



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Quality Assurance Project Plan  
for the Georgia Ambient Air Monitoring Program  
Ethylene Oxide**

**Category II**

March 2020  
Revision 1

**Air Protection Branch  
Ambient Air Monitoring Program  
4244 International Parkway, Suite 120  
Atlanta, GA 30354**

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### *Acronyms and Abbreviations*

AAMP	Ambient Air Monitoring Program
APB	Air Protection Branch
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
ATMP	Air Toxics Monitoring Program
°C	Degrees Celsius
CAA	Clean Air Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COC	Chain of Custody
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DQI	Data Quality Indicator
DQO	Data Quality Objectives
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPD	Environmental Protection Division
ESMB	Extraction Solvent Method Blank
GA EPD	Georgia Environmental Protection Division
GC	Gas Chromatography
GC/MS	Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutants
IB	Instrument Blank
ICAL	Initial Calibration
ICB	Initial Calibration Blank
IO	Inorganic
IS	Internal Standards
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
K	Kelvin
kPa	Kilopascal
LCS	Laboratory Control Sample
LCSD	Laboratory Control Sample Duplicate
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
MB	Method Blank
MDL	Method Detection Limit
µg	Micrograms
µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Micrograms per Cubic Meter
µg/mL	Micrograms per Milliliter
MS	Matrix Spike
MSD	Matrix Spike Duplicate
MQO	Measurement Quality Objectives
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NATA	National Air Toxics Assessment
NATTS	National Air Toxics Trends Stations
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
OAQPS	Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
PAMS	Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Station

PPB	Parts per Billion
PPBV	Parts per Billion Volume
PQAO	Primary Quality Assurance Organization
QC	Quality Control
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
r	Correlation Coefficient
RPD	Relative Percent Difference
RSD	Relative Standard Deviation
RRF	Relative Response Factor
RRT	Relative Retention Time
RT	Retention Time
SB	Solvent Blank
SLAMS	State and Local Monitoring Stations
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TAD	Technical Assistance Document
TM	Trademark
TO	Toxic Organic
UATS	Urban Air Toxics Strategy
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound



## 1.0 Quality Assurance Project Plan Identification Approval

The attached Category II *Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Georgia Ambient Air Monitoring Program for Ethylene Oxide* is hereby recommended for approval and commits the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) to follow the elements described within.

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### **3.0 Distribution List**

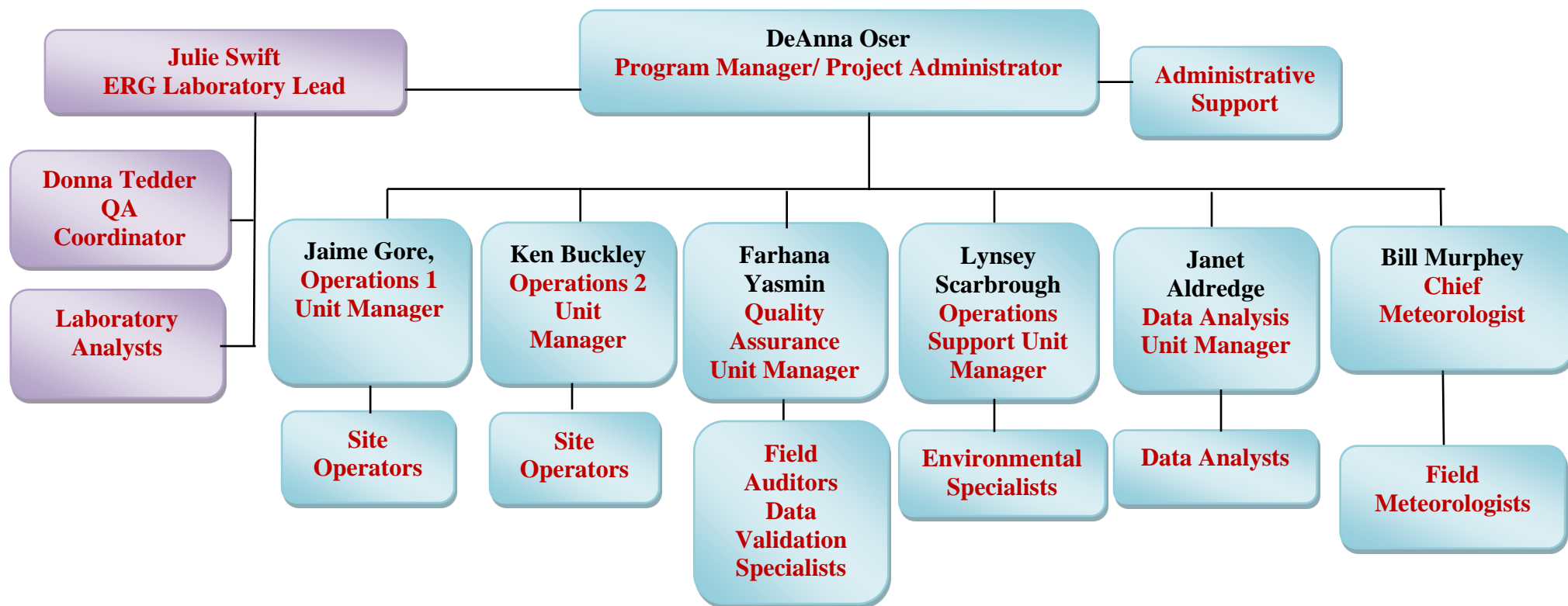
This section is not required for a Category II Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

### **4.0 Project/Task Organization**

The Georgia Ambient Air Monitoring Program (GA AAMP) and the Eastern Research Group Laboratory (ERG) have important roles in developing and implementing this ethylene oxide study. GA AAMP is responsible for taking this information and developing a study to meet the data quality requirements. ERG is the contract laboratory for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for air toxics programs such as the National Air Toxics Trends (NATTS) sites. They are the laboratory utilized by EPA for previous ethylene oxide studies. Therefore, the laboratory quality assurance requirements are sufficient for the purposes of this study. For detailed information on the ERG Lab, see the ERG's *Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support) QAPP*, dated March 2019 (Laboratory Attachment of this document).

To make the best use of available resources and to meet timelines for collection and analysis of this study, the flow of information and samples must be optimally organized. The deployment and operation of the project is a shared responsibility among all the involved parties. This section describes the roles of all parties and establishes the lines of authority, communication and reporting, with the goal of facilitating a smoothly operated project. Figure 1 represents the division of function in the organization of the GA AAMP (blue blocks) and ERG Lab (purple blocks). The following information lists the specific responsibilities of each position.

Figure 1. GA AAMP Project Organizational Chart



## **4.1 Program Manager/Project Administrator**

Under supervision of the GA Air Protection Branch (APB) Chief, the Program Manager of GA AAMP is the Project Administrator for all the ambient air monitoring projects. He/she has the overall responsibilities for managing all aspects of the GA AAMP according to policy. Ultimately, the Program Manager/Project Administrator is responsible for establishing QA policy and for resolving QA issues identified through the QA program. The major responsibilities of the Program Manager/Project Administrator include, but are not limited to:

- Serving as a public relations contact for monitoring activities with this project
- Reviewing and maintaining budgets and milestones for GA AAMP
- Ensuring this study meets EPA quality assurance requirements
- Communicating with the ERG Laboratory Lead on issues related to routine sample analysis and related QA activities
- Reviewing and approving QAPPs and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the GA AAMP
- Managing GA AAMP's documents and records

## **4.2 Quality Assurance (QA) Unit**

### **4.2.1 Quality Assurance Unit Manager**

The QA Unit Manager is the delegated supervisor of the GA AAMP's QA Program for field and data handling activities. He/she has direct access to the Project Administrator (GA AAMP Manager) on all matters pertaining to quality assurance activities regarding field monitoring, sampling, measuring operations, and data handling procedures. His/her responsibilities are detailed below:

- Implementing GA AAMP's quality system in accordance with EPA's and GA EPD's QA policies within the project
- Reviewing and approving GA AAMP SOPs
- Managing data validation of air quality monitoring data
- Reviewing field audit reports
- Ensuring that reviews and audits are scheduled and completed
- Performing data verification of the data for this study

The QA Unit Manager has the authority to carry out these responsibilities and to bring to the attention of the Program Manager/Project Administrator any issues associated with these responsibilities.

### **4.2.2 Field Auditor**

The Field Auditor is responsible for:

- Scheduling and conducting field audits
- Assisting QA Unit Manager in developing and updating QAPPs
- Preparing and finalizing field audit reports



The Field Auditor has the authority to carry out these responsibilities and to bring to the attention of the QA Unit Manager any issues related to these responsibilities.

