28.7	14.8	22.5	26.5	2.2	NO (Mo Avg)	No Event Claimed

AQS ID	Date	Value	Monthly Avg	84th Perc	95th Perc	µg Over 95th	Approved?	Event
47-065-4002-1	3/30/2006	25.3	12.9	20.1	24.0	1.3	NO (Mo Avg)	No Event Claimed
47-065-1011-1	3/30/2006	21.3	10.8	17.7	20.1	1.2	NO (no event)	No Event Claimed
47-065-4002-1	6/16/2006	30.8	19.2	27.0	30.5	0.3	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	6/16/2006	30.4	18.7	27.3	29.9	0.5	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-1011-1	6/16/2006	25.5	19.0	24.9	26.7	-1.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	6/19/2006	17	19.2	27.0	30.5	-13.5	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	6/19/2006	17.1	18.7	27.3	29.9	-12.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-0031-1	7/4/2006	49.2	17.0	22.3	30.4	18.8	YES	fireworks
47-065-1011-1	7/4/2006	37.1	16.2	22.2	27.2	9.9	YES	fireworks
47-065-4002-1	7/4/2006	38.5	16.4	24.3	27.2	11.3	YES	fireworks
47-065-4002-2	7/4/2006	38.6	16.0	22.1	26.9	11.7	YES	fireworks
47-065-0031-1	7/16/2006	23.2	17.0	22.3	30.4	-7.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	7/16/2006	23	16.4	24.3	27.2	-4.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	7/16/2006	22.3	16.0	22.1	26.9	-4.6	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-1011-1	7/16/2006	21.6	16.2	22.2	27.2	-5.6	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	7/19/2006	31.7	16.4	24.3	27.2	4.5	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	7/19/2006	32.3	16.0	22.1	26.9	5.4	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	8/18/2006	38.5	22.4	33.2	35.7	2.8	NO (sulfate)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	8/18/2006	38.4	22.4	31.7	35.6	2.8	NO (sulfate)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	8/24/2006	32.9	22.4	33.2	35.7	-2.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	8/24/2006	32.6	22.4	31.7	35.6	-3.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	9/11/2006	32.7	18.3	26.2	29.7	3.1	NO (Mo Avg)	NW, Can Fires
47-065-4002-2	9/11/2006	32.9	18.2	26.5	29.2	3.7	NO (Mo Avg)	NW, Can Fires
47-065-0031-1	3/8/2007	23	12.2	17.5	20.2	2.8	NO (Insuf Evidence)	Local / SE fires
47-065-0031-1	3/9/2007	26.7	12.2	17.5	20.2	6.5	NO (Insuf Evidence)	Local / SE fires
47-065-0031-1	3/10/2007	26.3	12.2	17.5	20.2	6.1	NO (Insuf Evidence)	Local / SE fires
47-065-4002-1	3/10/2007	24.4	11.1	15.1	19.3	5.1	NO (Insuf Evidence)	Local / SE fires
47-065-4002-2	3/10/2007	23.5	11.3	14.9	18.8	4.7	NO (Insuf Evidence)	Local / SE fires
47-065-0031-1	3/11/2007	23.6	12.2	17.5	20.2	3.4	NO (Insuf Evidence)	Local / SE fires
47-065-0031-1	3/24/2007	21.9	12.2	17.5	20.2	1.7	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-0031-1	3/25/2007	24.4	12.2	17.5	20.2	4.2	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-4002-1	3/25/2007	32.7	11.1	15.1	19.3	13.4	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-4002-2	3/25/2007	33	11.3	14.9	18.8	14.2	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-1011-1	3/25/2007	22.3	9.4	12.3	17.3	5.1	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-0031-1	3/26/2007	28.1	12.2	17.5	20.2	7.9	YES	Signal Mt.

