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Category: 48 – General VOC Issues

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

DATE: JUN 25, 1980

SUBJECT: Guidance for Collection of Non-Methane Organic
Compound (NMOC) Data for Use in 1982 Ozone SIP Development

FROM: Robert E. Neligan, Director
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TO: Director, Surveillance and Analysis Division (Regions I-X)
Director, Air and Hazardous Materials Division (Regions I-X)

Attached to this memorandum are ten (10) copies each of two guidance documents entitled 1) Collection of Ambient Non-Methane Organic Compound (NMOC) Data for Use in 1982 Ozone SIP Development, and Network Design and Siting Criteria for the NMOC and NO_x Monitors and 2) Guidance for the Collection and Use of Ambient Hydrocarbon Species Data in Development of Ozone Control Strategies. Their purpose is to provide additional technical information concerning NMOC monitoring needed in support of 1982 O₃ SIP revisions.

This information on NMOC monitoring is provided because of limitations of existing continuous analyzers and since past memoranda from OAQPS suggested that NMOC monitoring be minimized. NMOC monitoring is warranted at this time because of the need for NMOC data in developing SIPs. It is justified now due to improvements which have been made in operating continuous instruments and the alternative means available of acquiring NMOC by sum-of-species analysis of discrete samples. Both of these methods, if properly applied, can yield useful data. The OR&D is pursuing a vigorous program to further improve the capabilities of current methods and to seek new methods for NMOC monitoring. You will be kept informed as improved techniques or new methods become available.

The first of these guidance documents was sent to you in draft form on March 13, 1980 for your information and comments. It has since been revised and augmented with network design/siting criteria for NMOC (and NO_x) and by interim measurement procedures for NMOC, especially useful to those agencies collecting such data during the 1980 ozone season. This guidance was prepared jointly with the Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory (EMSL) at RTP. It should be used as supplementary to existing or revised guidance, as may be issued, on air quality data collection needs for 1982 SIP preparation.

The second document, on NMOC species analysis, was prepared in an attempt to bring some uniformity to the practices of measuring the concentration of individual or summed species of ambient organic compounds

obtained by gas chromatographic (GC) analysis. Not all State or local agencies will need or desire to measure organic compounds by this method. Because of the difficulty in performing accurate analyses, agencies should not be encouraged to attempt this kind of analysis, unless they already have the demonstrated capability. Generally, an agency should seek out a competent contractor to do the work.

If you need additional information or clarification on information contained in these documents, please contact Harold G. Richter at FTS 629-5474. Additional copies are available from the EPA Library at RTP (FTS 629-2777).

Robert E. Neligan

Attachments (not available)

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