#### **4.2.3 Data Validation Specialist**

The Data Validation Specialist is responsible for:

- Preparing and updating SOPs for data review and validation activities
- Performing review to ensure that the ambient air monitoring data are validated in accordance with GA AAMP's data validation SOPs

### **4.3 Operations Units**

#### **4.3.1 Operations Unit Managers**

GA AAMP has two different Operations Units due to the heavy workload on field activities. The Operations Unit Managers are the delegated supervisors of the GA AAMP for the field monitoring and sampling operations, which include the QC activities that are implemented as part of routine data collection activities. Responsibilities of the Operations Unit Managers include:

- Supervising personnel in Operations Unit
- Establishing, operating, and maintaining all ambient air monitoring locations
- Developing the monitoring plan for this study
- Understanding GA AAMP QA policy and ensuring the Site Operators understand and follow the policy
- Assisting in resolution of technical problems

#### **4.3.2 Site Operators**

Under the supervision of the Operations Unit Managers, the Site Operators responsibilities include:

- Operating the air monitoring samplers following all the manufacturers' specifications, GA AAMP's SOPs, and this QAPP
- Maintaining a schedule of sample collection and shipments
- Verifying that all required QC activities are performed and that measurement quality standards are met as required in this QAPP
- Documenting and reporting all problems and corrective actions to the Operations Unit Managers

### **4.4 Operations Support Unit**

#### **4.4.1 Operations Support Unit Manager**

Under supervision of the GA AAMP Manager, the Operations Support Unit Manager is responsible for:

- Directing the activities of staff members responsible for overseeing the functions of GA AAMP Workshop (including inventory, testing of new equipment, maintenance and repair)

- Coordinating with ERG Lab for sample media pickup and sample delivery
- Updating and writing SOPs for new equipment added to the GA AAMP
- Budgeting for the Operations Units in managing purchasing and equipment procurement related to the field monitoring and sampling activities

#### **4.4.2 Environmental Specialist**

The Environmental Specialist in the Operations Support Unit assists Operations Support Unit Manager in his/her activities including:

- GA AAMP Workshop activities including testing of new equipment, maintenance and repair, and preventative maintenance activities
- Coordinating with ERG Lab for sample media pickup and sample delivery
- Updating and writing SOPs for new equipment added to the GA AAMP

#### **4.5 Data Analysis Unit**

##### **4.5.1 Data Analysis Unit Manager**

Under supervision of the GA AAMP Manager, the Data Analysis Unit Manager is responsible for:

- Supervising personnel in Data Analysis Unit
- Managing data analysis of this study
- Composing and updating GA AAMP's QAPPs
- Managing, reviewing and editing SOPs for the GA AAMP

##### **4.5.2 Data Analyst**

Under the supervision of the Data Analysis Manager, the Data Analyst's responsibilities include:

- Assisting in data analysis of this study
- Assisting in preparation of QAPPs for the GA AAMP
- Assisting in preparation of SOPs for the GA AAMP

#### **4.6 Meteorological Unit**

##### **4.6.1 Chief Meteorologist**

The Chief Meteorologist supervises the Meteorological Unit by:

- Supervising, training, and evaluating personnel in the Meteorological Unit
- Evaluating wind rose data in relation to monitoring locations

##### **4.6.2 Field Meteorologist**

The Field Meteorologist is responsible for:

- Evaluating wind rose data in relation to monitoring locations

## **4.7 Eastern Research Group Laboratory**

While GA AAMP handles all ambient air monitoring field activities, the ERG Lab handles the laboratory supplies, sample analysis, and laboratory QA/QC. The ERG Lab forwards the analytical data to GA AAMP for further data processing, review, and data validation. The ERG Lab is a contract laboratory and is utilized by US EPA for National Air Toxic Trends Site (NATTS) analysis, which includes the TO-15 analysis, operating under a QAPP approved by EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Support (OAQPS). Therefore, the quality assurance activities of the ERG Lab are presumed sufficient. For more description of the ERG Lab, see *Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support) QAPP* (Laboratory Attachment of this document).

### **4.7.1 Laboratory Lead**

The Laboratory Lead has overall responsibility for managing all aspects of the ethylene oxide analyses for the ERG Lab. Ultimately, the Laboratory Lead is responsible for establishing the QA policy and for resolving QA issues identified through the Laboratory QA program. The laboratory operates under an EPA approved QAPP for TO-15 analysis for volatile organic compounds.

### **4.7.2 QA Coordinator**

The ERG Lab QA Coordinator has responsibility for ensuring that the ERG Lab follows the ERG Lab's QAPP, as approved by EPA.

## **5.0 Problem Definition/Background**

The National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), which is updated approximately every three years, provides estimates of the risk of cancer and other serious health effects from inhaling air contaminated with toxic pollutants from large and small industrial sources, from on- and off-road mobile sources, and from natural sources such as fires. The latest available NATA report uses the 2014 National Emission Inventory (NEI), and in August of 2018, the NATA presented the updated estimated cancer risks at the census tract level. With this updated information, the NATA report identifies 18 areas of the U.S. that potentially have elevated long-term (chronic) cancer risks due to ethylene oxide emissions from stationary industrial sources. The Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell Metropolitan Statistical Area (Atlanta MSA) was identified as one of these areas. The main use of ethylene oxide includes manufacture of ethylene glycol (antifreeze), solvents, detergents, adhesives and other products. Also, ethylene oxide is used as a fumigant and a sterilant for surgical equipment and plastic devices.

With the Atlanta MSA being one of the areas identified to have elevated risk in the NATA report, the Georgia Ambient Air Monitoring Program (GA AAMP) will conduct a study to characterize ethylene oxide concentrations in the ambient air. The GA AAMP will begin a study of ambient air levels of ethylene oxide concentrations as of September 2019. The plan for this study is that samples will be collected for approximately six months; however, if significant changes are seen in the data, the study may be extended for further characterization.

This ambient air monitoring study will yield data of sufficient quality that will allow a preliminary assessment of any potential ethylene oxide found at the monitoring sites. The preliminary assessment will be used to determine subsequent steps that may include considering longer-term monitoring where initial data are inclusive and additional information is needed to better characterize the ethylene oxide concentrations.

This QAPP describes the quality system developed, implemented and maintained by GA AAMP for the collection of air samples; the data quality assessment; the data validation; and the reporting of results to GA EPD's website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>). The GA AAMP of the GA EPD acts as primary quality assurance organization (PQAO) in charge of monitoring ethylene oxide data.

## **6.0 Project/Task Description**

This QAPP was developed to ensure that GA AAMP has a quality program to characterize ethylene oxide concentrations in the ambient air. The plan for this study is that samples will be collected for approximately six months. The ethylene oxide monitoring study was developed to ensure consistent data quality is sufficient to characterize the ethylene oxide concentrations in the areas monitored. This study data will be posted to the GA EPD's website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>).

The monitoring objectives for this study include the following specific aims:

- Characterizing ethylene oxide concentrations in the ambient air within approximately ¼ mile of two facilities (Sterigenics, Cobb County, Georgia and Becton Dickinson-Covington, Newton County, Georgia)
- Providing background concentrations for comparison at two previously established GA AAMP network sites, South DeKalb (13-089-0002) and the General Coffee monitoring station (13-069-0002)
- Providing quality data for risk characterization by other agencies
- Additional sample locations may be added as resources allow, following the methodologies outlined in this document, as applicable

Before the study begins in September, the GA AAMP began preliminary sampling for ethylene oxide at the South DeKalb (13-089-0002) National Air Toxics Trends Site (NATTS) in June of 2019 to gain an understanding of collection and analytical methods of the samples.

This study will utilize passive samplers for the measurement of ethylene oxide in the Atlanta area. For each day that samples are collected in the Covington and Cobb County areas, a sample will also be collected at the South DeKalb site utilizing the same passive sampling equipment. This comparison will provide information on the variability in the ethylene oxide concentrations in an urban area which is not influenced by the two facilities discussed above.

During the study, approximately three qualitative samples will be taken at the South DeKalb site utilizing the passive sampling system as well as the ATEC system that was used for the initial

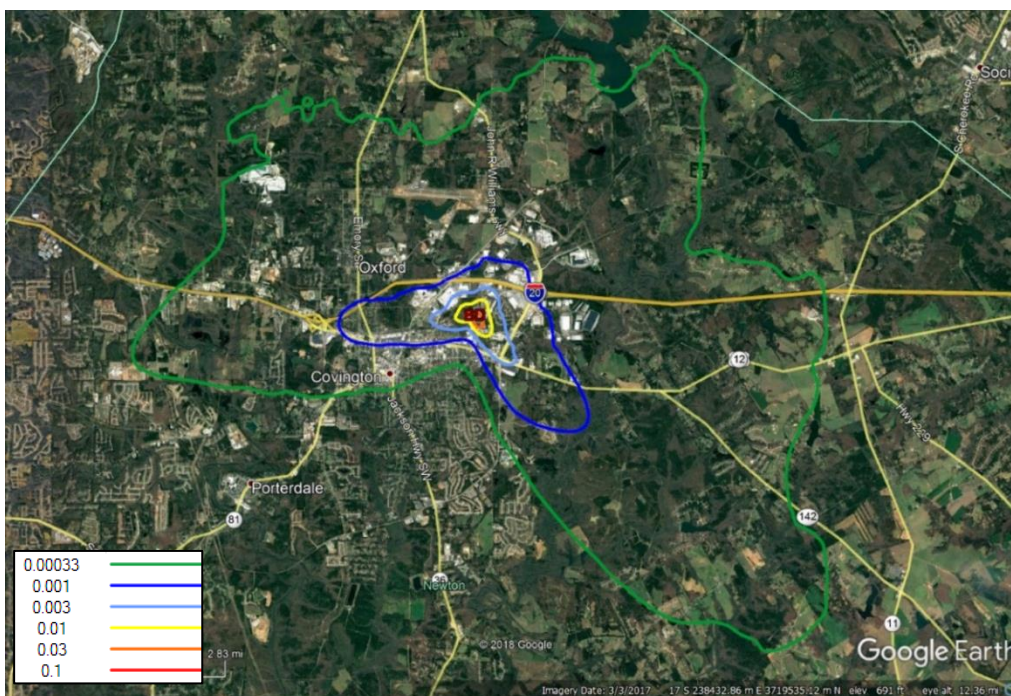
measurements prior to the commencement of this study. In addition, due to its proximity to the South DeKalb site and Interstate 285, the GA AAMP will also collect approximately three ethylene oxide samples with the VOCs canister collection at the Near Road-285 (NR-285) site (13-089-0003) for qualitative comparison to the data collected at the South DeKalb site. The following figure shows the proximity of the two sites. This comparison may provide insight on the contribution of mobile sources to the ethylene oxide concentration measured at the South DeKalb site.