AQS ID	Date	Value	Monthly Avg	84th Perc	95th Perc	µg Over 95th	Approved?	Event
47-065-0031-1	3/27/2007	31.2	12.2	17.5	20.2	11.0	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-0031-1	3/28/2007	22.3	12.2	17.5	20.2	2.1	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-4002-1	3/28/2007	23.6	11.1	15.1	19.3	4.3	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-4002-2	3/28/2007	23.7	11.3	14.9	18.8	4.9	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-0031-1	3/29/2007	19.6	12.2	17.5	20.2	-0.6	YES	Signal Mt.
47-065-0031-1	4/22/2007	27.5	13.8	19.9	24.1	3.4	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	4/23/2007	20.5	13.8	19.9	24.1	-3.6	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/2/2007	24.7	15.3	21.8	26.9	-2.2	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/3/2007	26.3	15.3	21.8	26.9	-0.6	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-4002-1	5/3/2007	26.8	15.5	22.7	26.7	0.2	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-4002-2	5/3/2007	27	15.6	23.0	26.6	0.4	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/4/2007	27.4	15.3	21.8	26.9	0.5	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/5/2007	29.4	15.3	21.8	26.9	2.5	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/22/2007	39	15.3	21.8	26.9	12.1	YES	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/23/2007	31.3	15.3	21.8	26.9	4.4	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/27/2007	45.1	15.3	21.8	26.9	18.2	YES	GA fire
47-065-4002-1	5/27/2007	43.2	15.5	22.7	26.7	16.6	YES	GA fire
47-065-4002-2	5/27/2007	42.8	15.6	23.0	26.6	16.2	YES	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/28/2007	34.3	15.3	21.8	26.9	7.4	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	5/31/2007	45.1	15.3	21.8	26.9	18.2	YES	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	6/1/2007	48	18.2	23.9	26.7	21.3	YES	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	6/2/2007	31.2	18.2	23.9	26.7	4.5	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-4002-1	6/2/2007	30.7	19.6	27.0	30.5	0.2	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-4002-2	6/2/2007	29.9	19.4	27.3	30.2	-0.3	NO (Mo Avg)	GA fire
47-065-0031-1	6/12/2007	25.7	18.2	23.9	26.7	-1.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-0031-1	6/17/2007	30.4	18.2	23.9	26.7	3.7	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	6/17/2007	28.3	19.6	27.0	30.5	-2.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-1011-1	6/17/2007	25.4	19.7	25.0	26.7	-1.3	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-0031-1	6/18/2007	31.6	18.2	23.9	26.7	4.9	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-0031-1	6/24/2007	21.3	18.2	23.9	26.7	-5.4	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-0031-1	6/25/2007	24.3	18.2	23.9	26.7	-2.4	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-0031-1	6/26/2007	25.9	18.2	23.9	26.7	-0.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-4002-1	6/26/2007	26.6	19.6	27.0	30.5	-3.9	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-4002-2	6/26/2007	26.7	19.4	27.3	30.2	-3.5	NO (Mo Avg)	Saharan Dust
47-065-0031-1	7/4/2007	30.9	18.6	26.2	36.2	-5.3	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires

