



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27711

September 29, 1999

OFFICE OF
AIR QUALITY PLANNING
AND STANDARDS

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Reporting Times for PAMS Samples

FROM: J. David Mobley, Acting Director (*original signed by J. David Mobley*)
Emissions, Monitoring & Analysis Division (MD-14)

TO: Deputy Director, Office of Ecosystem Protection, Region I
Director, Environmental Planning and Protection Division, Region II
Director, Air Protection Division, Region III
Director, Air, Pesticides, and Toxics Management Division, Region IV
Acting Director, Air and Radiation Division, Region V
Acting Director, Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, Region VI
Director, Air, RCRA, and Toxics Division, Region VII
Director, Air and Radiation Program, Region VIII
Director, Air Division, Region IX
Director, Office of Air, Region X

On June 11, I distributed a memorandum which explained that PM_{2.5} samples should be taken on standard time rather than on daylight savings time during the summer. To provide a measure of national consistency among ambient air data measurement programs from the various State and local air pollution control agencies, including Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) and criteria pollutant programs, a similar policy for the PAMS is being issued today.

The current conventions for PAMS sampling during the summer months require that samples be taken on local time (generally daylight savings time), but reported to AIRS on standard time. Accordingly, a 3-hour sample collected during the summer from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. daylight savings time would be reported as 5:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. standard time. Similarly, during the winter, a sample taken at 6:00 a.m. standard time would be reported as 6:00 a.m. standard time in AIRS. This convention applied to all sample intervals less than 24 hours, e.g., 1-hour, 3-hour, etc. As an exception to this rule for sampling intervals of 24 hours or greater, data were allowed to be reported on the day in which the bulk of the monitoring occurred.

Unfortunately, reporting organizations found these instructions somewhat confusing; data retrievers were then unsure of which local time interval these data really represented. To remedy these difficulties, the following reporting conventions for PAMS VOC/carbonyl/meteorological sampling are established:

1. ***PAMS VOC Continuous Monitoring*** - For continuous organic compound and criteria pollutant monitors (including open-path, formaldehyde, NMOC, wind speed, etc.), sampling should occur on standard time. For example, setting the continuous monitor to standard time ensures that an hourly value recorded at midnight standard time (1:00 a.m. daylight savings time) is reported to AIRS with a Start Hour of 12:00 midnight standard time (00:00).
2. ***PAMS Intermittent 24-hour Samples*** - As with PM, the sampler may be set to sample midnight to midnight standard time and then be reported to AIRS as 00:00 standard time.
3. ***PAMS Intermittent Multi-Hour Samples (1-hour, 3-hour, 4-hour, etc.)*** - Since the sampling for other PAMS intervals will occur on standard time, it makes good sense to sample and report all intermittent samples in standard time. The difficulty for these short-term intermittent samples (less than 24 hours in duration) is that the sampling agency must ensure that they have set their samplers to capture the correct time of interest. For example, if an agency wishes to capture a rush hour peak which occurs from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. daylight savings time, during the summer the sampler would need to be set to sample from 5:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. standard time. The resultant 3-hour sample would then be reported to AIRS with a Start Hour of 5:00 a.m. standard time. When an area switches back to standard time in the fall, these sampling times would need to be adjusted so that the sampler actually operates from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. to represent the local rush hour peak. In this example, therefore, data reported for the summer will appear as 5:00-8:00 a.m. standard time and in the winter as 6:00-9:00 a.m. standard time; the actual rush hour peak will then be captured during both winter and summer.

This guidance should be implemented effective January 1, 2000. Note that all continuous monitors, including those for criteria pollutants, at SLAMS sites should be set on standard time, since this convention would not actually change the time identified with an hourly or continuous value (i.e., if the current guidance is being followed, the reported times will not change when using the new conventions).

I trust that this guidance will clarify the issues of data reporting at PAMS while being consistent with the reporting times for PM data. Please note that this procedure was developed in coordination with the Regional PAMS Contacts. If you wish further clarification or have questions regarding this guidance, please contact Nash Gerald of my staff at (919) 541-5652 or by e-mail at gerald.nash@epa.gov. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

cc: Director, Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation, Region I
Director, Environmental Services and Assessment Division, Region II
Director, Environmental Services Division, Regions III and VII
Director, Science & Ecosystems Support Division, Region IV
Director, Resource Management Division, Region V
Assistant Regional Administrator, Management Division, Region VI
Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Technical and
Management Services, Region VIII
Assistant Regional Administrator, Policy and Management Division, Region IX
Director, Office of Environmental Assessment, Region X
Director, Air Quality Strategies and Standards Division - OAQPS
Director, Emission Standards Division - OAQPS
Director, Information Transfer and Program Integration Division - OAQPS
Regional PAMS Contacts
Regional AIRS Contacts
Regional NAMS Coordinators
MQAG Staff
Norman Beloin, Region I
Herb Barden, Region IV - Athens
Mike Davis, Region VII
Jack Edwardson, OAQPS
Nash Gerald, OAQPS
Bill Hamilton, OAQPS
Tom Helms, OAQPS
Ed Lillis, OAQPS
Joe Paisie, OAQPS
Rich Scheffe, OAQPS
John Silvasi, OAQPS
Jake Summers, OAQPS