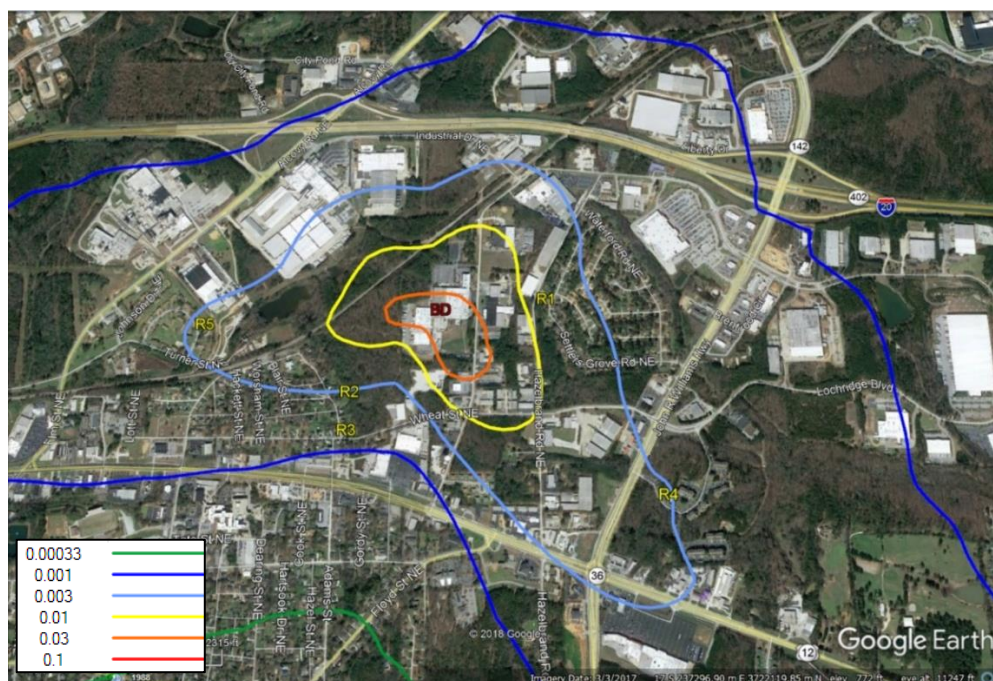
**Figure 2. Location of South DeKalb and NR-285 Sites**

To determine the ambient monitoring sites near Becton-Dickinson in Covington, GA (Figure 3 and Figure 4) and Sterigenics in Cobb County, GA (Figure 6 and Figure 7), the GA AAMP considered the modeled emission data which was generated by the Planning and Support Program of GA EPD. Dispersion models of the ethylene oxide emissions data from these two facilities had been conducted to determine concentrations of ethylene oxide around each facility. These models are shown in the following figures. The modeled values are shown in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Based on previous ethylene oxide monitoring conducted by EPA, the determination was made to characterize the ethylene oxide concentrations within approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the facilities and to qualitatively determine the gradient (change in concentration) within approximately 1 mile of each facility. Therefore, each model was overlaid with  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and 1 mile radius measurements around each facility (Figure 5 and Figure 8).

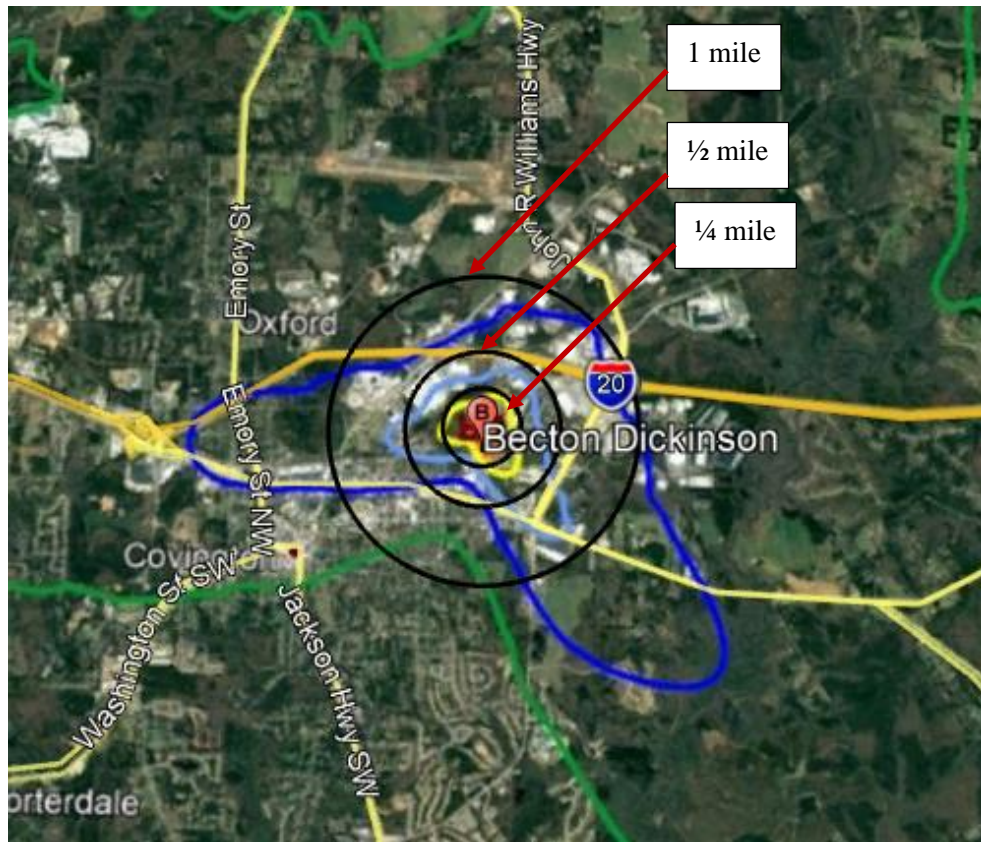




**Figure 3. Contours of 5-year Annual Average Ground-level Concentrations (in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) of Becton Dickinson (Covington) Modeled Overlaid on a Google Earth Map**