AQS ID	Date	Value	Monthly Avg	84th Perc	95th Perc	µg Over 95th	Approved?	Event
47-065-0031-1	7/5/2007	32.2	18.6	26.2	36.2	-4.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-1	7/5/2007	26.8	17.7	25.8	30.6	-3.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-4002-2	7/5/2007	26.9	17.8	23.8	31.8	-4.9	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-1011-1	7/5/2007	25.3	16.9	22.4	34.2	-8.9	NO (Mo Avg)	Can fires
47-065-0031-1	8/3/2007	27.4	20.2	28.2	29.5	-2.1	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/4/2007	34.7	20.2	28.2	29.5	5.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-1011-1	8/4/2007	37.6	17.2	22.0	27.3	10.4	NO (sulfate)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	8/4/2007	36.6	20.9	31.3	35.4	1.3	NO (sulfate)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	8/4/2007	36.8	21.0	30.5	34.9	1.9	NO (sulfate)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/5/2007	29.8	20.2	28.2	29.5	0.4	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/6/2007	29.4	20.2	28.2	29.5	0.0	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/7/2007	24.6	20.2	28.2	29.5	-4.8	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	8/7/2007	25.4	20.9	31.3	35.4	-10.0	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	8/7/2007	24.7	21.0	30.5	34.9	-10.2	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/13/2007	23.5	20.2	28.2	29.5	-6.0	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	8/13/2007	23.9	20.9	31.3	35.4	-11.5	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	8/13/2007	23.2	21.0	30.5	34.9	-11.7	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/14/2007	27.5	20.2	28.2	29.5	-2.0	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/15/2007	27.2	20.2	28.2	29.5	-2.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/16/2007	33.6	20.2	28.2	29.5	4.2	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	8/16/2007	34.3	20.9	31.3	35.4	-1.1	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-1011-1	8/16/2007	32.8	17.2	22.0	27.3	5.6	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/17/2007	28.1	20.2	28.2	29.5	-1.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/18/2007	25.1	20.2	28.2	29.5	-4.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	8/19/2007	34.5	21.0	30.5	34.9	-0.4	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/19/2007	37.9	20.2	28.2	29.5	8.5	NO (Insuf Evidence)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	8/19/2007	35.1	20.9	31.3	35.4	-0.3	NO (Insuf Evidence)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/20/2007	18.8	20.2	28.2	29.5	-10.7	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/24/2007	23.4	20.2	28.2	29.5	-6.1	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	8/31/2007	29.1	20.2	28.2	29.5	-0.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	8/31/2007	31.9	20.9	31.3	35.4	-3.5	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	8/31/2007	31.6	21.0	30.5	34.9	-3.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	9/1/2007	33.2	16.4	24.0	26.1	7.1	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	9/2/2007	31.6	16.4	24.0	26.1	5.5	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	9/3/2007	28.4	16.4	24.0	26.1	2.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires

AQS ID	Date	Value	Monthly Avg	84th Perc	95th Perc	µg Over 95th	Approved?	Event
47-065-4002-1	9/3/2007	29.1	17.4	25.4	31.5	-2.4	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	9/3/2007	28.5	17.4	25.6	31.5	-3.0	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-1011-1	9/3/2007	28.1	16.2	24.1	29.0	-0.9	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	9/4/2007	29.2	16.4	24.0	26.1	3.1	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	9/5/2007	27.9	16.4	24.0	26.1	1.8	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	9/6/2007	24.5	16.4	24.0	26.1	-1.6	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-1	9/6/2007	27.2	17.4	25.4	31.5	-4.3	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-4002-2	9/6/2007	26.7	17.4	25.6	31.5	-4.8	NO (Mo Avg)	NW fires
47-065-0031-1	12/8/2007	30.5	13.9	24.3	30.1	0.4	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-4002-1	12/8/2007	31.8	11.8	17.9	25.0	6.8	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-4002-2	12/8/2007	30.9	12.8	19.5	25.2	5.7	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-1011-1	12/8/2007	31.8	10.1	16.2	19.4	12.4	NO (no event)	Local Fires
47-065-0031-1	12/9/2007	25.4	13.9	24.3	30.1	-4.7	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-0031-1	12/20/2007	31.3	13.9	24.3	30.1	1.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-4002-1	12/20/2007	32.2	11.8	17.9	25.0	7.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-4002-2	12/20/2007	32.2	12.8	19.5	25.2	7.0	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires
47-065-1011-1	12/20/2007	23.8	10.1	16.2	19.4	4.4	NO (no event)	Local Fires
47-065-0031-1	12/21/2007	21.9	13.9	24.3	30.1	-8.2	NO (Mo Avg)	Local Fires

Appendix B

AQS Site and Parameter Codes

AQS Site ID	Site Name	Address	Latitude	Longitude
13-295-0002	Rossville	601 Maple St, Rossville GA	+34.978900°	-85.300900°
47-065-0031	East Ridge	1510 Maxwell Road, East Ridge	+34.990944°	-85.228750°
47-065-1011	Soddy Daisy	Soddy Daisy H.S. 00620 Sequoyah Rd.	+35.233527°	-85.181806°
47-065-4002	Riverside	Riverside Substation 911 Siskin Dr.	+35.050928°	-85.292975°

