

Toxic Organic (TO) Methods Update

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What Is the Current Process for Updating Methods for Air Toxics?





What is the History around Methods for Air Toxics?

- *Compendium of Methods for the Determination of Toxic Organic Compounds in Ambient Air*, 1988, Winberry et al.
- Last updated in 1999
- Performance based
- Guideline methods: air toxics are not regulated
- No process for updating them



What is Being Done to Update Methods for Air Toxics?

- An informal EPA workgroup has been working **tirelessly** to obtain permission to officially update the TO Guidance Methods.
 - Office of the Science Advisor (OSA)
 - Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)
 - Office of Research and Development (ORD)
- A presentation to gauge public interest was given at the NEMC earlier this year on this topic.





What is the Status?

- ORD has received initial funding to begin to address method updates.
 - OSA
 - ORD's Air, Climate, and Energy (ACE) Program
- The process has been modified from the initial concept of establishing an Alternative Methods Program.
- The goal of updating selected methods has been approved!!!



ACE Task EM 1.5 Evaluation, Updates, and Modifications to the TO Methods for Volatile Compounds

- Work under this task will establish:
 - a process for the review of existing TO methods to identify the highest priority methods for updates; and
 - a process to conduct the research needed to address the identified deficiencies.



ACE Task EM 1.5 Evaluation, Updates, and Modifications to the TO Methods for Volatile Compounds (cont.)

- Research will include:
 - evaluating, updating, or refining existing methods; or
 - developing new methods to address deficiencies in the current TO methods
- The result – a pilot program to start updating versions of selected TO Methods.



The Process

- A formal EPA workgroup with OSA, OAQPS, and ORD staff will be established to:
 - further develop the update process,
 - assist in the evaluation of current methods,
 - identify deficiencies, and
 - prioritize the methods to be addressed.
- The workgroup may include members from outside the Agency as appropriate.



The Process (cont.)

- The workgroup will help identify potential refinements and/or methodologies.
- Research will be conducted to evaluate, update, refine, or develop new methods.
- The workgroup will continue to evolve the Process with additional phases.
- Emphasis on communication (e.g., Website, Email blast thru AMTIC)



GOAL: Define and Begin 'The Process' in FY 2016