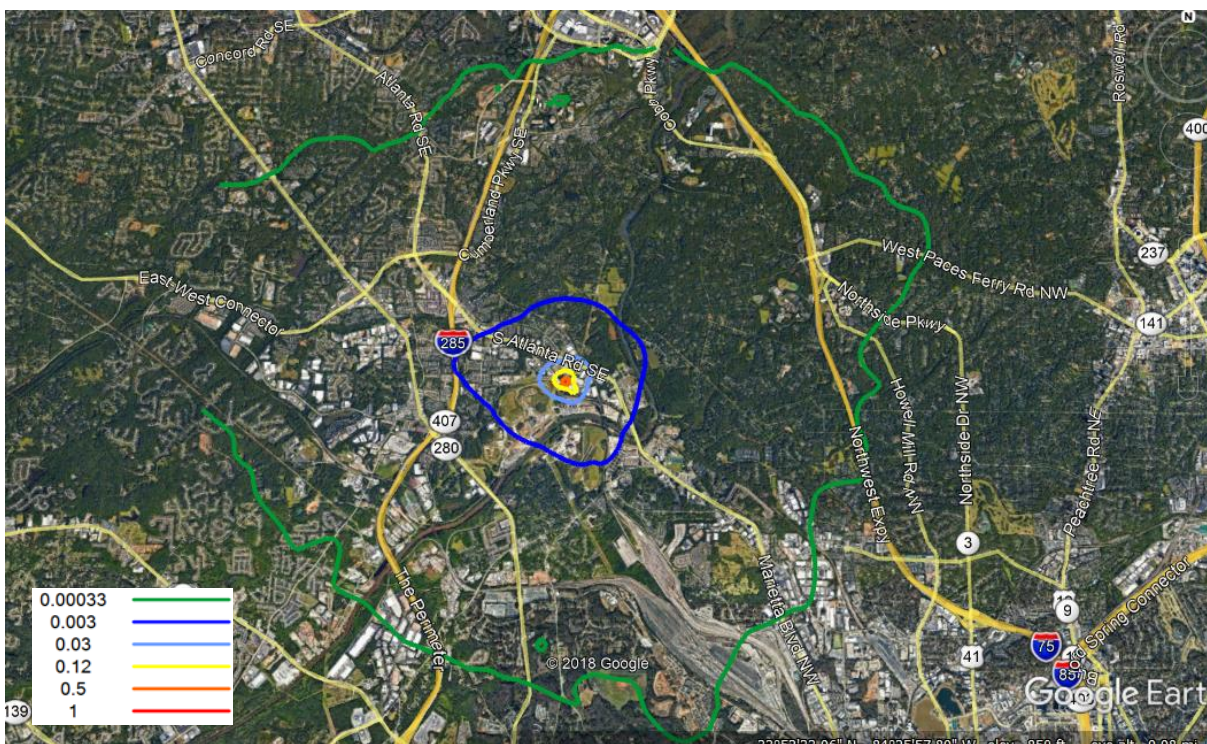


**Figure 4. A Close-up of Figure 3 (Becton Dickinson)**

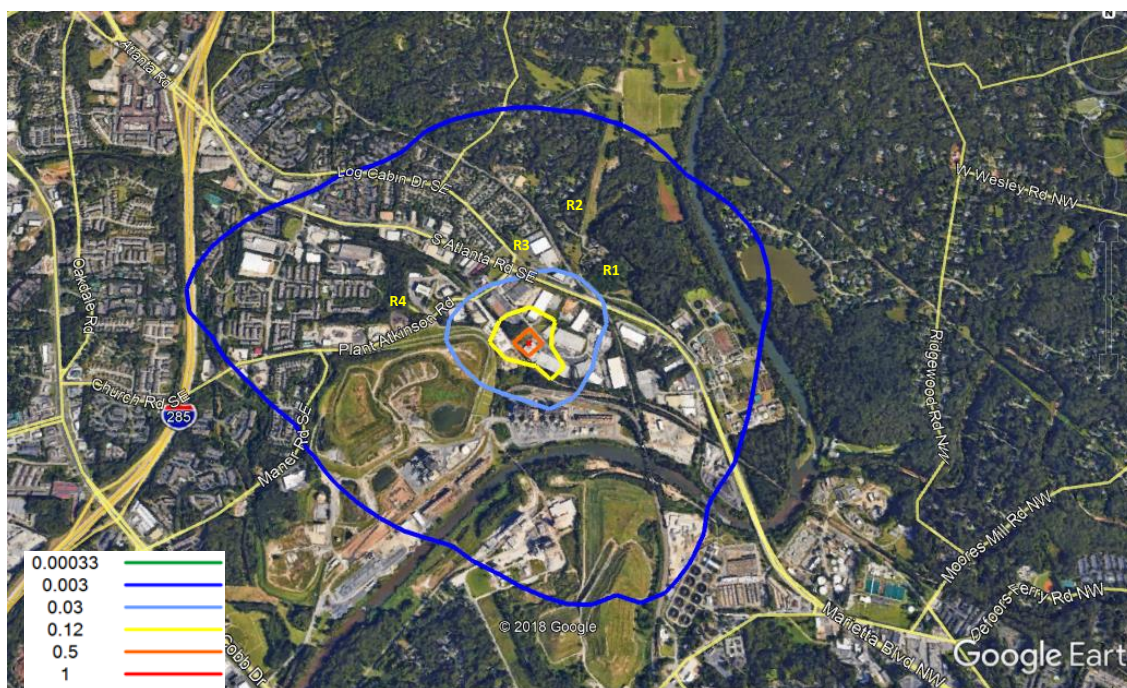


**Figure 5. Model Overlaid with Distances from Becton Dickinson**



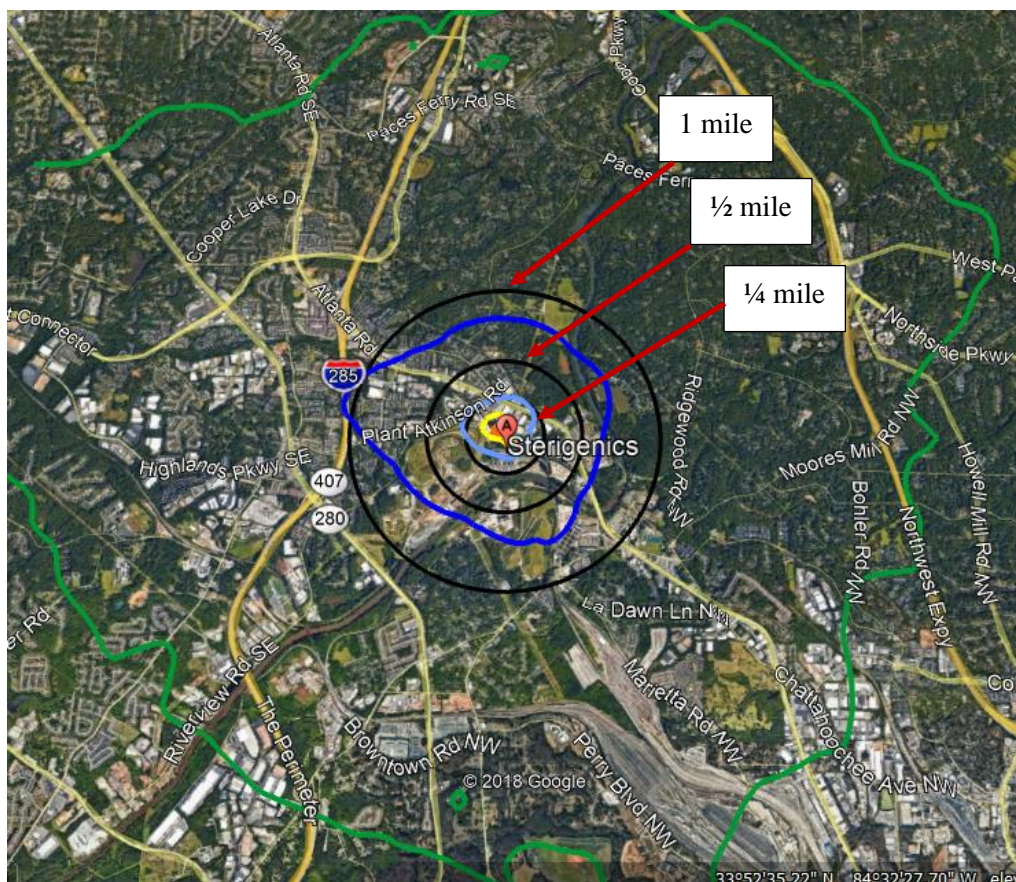


**Figure 6. Contours of 5-year Annual Average Ground-level Concentrations (in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) from Sterigenics (Cobb County) Modeled with the Current Emission Scenario Overlaid on a Google Earth Map**



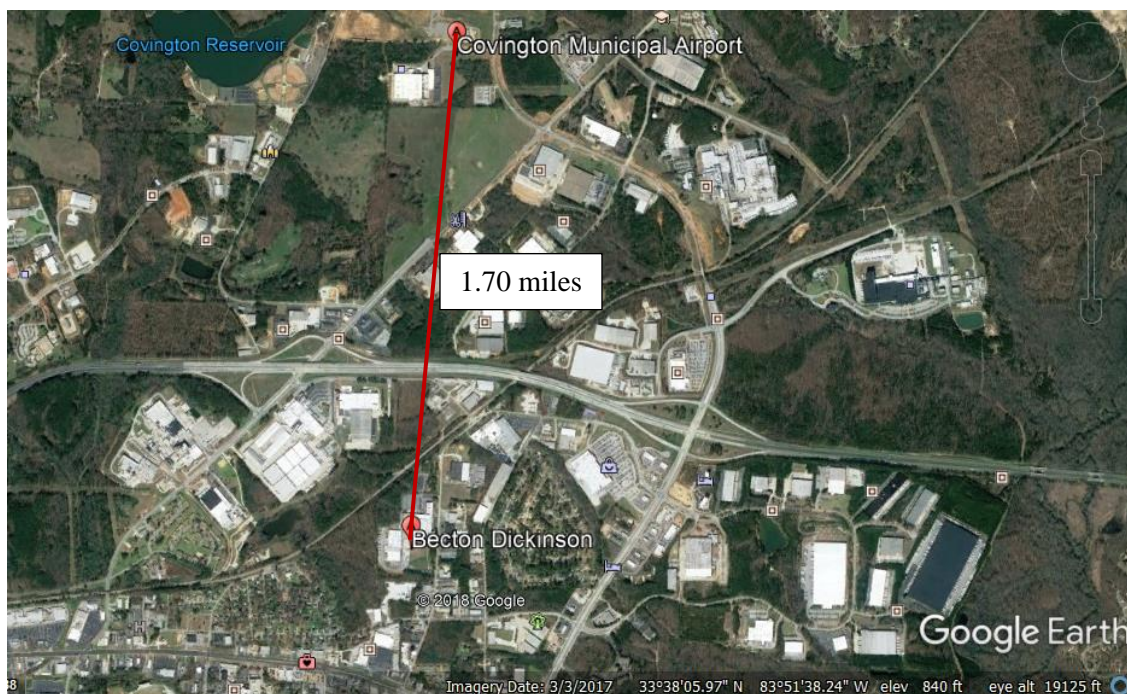
**Figure 7. A Close-up Look of Figure 6 (Sterigenics)**