AQS Parameter Code	Description
88101	PM _{2.5} - Local Conditions (Federal Reference Method)
88502	PM _{2.5} Speciation Sampler Total Mass
88301	Ammonium Ion Pm _{2.5} (Local Conditions)
88305	Organic Carbon, Unadjusted PM _{2.5} (Local Conditions)
88307	Elemental Carbon PM _{2.5} (Local Conditions)
88403	Sulfate PM _{2.5} (Local Conditions)

Appendix C

Fireworks Display Permits:
July 4, 2006

State of Tennessee



CHATTANOOGA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
P.O. BOX 4049
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405

FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT

Having complied with the safety measures, as set out in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 22 and applicable rules and regulations governing the sale, storage and use of fireworks and having paid the required fee, the holder Tony Lamacchia of CHATTANOOGA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB is hereby granted a permit to engage in the DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS as a PERMIT HOLDER at Chattanooga Golf & Country Club for the following date(s):

July 4, 2006

35065501
-85.230638

The permit is issued subject to any valid private act or municipal ordinance which prohibits or restricts the sale or use of fireworks.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand caused the seal of my office to be
affixed at the City of Nashville, Tennessee
this 30th day of June, 2006.

Paula A. Flowers
COMMISSIONER

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF Catoosa COUNTY

FIREWORKS DISPLAY PERMIT

APPLICANT: Talley Green/Lake Winnepesaukah
1730 Lakeview Drive
Rossville, GA 30741
TELEPHONE: 706-866-5681
FAX: 706-858-0497

Your request is hereby approved for the above applicant to conduct a Fireworks Display.

The display will be of such character as will not be hazardous to person or property.

SPONSOR: Lake Winnepesaukah

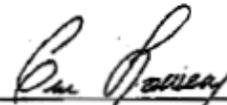
DATE OF DISPLAY: July 4, 2006 (rain date July 6, 2006)

TIME: 10:00 p.m.

LOCATION OF DISPLAY: Lake Winnepesaukah
1730 Lakeview Drive
Rossville, GA 30741

The display will be conducted by Pyrotecnico

Permission has been granted for Thomas Ruff to conduct a fireworks display in accordance with the above. (This permit is Non-Transferable.)



Judge of the Probate Court

6/20/06

Date Approved

(SEAL)

Appendix D

Newspaper Articles Documenting
Signal Mountain Wildfire:
March 24 – 29, 2007

Firefighters battle 4-day blaze

Foresters are 'busting it' to contain Signal Mountain wildfire

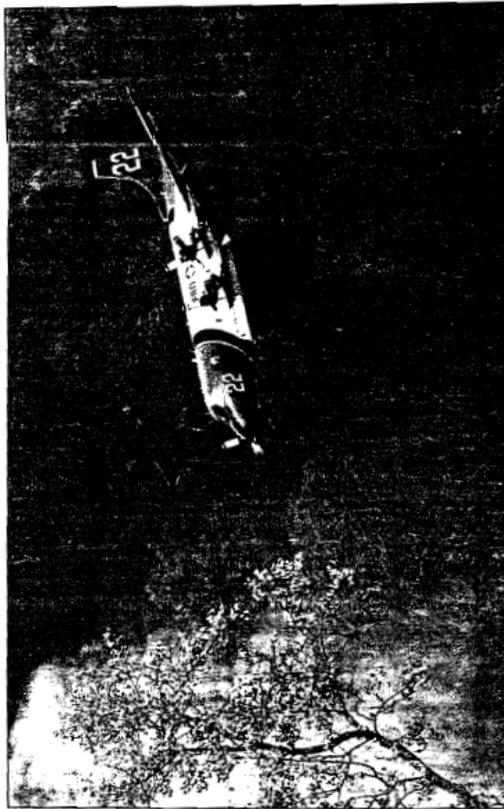
BY LAUREN GREGORY
Staff Writer

Members of an exhausted team of local foresters said they are grateful to receive help today from Tennessee and federal outfits as they work to quash a wildfire estimated to have spread over more than 300 acres on Signal Mountain since Friday night. "We've got some pretty tired puppies," said Jim Lane of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Division of Forestry, who was supervising a Hixson-based crew of 24 he said had just finished fighting a fire in the North Chickamauga Creek area last week when they were called to this fire.

