

Subject Status Report on Certification of CY 2005 Data on AQS

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08/24/2006 08:18 AM

Ambient Air Monitoring Air Program Managers, EPA Regional Offices 1 - 10:

This message is a status report on the process in OAQPS to evaluate the 2005 ambient monitoring data certification statements received from monitoring reporting agencies via your offices, as required by 40 CFR 58.26. I reminded you of this requirement and explained our planned process in an e-mail message on May 25, 2006. A copy of that explanation is attached in case you do not have it handy and wish to refer to it. This message also reports briefly on the status of certifications of data from early years of monitoring. In both cases, there remain a number of situations which require attention from some your offices.

We in the Ambient Air Monitoring Group have been reviewing the 2005 certification documentation material provided by the reporting agencies, in consultation with your staff. We have been setting certification flags in AQS for monitors for which all the documentation is in order. Attached is an EXCEL file showing the certification status of the CY-2005 data on AQS as of August 22, 2006. The file shows the status by Region/State/Reporting organization.

If there is a number in one of the pollutant columns under the heading "Data Certified", this is the number of monitors for that reporting organization for which we have set the 2005 data certification flag in AQS to "Y" indicating certification. If there is a number in one of the pollutant columns under the heading "Data Not Certified", this is the number of monitors for which we received documentation but have set the flag to "N" indicating an issue with the documentation. If there are no numbers in these columns, we have not received (or not yet examined, in a few cases) the certification documentation.

So far, we have set the certification flag to either "Y" or "N" for over 2200 monitors. This is roughly one-third of the monitors subject to the certification requirement. The reasons for setting a flag to "N" are usually lack of precision and/or accuracy data on AQS, or because that data has been changed for a particular monitor on AQS after the certification request was signed and sent. In all but a few recent cases, David Lutz has notified your monitoring contact of the specific reason why a flag has been set to "N", so that your office can work with the reporting organization to resolve the problem.

There are still a lot of agencies which have not been processed, i.e., no flag has been set. The reasons could be:

- (a) Some agencies may not have sent the certification request to the Regional Office for their review.
- (b) The Regional Office has received the certification request and is in the process of reviewing the data before forwarding the request to OAQPS for AQS flagging purposes. (In some cases, we have a copy of the certification request but we are holding it until the Regional Office finishes a review, at the request of the Regional Office staff.)
- (c) A few certification requests have been forwarded by the Regions to OAQPS for action very recently and are still being processed.

It is our intent to process these certifications as timely as possible, but we need the Regional Offices to obtain the missing certification documentation from the reporting organization and to resolve those cases where documentation problems have been referred back to you for resolution.

Future status reports on 2005 certifications will follow. Please contact me or David Lutz if you have any questions.

I am also able to report that David Lutz has processed nearly all of a large backlog of certification flag setting for years prior to 2005. This backlog developed for a number of reasons, including states revising

data on AQS once a certification flag had been successfully set once, but not re-certifying the new data set. For the large majority of monitors that now have a blank in the certification flag for years between 2001 and 2004 , the explanation is that necessary documentation has not reached us, rather than that we have not yet examined it and set flags accordingly. You may also wish to pursue these situations. They can be identified by running a AMP450 report on AQS and noting whether the certification field has been populated.



Certification_Procedures_2005.doc



2005_Certification_8_06.XLS

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