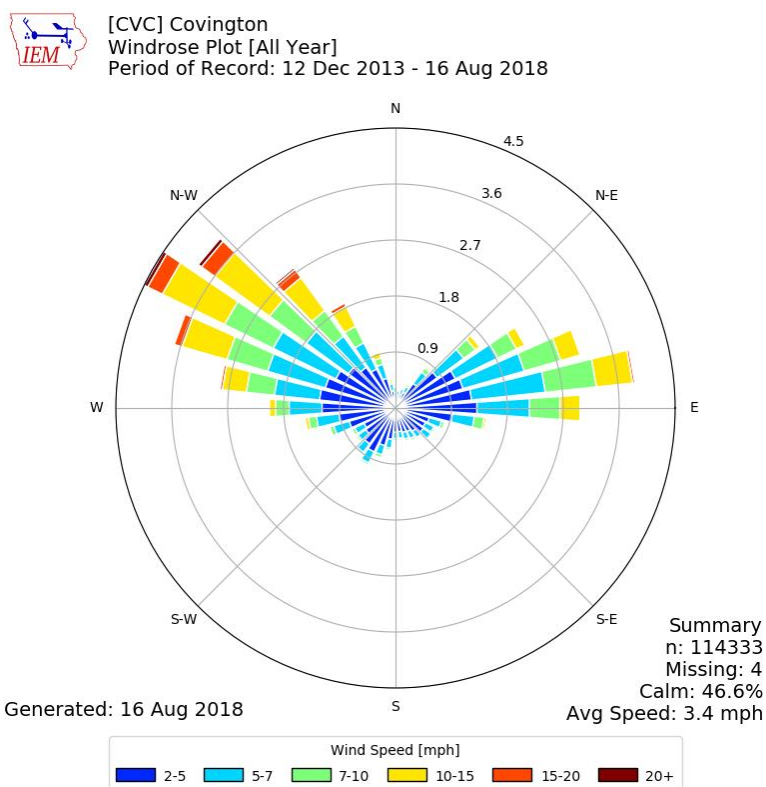


**Figure 8. Model Overlaid with Distances from Sterigenics**

Wind rose data from airports near each facility was assessed by the GA AAMP, and primary and secondary wind patterns were determined. The available wind data from the Covington Municipal Airport was used for the Becton Dickinson facility, and the available wind data from the Dobbins Air Reserve Base was used for the Sterigenics facility. Distances from the nearby airports to the facility are shown in Figure 9 and Figure 11 below. Wind rose data from each airport is shown in Figure 10 and Figure 12.

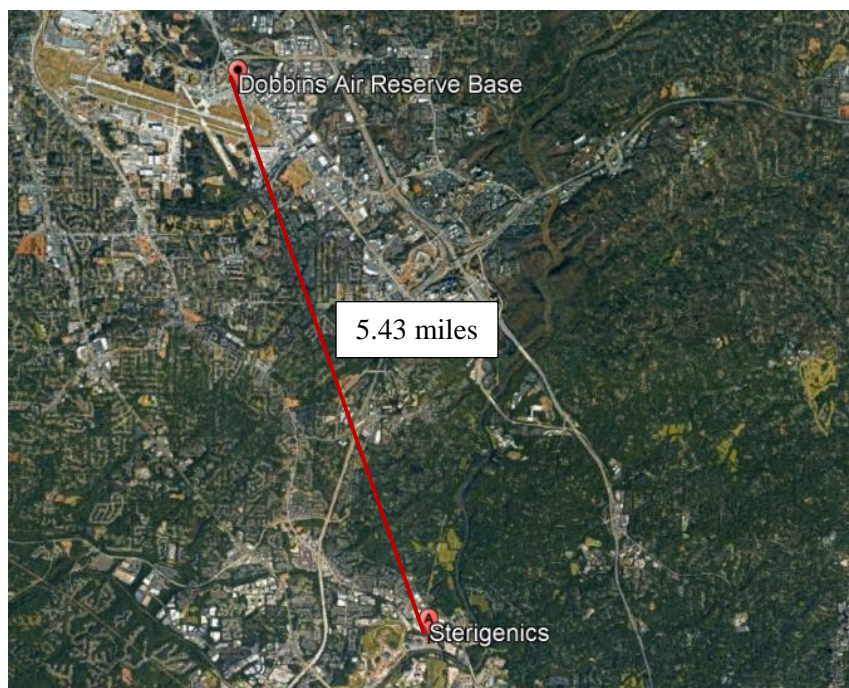


**Figure 9. Location of Covington Municipal Airport (Wind Rose Data) in Relation to Becton Dickinson**

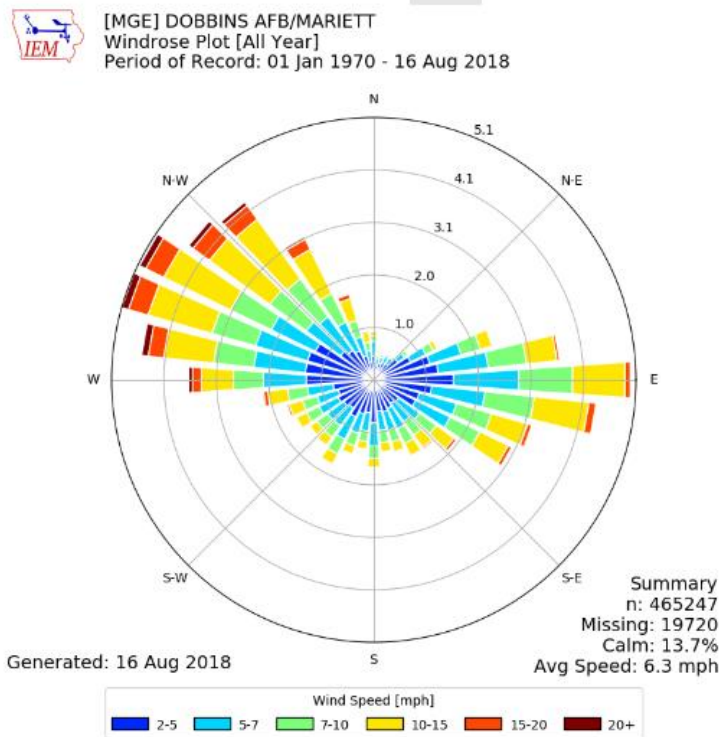


**Figure 10. Annual Wind Rose Data from Covington Municipal Airport, 2013-2018**





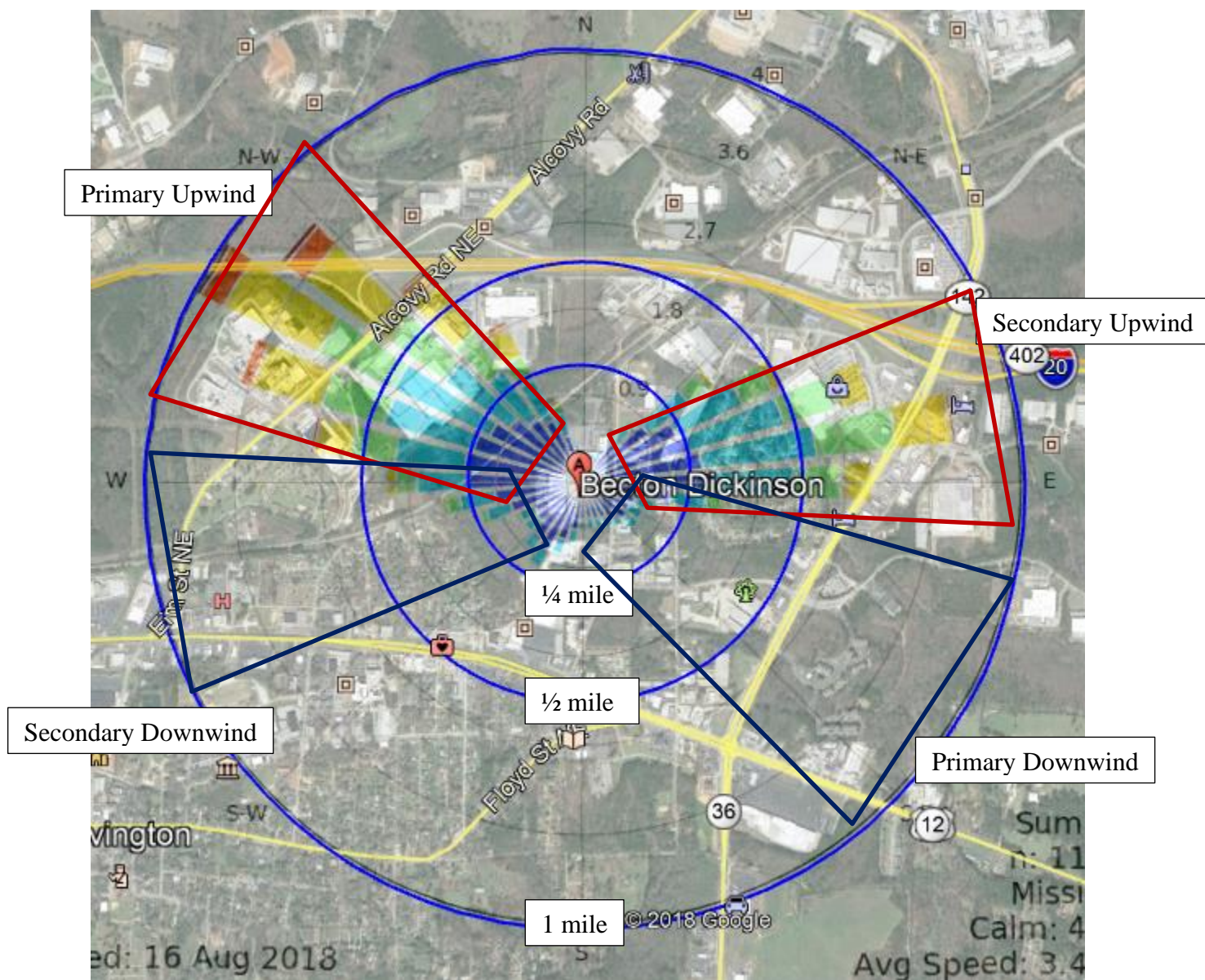
**Figure 11. Location of Dobbins Air Reserve Base (Wind Rose Data) in Relation to Sterigenics**