"These guys have been busting it for four or five days," Mr. Lane said Monday, estimating the effort would continue "at least a couple more days, if everything goes well." The fire had not required any evacuations as of Monday and had resulted in just one injury, minor burns on a forester from McMinn County, officials said. "It jumped across the mountain side of Middle Creek on Sunday, threatening a residential area in which the retirement community Alexian

is located. The fire is now contained on the east side of the mountain, threatening a residential area in which the retirement community Alexian is located. The fire is now contained on the east side of the mountain, threatening a residential area in which the retirement community Alexian is located.

See FIRE, Page A4



A P-3 airplane from Knoxville drops the second part of a 2,550 gallon load of fire retardant on an area near Alexian Village on Signal Mountain after a forest fire threatened homes in the area Monday.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 310 — acres in estimated burn area
- 24 — members of the Hixson-based state forestry crew fighting the blaze
- 20 — members of the USDA Forest Service unit sent to assist
- 6 — members of the state forestry crew from Greeneville, Tenn., sent to assist
- \$6,000 — estimated cost for one aerial chemical retardant drop



Staff Graphic by Buck Twiney



Tennessee Forestry technician Johnny Dunn studies a map of the area while at the trainhead to Edwards Point.

ON THE WEB: For video and audio with this story, go to www.timesfreepress.com.

Fire

• Continued from Page A1

Village is situated. However, forestry officials said firefighters managed to control that outbreak.

They were working Monday to ensure the rest of the area across the creek was not at risk, according to Robert Rhinehart, assistant district forester for Southeast Tennessee.

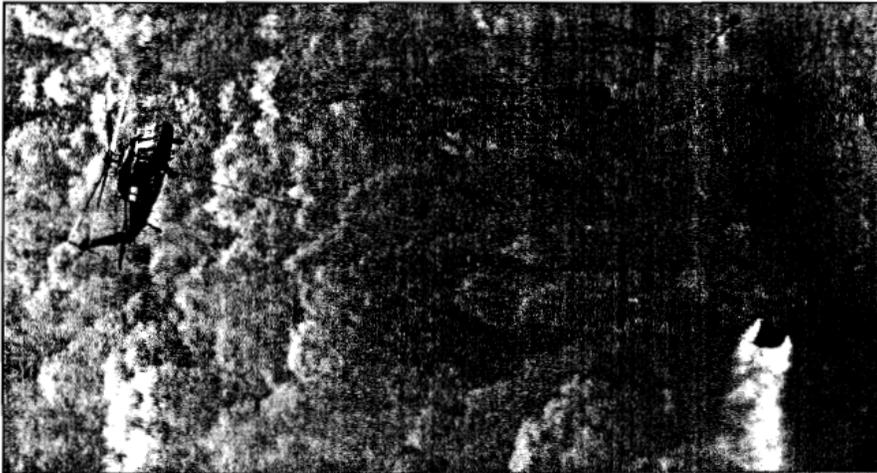
A 20-person USDA Forest Service unit and a six-person unit from the Tennessee Forestry Division office in Greeneville, Tenn., were called in to help on the "tremendously difficult terrain" and will extend their efforts into today, Mr. Rhinehart said. The Walden's Ridge terrain contains a rock face, is extremely steep and is difficult for firefighters to get to on foot.

CONTAINING THE BLAZE

Manpower has been in great demand since the fire — which may have originated with a campfire on Edwards Point — was sparked Friday, according to Mr. Lane.

"We've got resources from all over Southeast Tennessee, and we really don't have enough people," he said, explaining that foresters and support personnel from surrounding counties have had to concentrate on preventing a spread across Middle Creek while the fire also is moving into the Suck Creek area.

The Suck Creek portion of the fire, which is not as close to residential areas, has had to go "on the back burner" to prevent



STAFF PHOTO BY DAN HENRY
A Black Hawk helicopter hauls a bucket of water that it drew from the Tennessee River to aid with extinguishing a fire Monday on Signal Mountain.

the fire from crossing Middle Creek, Mr. Lane said.

