

National Air Quality Conference – Ambient Monitoring 2012

Monitoring Regulation Changes - Come Brainstorm with EPA

Wednesday, May 16, 10:30 – 12:00

The ambient monitoring requirements contained within Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provide the details of the minimum monitoring requirements underlying the national ambient monitoring network. In effect, the Part 58 requirements are part of the basic “playbook” for monitoring agencies, and many air monitoring professionals can quote the regulatory text from memory given the centrality of such information to the successful operation of their networks.

Historically, changes to the Part 58 regulations have been made infrequently. However in 2006, EPA completed a comprehensive update to the requirements, and subsequent NAAQS reviews for all the criteria pollutants have provided another set of revisions, principally to the Subpart B monitoring network requirements and the Appendix D Network Design Criteria.

Since the 2006 monitoring revisions were promulgated, suggestions for improvements have been received from EPA Regional Office staff, OGC, NACAA, and monitoring agencies. OAQPS has retained these suggestions and is now starting the process of considering issues and priorities for a future monitoring proposal to be initiated in 2013 or 2014 that would revise the CFR. Accordingly, we have planned this brainstorming session to kick off the process for identifying potential improvements to the monitoring regulations, and OAQPS is requesting your participation.

Specifically, OAQPS requests that attendees come prepared to discuss specific CFR sections that are in need of review. Historically, the following areas have been noted as potentially needing attention:

- Annual Monitoring Network plans - §58.10
 - Public comment process
- Operating Schedules - §58.12
 - Criteria for daily PM_{2.5} sampling
 - PM₁₀ sampling frequency
- System Modification - §58.14
 - Criteria for monitor discontinuation
- Data Certification - §58.15
- Special Purpose Monitors - §58.20
 - Period of data exemption from NAAQS
- Quality Assurance – Appendix A
 - NPAP audits frequency
 - Audit levels
- Probe and Monitoring Path Siting Criteria – Appendix E
 - Spacing requirements for collocated monitors
 - Waiver provisions

Participants need not be limited to the listed topics, and are encouraged to suggest/provide specific revisions to any language contained within Part 58 and appendices that would be relevant on a national basis.

Although we do not expect to have time to consider changes to Part 53 or the Part 50 Federal Reference Methods and data handling appendices, ORD and OAQPS staff familiar with these sections will be available to discuss areas of concern on an individual basis both during and after the conference.