**Figure 12. Annual Wind Rose Data at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, January 1970-August 2018**

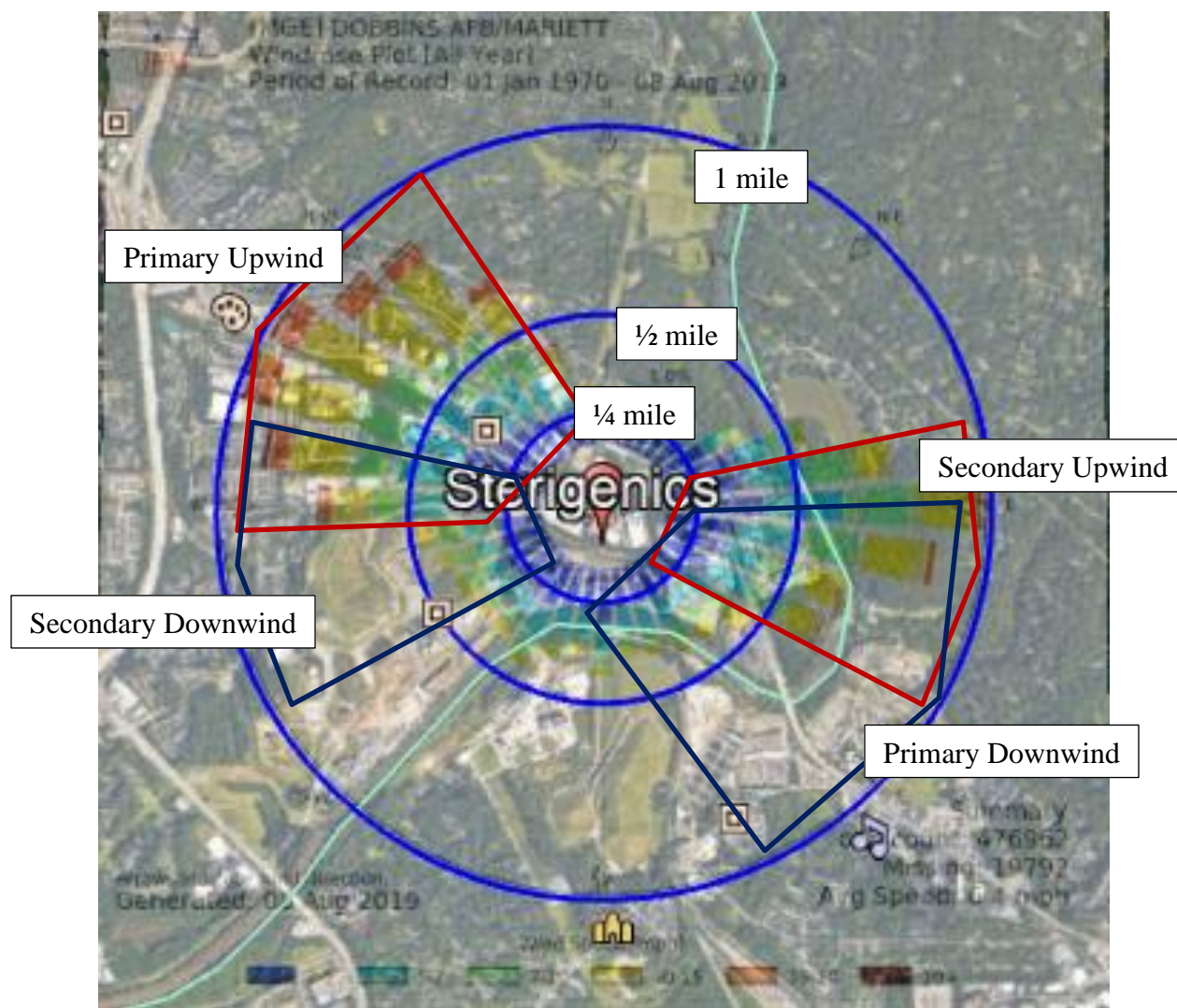
The wind roses were overlaid on Google Earth maps to help pinpoint the appropriate locations to place monitors around each facility. The GA AAMP plans to collect samples within four locations around each facility for each sampling event: primary upwind direction, primary downwind direction, secondary upwind direction and secondary downwind direction (indicated with red polygons for upwind and blue polygons for downwind in Figure 13 and Figure 14). Samples will be taken within approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of each facility in the four quadrants every six days. Samples will also be taken using the same passive sampling equipment at South DeKalb site for each sampling event. The measurements at the South DeKalb site will provide information for the relative comparison of the three locations (near Becton Dickinson, near Sterigenics, and South DeKalb). To help determine concentrations of spatial relativity to increased distance from the site of emissions, qualitative comparisons will also be made at distances of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, and 1 mile radius of each facility. This will be accomplished by comparing a sample taken at approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to a sample taken at either approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile or 1 mile. Refer to Table 1 for more information.

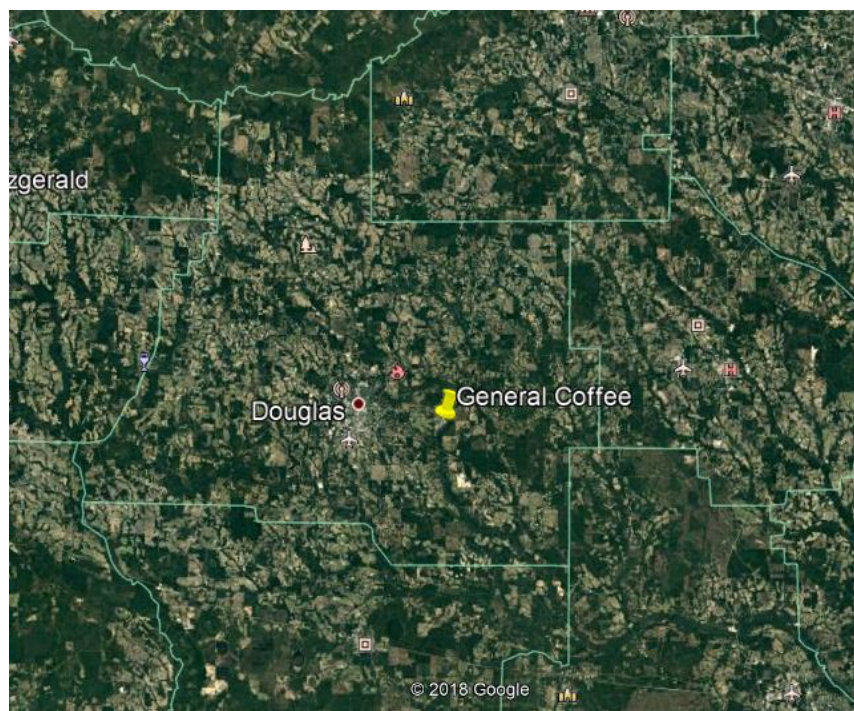
The GA AAMP will take reasonable precautions in placement of the passive samplers to ensure Site Operator safety. The samplers will be placed in the best places to characterize emissions in the air surrounding each facility, at heights up to 10 meters, within the breathing zone, and with an open fetch for unobstructed air flow across the samplers.



**Figure 13. Primary and Secondary Wind Directions and Distances from Becton Dickinson**







**Figure 15. General Coffee Site**

Due to the difficulty in laboratory analysis, the ethylene oxide samples will be analyzed by the EPA contract laboratory, ERG Lab, for consistency in measurements as compared to previous EPA studies.

The GA AAMP is collecting ethylene oxide data at the South DeKalb, NR-285, and General Coffee sites to make comparisons to the data collected near each facility. In addition, comparison analyses are planned between EPA Region 4 Laboratory at Laboratory Services and Applied Science Division in Athens, GA and the EPA contract laboratory, ERG Lab, for a laboratory comparison as available.

To summarize, the GA AAMP is sampling ethylene oxide as follows (also see Table 1 below):

- Every 6 days, samples will be collected at each of four sites around each identified facility (Becton Dickinson and Sterigenics) at approximately the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile radius mark to capture primary and secondary upwind and downwind concentrations (see above figures for primary and secondary upwind and downwind quadrants).
- Once a month, a collocated sample should be collected at one of four sites around each identified facility (Becton Dickinson and Sterigenics) at approximately the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile radius mark to capture primary and secondary upwind and downwind concentrations (see above figures for primary and secondary upwind and downwind quadrants). The same site(s) should be used for collocation throughout the study for consistency.
- Once a month, samples should be also collected at approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile or 1 mile radius from each facility, in one of the four quadrants, to assess spatial variation. Comparisons will be made between the samples collected within approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile mark and the  $\frac{1}{2}$

mile mark or between the samples collected within approximately ¼ mile mark and the 1 mile mark to determine gradient of ethylene oxide concentration at the specified distance from each facility.