"Once we get this east flank taken care of, we can deal with that," he said. Efforts on Monday included the use of an air tanker, which arrived from Knoxville to drop two separate 2,500-gallon loads of chemical retardant along Middle Creek to create a barrier for the fire.

The "red slurry" included an amount of fertilizer that would help the retardant stick to trees and other surfaces below, Mr. Rhinehart said.

"It works better than water because water, it just hits and it vaporizes and it's gone, whereas the retardant, it sticks to everything," explained Johnny Dunn, a Hixson-based forestry technician.

Before Sunday night, local foresters had not used the costly aerial drop technique since 2001, said Mr. Rhinehart, who estimated that each load costs about \$6,000.

Several area residents gathered Monday at Alexian Village to watch the plane descend into the gorge and release its spray, a phenomenon Jean Anderson likened to "something out of a science fiction movie."

Richard Van Scoy, another area resident, brought a camera to record the action.

"We go to stock car races to watch the wreck," he said. "It certainly holds true (here), this kind of morbid fascination."

A Black Hawk helicopter provided additional assistance, dumping up to 600 gallons of Tennessee River water onto the fire at one time. The helicopter likely will be used again today, Mr. Rhinehart said.

The extra assistance has been a necessity during the area's recent hot, dry weather, Mr. Lane said, citing drought conditions as "a major factor" in the spread of the fire.

"The fuels are extremely dry, and it doesn't take but a spark to get it going," he said.

WARM AND WINDY

After a record-breaking 88 degrees on Sunday, temperatures had reached 83 degrees by Monday afternoon, just shy of an 84-degree record set in 1991, said Mary Black, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Morristown, Tenn.

The mercury is expected to reach the lower 80s today, Ms. Black said, with just a 20 percent chance of scattered showers and thunderstorms predicted for the late afternoon. South winds are expected to blow between 10 and 15 mph, which she said is slightly above the normal five to seven mph in the area.

Without enough rain, said Amber McCorvie, spokeswoman for the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau, air quality problems reported Monday likely will not clear today.

"It doesn't look like we're going to be able to get any relief anytime soon," Ms. McCorvie said. "Rain would help, but it would have to be a pretty significant rain."

The Air Pollution Control Bureau issued a "code red" health notice Monday afternoon, indicating air quality was "in the unhealthy range for the general population" because of increased levels of particulate matter. The alert was reduced to a "code orange" for today, meaning that air quality still is unhealthy for sensitive groups including people with heart or lung disease, older adults and children.

Officials advise at-risk residents to stay indoors or reduce exposure to pollution by:

- Planning strenuous activity when pollution levels are forecast to be lower
- Reducing time spent at vigorous activity
- Choosing a less strenuous activity (going for a walk instead of a jog)

Source: Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau

CODE ORANGE

Air quality was "unhealthy" in Chattanooga on Monday, and officials have declared a "Code Orange" alert for today. On "Code Orange" days, 50 percent of the population could be at risk, but members of the following groups may experience more serious health effects:

- Children who are active outdoors
- Adults exercising or working outdoors
- People with asthma or other respiratory conditions
- People with unusual susceptibility to air pollution

You can reduce your exposure to pollution by:

- Planning strenuous activity when pollution levels are forecast to be lower
- Reducing time spent at vigorous activity
- Choosing a less strenuous activity (going for a walk instead of a jog)

Source: Chattanooga-Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau

idents to stay indoors or reduce exposure to pollution."

The bureau will ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to attribute Monday's air quality readings to "an unusual and exceptional event," which prevents the readings from factoring into the region's attainment status for particulate matter, officials said.

Staff writers Emily Berry and Ian Berry contributed to this story.

E-mail: Lauren Gregory at lgregory@timesfreepress.com

Wildfires' smoke clouds area skyline

BY MIKE O'NEAL
STAFF WRITER

The sight and smell of smoke continued to mar the skies above Walden's Ridge on Saturday, the result of a third day of wildfires.

No sooner had firefighters contained a blaze on the slopes of the North Chickamauga Creek Gorge than fire flared near Edwards Point, according to Tom Hudlow, district forester with the Tennessee Division of Forestry.

