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Abstract - PM_{2.5} Data Validation/Quality Assurance in Delaware

Delaware began monitoring for PM_{2.5} in 1999 using the Andersen sequential samplers. Our experiences in this first full year of monitoring have resulted in a number of data validation and quality assurance procedures beyond those described in EPA's guidance. For example, Delaware has instituted routine use of more blank filters than recommended, such as cassette loading, travel and shipping blanks. Results of these blanks have detected problems in the weighing laboratory, with filter handling procedures, and instances of sampler dust infiltration. Delaware also reviews correlations between: different types of monitors (such as continuous and black carbon monitors) at the same site, different sites on the same day, and collocated monitors. Delaware also uses a set of internal flags to assist in data evaluation.