- Every 6 days, samples will be collected at the South DeKalb site for comparison.
- Every 12 days, samples will be collected at the background General Coffee site for comparison.
- Approximately 3 samples per study will be collected at the NR-285 site for a qualitative comparison.
- Approximately 3 samples per study will be collected concurrently using the passive canister sampler and the ATEC canister sampler at the South DeKalb site for a qualitative comparison.
- Approximately 350 samples will be collected as part of this ethylene oxide study.
- Additional sample locations may be added as resources allow, following the methodologies outlined in this document, as applicable.

A unique code will be assigned to identify and differentiate each of the monitoring sites during this study.

The GA AAMP will place the collocated samplers at the site with the expected highest concentration within reason and considering the safety of the Site Operators.

The measurement goal of the ethylene oxide study is to estimate the 24-hour average passive canister sampling concentrations in units of micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). The GA AAMP ethylene oxide monitoring project will follow EPA Compendium Method TO-15, as applicable, for collecting volatile organic compounds. The sampling instruments, sampling media, sampling schedules and monitoring purposes used by GA AAMP to collect air samples for the analyses of ethylene oxide are shown in the following table. Ethylene oxide will be collected at the locations around Becton Dickinson and Sterigenics, the South DeKalb site (13-089-0002), the NR-285 site (13-089-0003), and the General Coffee site (13-069-0002).

Site Location	Sampling Instruments	Sampling Media	Monitor Type	Sampling Schedule	Monitor Purpose
Within approximately ¼ -mile radius of Becton-Dickinson	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary and collocated	Primary-Every 6 days; Collocated-Once a month	Characterization of air surrounding facilities
Within approximately ½ and 1-mile radius of Becton-Dickinson	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately one spatial sample per month	Qualitative spatial comparison



Within approximately ¼ mile radius of Sterigenics	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary and collocated	Primary-Every 6 days; Collocated-Once a month	Characterization of air surrounding facilities
Within approximately ½ and 1-mile radius of Sterigenics	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately one spatial sample per month	Qualitative spatial comparison
South DeKalb	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary and Collocated	Every 6 days; Collocated - once per month	Comparison/background
South DeKalb	ATEC 2200 Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately 3 per study	Qualitative comparison
NR-285	Xonteck Model 910 Air Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately 3 per study	Qualitative comparison
General Coffee	Xonteck Model 911 Air Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Every 12 days	Rural background

**Table 1. Sampling Details for Collecting Ethylene Oxide Data**

The GA AAMP may place samplers in other locations around additional facilities deemed necessary for the collection of ethylene oxide data. Those samplers will follow this QAPP, and samplers around any additional facilities will follow the monitoring objectives and procedures defined in this QAPP. For all sites used for this data study that are not established GA AAMP network sites, placement of samplers in relation to any affected source is contingent on the availability of ambient monitoring locations. All other aspects of the sample (from collection to verification) will follow the procedures outlined in this QAPP.

The work required to collect, document and report the ethylene oxide data includes:

- Appropriate placement of the sampler
- Ensuring accurate and reliable monitors records of data collected
- Developing SOPs for equipment checks, operation, and maintenance
- Establishing assessment criteria
- Validating the data produced in accordance with criteria herein

## 6.1 Field Activities

The Site Operators will perform field activities to include:

- Performing routine site operations and maintenance activities that include verifying sampler status, and recording pertinent field data and measurements
- Performing leak checks
- Collecting ethylene oxide samples and sending to ERG Lab for analysis

The Field Auditor will perform on-site assessments of the ethylene oxide collection, at least once during the study at each of the five target locations (Cobb County, Covington, South DeKalb, NR-285, General Coffee).

## 6.2 Laboratory Activities

The GA AAMP sends the ethylene oxide samples to the ERG Lab for analysis. The ERG Lab delivers an electronic data package to GA AAMP for validation and upload to the GA AAMP website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>). Any issues observed with the laboratory data are discussed with the ERG Lab. The ERG Lab maintains copies of their SOPs and are available to the GA AAMP staff as needed. Copies of the ERG Lab SOPs are available upon request and the ERG Lab's *Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support) QAPP*, dated March 2019 is Laboratory Attachment of this document.

## 6.3 Project Assessment Techniques

The evaluation process used to measure the performance or effectiveness of the system is called an assessment. This includes the audit, performance evaluation, inspection, peer review, or surveillance.

An audit of the Site Operator's sample collection will be conducted at each of the five locations (Cobb County, Covington, South DeKalb, NR-285, and General Coffee) during the study. This audit will review equipment, adherence to the SOP, field documentation, and chain of custody records to ensure compliance with the QAPP. The results of the audits (and any identified corrective actions) are summarized in a report to the QA Unit Manager.

## 6.4 Ethylene Oxide Project Records

The GA AAMP will maintain procedures for preparation, review, approval, use, revision and maintenance of documents and records. The categories and types of records and documents that are applicable to GA AAMP are shown in Table 2. More detail is shown in Section 9.0.

**Table 2. Critical Documents and Records**

Categories	Record/Document Types
Management and Organization	Organizational Chart of GA AAMP Personnel qualifications

Network & Site Information	Network description Site characterization file Site maps/pictures
Environmental Data Operations	Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) Standard operating procedures (SOPs) Field and laboratory logbooks Sample handling/custody records Inspection/maintenance records
Raw Data	Any original data from the laboratory
Data Reporting	Data/summary reports
Data Management	Data Validation Folders
Quality Assurance	Field audits of site operations

## 6.5 Project Schedule

The schedule for field and laboratory analysis activities are summarized in Table 3. As the project progresses, feedback from local stakeholders may initiate changes to the project. The dates of these activities may change due to unforeseen circumstances. However, this is the general timeline that the GA AAMP will follow for this project.

**Table 3. Schedule of Monitoring Activities**

Activity	Date	Comments
Monitoring plan development	August 2019	Monitoring plan vetted through official channels.
QAPP development	August 2019	Input taken and incorporated into official document.
Sampling devices procured	August 2019	ERG Laboratory in place for receiving samples.
Sampling devices prepared	September 2019	Sampling equipment zero checked at ERG Laboratory
Identification of the monitoring sites	September 2019	List of candidate sites selected considering NATA results, wind rose data, and information from local stakeholders.
Sampler siting/testing	September 2019	Establishment of sites and preliminary testing of samplers.
Field / laboratory training	September 2019	Field and laboratory training activities.
Sampling begins	September 2019	Sampler testing completed and media shipped to monitoring locations.
Laboratory analysis begins	September 2019	Samples received and analysis begins.

Field audit assessment	1 audit per study	Once per location per study
Data evaluation phase begins	April 2020*	Data set evaluated to determine if more sampling is needed.

\*In April 2020, evaluate to see if further measurements are needed.

## 7.0 Quality Objectives and Criteria for Measurement Data

This short-term study will be conducted under the quality program of the GA AAMP EPA-approved *Environmental Protection Division Air Protection Branch Quality Management Plan*, dated August 2015 where applicable.

### 7.1 Data Quality Objective (DQO)

The GA AAMP did not go through a formal data quality objective (DQO) process for the ethylene oxide monitoring project; however, the GA AAMP agreed upon measurement quality objectives for this project with the stakeholders. Measurement quality objectives for the various data quality indicators were developed based on the requirements of EPA Compendium Method TO-15.

### 7.2 Measurement Quality Objectives (MQOs) for Ethylene Oxide

Measurement quality objectives (MQOs), or acceptance criteria, are designed to evaluate and control various phases (sampling, preparation, analysis) of the measurement process. These MQOs are defined in terms of the following data quality indicators (DQIs):

- Precision - "Precision is a measure of agreement between two replicate measurements of the same property, under prescribed similar conditions. This agreement is calculated as either the range or as the standard deviation," (US EPA QA/G-5, Appendix D). This is the random component of error.
- Bias - "Bias is the systematic or persistent distortion of a measurement process that causes errors in one direction," (US EPA QA/G-5, Appendix D). Bias is determined by estimating the positive and negative deviation from the true value as a percentage of the true value.
- Comparability - "Comparability is the qualitative term that expresses the confidence that two data sets can contribute to a common analysis and interpolation. Comparability must be carefully evaluated to establish whether two data sets can be considered equivalent in regard to the measurement of a specific variable or groups of variables," (US EPA QA/G-5, Appendix D).
- Representativeness - "Representativeness is a measure of the degree to which data accurately and precisely represent a characteristic of a population parameter at a sampling point or for a process condition or environmental condition. Representativeness is a qualitative term that should be evaluated to determine whether in situ or other measurements are made and physical samples collected in such a manner that the resulting data appropriately reflect the media and phenomenon measured or studied," (US EPA QA/G-5, Appendix D).