"Crews reported there was no smoke; it's under control," Mr. Hudlow said concerning the fire that burned the north facing slope of bluffs along North Chickamauga Creek.

Foresters believe an arsonist on Thursday evening set the fire that burned 150 to 200 acres from the Blue Hole area near Soddy-Daisy upstream to a point below Boston Branch. As many as 19 firefighters were involved in containing that wildfire, Mr. Hudlow said.

A careless smoker caused a fire Saturday on the slopes and atop bluffs in Prentice Cooper State Forest, said Hamilton County Emergency Services spokeswoman Amy Maxwell.

Dry conditions and an ample supply of fuel helped the new fire spread faster than crews using rakes could clear combustible material from its path. Firefighters could be heard using radios to call for four-wheelers and leaf blowers to blast fire breaks ahead of the spreading flames.

In addition to the fires along Walden's Ridge, a forestry service bulldozer was dispatched to assist in containing a small wildfire near Sequoyah Road in

northern Hamilton County, officials said.

The potential for wildfire increases as drought continues across the tri-state region, and meteorologists say chances of significant rainfall are slight for about a week.

Even so, no fires in the "100-acre range" had been reported Saturday in Northwest Georgia, according to communications dispatchers for the Georgia Forestry Commission.

But that was not the case in nearby counties of Alabama.

"One is burning near Low Gap Mountain near Stevenson," said Linda Reaves, radio operator for the Alabama Forestry Commission.

The fire near Stevenson burned about 1,000 acres, and a fire in Cherokee County, Ala., charred about 500 acres this weekend, Ms. Reaves said. In addition, she said an arsonist had been seen setting a series of fires along county roads 91 and 93 in the Hog Jaw Valley/Bryant area.

"We are working long hours, and there doesn't seem to be any relief in sight," Ms. Reaves said.

E-mail Mike O'Neal at moneal@timesfreepress.com

3/29/07 Chattanooga Times Free Press

Crews monitor 'contained' wildfire

B4 • Thursday, March 29, 2007 • •

BY BEVERLY A. CARROLL
STAFF WRITER

Forestry crews spent Wednesday walking the firebreaks around the site of a wildfire on Walden's Ridge that burned for five days and charred more than 500 acres of woody, mountainous terrain.

"We still have some of our folks up there, and we have the six-person crew from Greeneville, Tenn., up there," said Robert Rhinehart, assistant forester for the Southeast Tennessee district office. "Crews are also watching it from the air."

Nearly 50 people manned state and federal forestry crews to fight a fire that officials believe started Friday at Edwards Point, a scenic overlook on Walden's Ridge. Lack of rain aggravated efforts to contain the fire and contributed to its spread to Suck Creek Mountain, forestry officials said.

The Tennessee Army National Guard sent a helicopter to

drop water, and an air tanker dropped two separate 2,550-gallon loads of a chemical retardant on the area, officials said.

The fire was declared contained Tuesday but is not extinguished, Mr. Rhinehart said.

"When we leave the fire, we'll call it out," he said. "I'm not sure when that will be, but I know (crews) will look at it from the air for a few days since we haven't gotten any rain."

Mr. Rhinehart said people may see smoke or hot spots in the area and think the fire still is a threat. But those spots usually are behind fire breaks, or ditches where crews have cleared or burned combustible materials, he said.

"When the main fire gets

there, it doesn't have any place to go but out," he said. "In a fire (this size) we are only concerned about the perimeter. What people see is interior burns."

Mr. Rhinehart said officials do not want to fight those areas and "put our personnel at risk."

Derek Osborne, crew boss of a team from Oregon, said foresters go back around the perimeter once the line is established.

"We mop up afterward, making sure there isn't anything else that could be lit up," said Mr. Osborne, whose crew joined the effort Tuesday.

At one point the fire crossed Middle Creek and came near the Alexian Village retirement community in the town of Signal Mountain. Crews doused that fire, forestry officials said.

They said no one was evacuated, and only one minor injury was reported.

E-mail Beverly A. Carroll at bcarroll@timesfreepress.com



Robert Rhinehart