- **Completeness** - Completeness is a metric quantifying the amount of valid data obtained from a measurement system compared to the amount that was expected to be obtained under correct, normal conditions. Completeness can be expressed as a ratio or a percentage. Data completeness requirements are included in the reference methods (40 CFR Part 50).
- **Sensitivity** – Sensitivity is determined by method detection limits (MDLs) for each measurement method for each pollutant (40 CFR 53.20, Table B-1 and manufacturer’s guidance).

The DQIs of representativeness, completeness, precision, bias, and sensitivity must meet specific MQOs, or acceptance criteria. The MQOs for each of the DQIs are as follows:

- **Representativeness:** Sampling must occur at one in 6-day frequency, from midnight to midnight local standard time, over  $24 \pm 1$  hours
- **Completeness:** At least 75% of all data available in a given quarter must be reported
- **Precision:** The percent difference must be no more than 25% for results  $\geq 5 \times \text{MDL}$
- **Bias:** Measurement error must be  $< 3 \times \text{MDL}$
- **Sensitivity:** MDL as required by EPA as part of national contract (see ERG Laboratory’s QAPP attached)

For the GA AAMP ethylene oxide monitoring project to follow these MQOs, the data produced will be considered of sufficient quantity and quality for the decision making to commence. The following data validation table outlines the acceptance criteria to meet these MQOs. GA AAMP uses the acceptance criteria provided in EPA supplied guidance *Technical Assistance Document for the National Air Toxics Trends Stations Program, Revision 3*, dated October 2016 as a guide, and unless otherwise noted, the references shown in the table refer to this document. The MQOs are used by GA AAMP to control and assess measurement uncertainties.

**Table 4. Data Validation Table**

**VOCs via EPA Compendium Method TO-15**

Parameter	Description and Required Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Reference	Category
<i>Field Readiness Checks and Collection Activities</i>				
Canister Viability	All canisters	Canister must be used within 30 days from final evacuation	Section 4.2.6.2 TO-15 Section 1.3	Operational
Canister Starting Pressure Determination	Each canister prior to collection of a field sample or preparation of a calibration standard or laboratory QC sample	Vacuum $\geq -28$ inHg	Section 4.2.5.2.1	Critical
Sample Setup Leak Check	Each canister prior to collection - draw vacuum on canister connection	Leak rate must be $\leq 1$ inHg over 5 minutes	Section 4.2.5.2.1	Critical
Sampling Frequency	One sample every six days according to the EPA National Monitoring Schedule	Sample must be valid to be included in $\geq 75\%$	Section 4.2.5.3	Critical and MQO
Sampling Period	All field-collected samples	1380-1500 minutes ( $24 \pm 1$ hr) starting and ending at midnight	Section 4.2.5.3	Critical and MQO
Field-collected Sample Final Pressure	All field-collected samples	Must be determined with a pressure gauge	Section 4.2.5.2.4	Operational
Trip Blanks	Once a month on primary field-collected samples	Measurement $< 3 \times \text{MDL}$	Section 4.3.8.2.2	Operational
<i>Sample Receipt</i>				

Chain-of-custody	All field-collected samples including field QC samples	Each canister must be uniquely identified and accompanied by a valid and legible COC with complete sample documentation	Sections 3.3.1.3.7 and 4.2.5.2.4	Critical
Sample Holding Time	All field-collected samples, laboratory QC samples, and standards	Analysis within 30 days of end of collection (field-collected samples) or preparation (QC samples or standards)	Section 4.2.1 TO-15 Sections 1.3, 2.3, and 9.2.8.1	Operational
Canister Receipt Pressure Check	All field-collected samples upon receipt at the laboratory – measured with calibrated pressure gauge or transducer	Pressure change of $\leq 3$ inHg from the final pressure at retrieval	Section 4.2.8	Critical for subambient sample collection, operational for pressurized sample collection
<b>GC/MS Analysis</b>				
Refer to ERG Lab's attached QAPP				
<b>Laboratory Readiness and Proficiency</b>				
Refer to ERG Lab's attached QAPP				
<b>Canister and Sampling Unit Testing and Maintenance</b>				
Refer to ERG Lab's attached QAPP				
<b>Site Specifications and Maintenance</b>				
Sample Inlet Filter	Particulate filter maintenance  Beginning of study	Change filter when canister pressure shows necessary  Clean or replace the 2- $\mu$ m sintered stainless steel filter	Section 4.2.3.3 TO-15 Section 7.1.1.5	Operational
<b>Data Reporting</b>				
Data Completeness	Valid samples compared to scheduled samples  For duration of study	$\geq 75\%$ of scheduled samples	Section 3.2	MQO

### 7.3 Intended Use of Data

This data will be used to:

- Characterize ambient levels of ethylene oxide
- Establish background concentration of ethylene oxide
- Provide ethylene oxide data for risk characterization by other agencies

The quality of the data must be evaluated and controlled to ensure that it is maintained within the established acceptance criteria. Measurement quality objectives (MQOs) are designed to evaluate and control various phases (sampling, preparation, analysis) of the measurement process.

### 7.4 Measurement Scale

Each sampler operated by GA AAMP is assigned a scale of representativeness based on 40CFR58, Appendix D. The ethylene oxide monitors represent a middle scale to neighborhood scale. These

representativeness definitions are found in GA AAMP's *Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Plan* at <https://airgeorgia.org/>.

## 8.0 Personnel Training and Development Program

This section is not required for a Category II QAPP.

## 9.0 Documentation and Records

GA AAMP, as a PQAQ performing environmental data operations and management activities, has established and maintained procedures for the timely preparation, review, approval, issuance, use, control, revision and maintenance of documents and records. These procedures are elaborated in this section as a documentation and records management policy to address at least the following elements:

- A list of files considered the official records and their media type (e.g., paper, electronic)
- Schedule for retention and disposition of records
- Storage and retrieval system of records
- Person(s) responsible at each level of storage and retrieval for records
- Assignment of appropriate levels of security

A document, from a records management perspective, is a volume that contains information that describes, defines, specifies, reports, certifies, or provides data or results pertaining to environmental programs. Table 5 lists the categories and types of records and documents that are applicable for document control in the GA AAMP. Information on key documents in each category is included in this section. With the exception of Field Logbooks which are kept with the operator, all paper records are stored in the GA AAMP central office. In addition to paper records, all the applicable documentation referred to in this section is saved as an electronic record with a format of MS Word, MS Excel, or PDF on the local network on the GA AAMP server. Retention of both paper and electronic records is explained in Section 9.3 below. The paper and electronic records are stored in a logical order for ease of access. For details of the ERG Lab's record management process, refer to the ERG Lab's QAPP attached.

**Table 5. Types of Information Retained Through Document Control**

Categories	Record/Document Types	Electronic Copy	Paper Copy
Management and Organization	Organizational Chart of GA AAMP	X	X
	Personnel qualifications	X	X
	Support contracts	X	X
Network & Site Information	Network description	X	X
	Site description for study	X	X
	Site characterization file	X	X
	Site maps/pictures	X	X

Environmental Data Operations	Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)	X	X
	Standard operating procedures (SOPs)	X	X
	Field logbooks		X
	Sample handling/custody records	X	X
	Inspection/maintenance records	X	X
	NIST traceable records	X	X
Raw Data	Any original data	X	X
Data Reporting	Data/summary reports	X	X
Data Management	Data Validation Folders	X	X
Quality Assurance	Field Audits of Site Operations	X	X
	NIST traceable records	X	X

The GA AAMP has permission from the property owners to place its ethylene oxide ambient air samplers.

For the GA AAMP SOPs and QAPPs, the original copies are considered controlled copies and are maintained by the Program Manager. GA AAMP SOPs and QAPPs are available in ‘read only’ format on the local network drive and through online database records for operations. The current GA AAMP SOPs are retained in a folder for the GA AAMP at S:\Ambient\SOPs for Operations Unit. The current GA AAMP QAPPs are stored at S:\Ambient\QAPPs. The GA AAMP’s historical SOPs and QAPPs are removed as they are replaced.

The GA AAMP’s raw data records on the local network server are backed up every 24 hours. In addition, the local network server files are kept as a redundant system to ensure proper storage of GA AAMP raw data records.

The GA AAMP’s raw data records that are housed on the local network are only available to the GA AAMP staff. The raw data is validated as discussed in Section 20.0 and posted to the GA EPD’s website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>). Historical QA documents are retained in hardcopy in GA AAMP files and/or electronic ‘read only’ access. Any of GA AAMP’s hard copy site information (maps, photos, etc.) is housed in the central files.

## 9.1 Routine Data Activities

GA AAMP maintains records in appropriate files that allow for the efficient archival and retrieval of records. Ambient air quality information is included in this system. Table 5 includes the documents and records that are filed according to the statute of limitations discussed in Section 9.3.

## 9.2 Documentation Control

The details of the documents and records listed in Table 5 will be discussed in the appropriate sections of this document. All raw data required for calculations is collected electronically or on



data forms that are included in the field and analytical methods. All hardcopy information shall be filled out in indelible ink. Corrections shall be made by inserting one line through the incorrect entry, initialing and dating this correction, and placing the correct entry alongside the incorrect entry, if this can be accomplished legibly, or by providing the information on a new line if the above is not possible.

### **9.2.1 Logbooks**

Each Site Operator is responsible for obtaining appropriate field logbooks uniquely numbered and associated with the individual and/or a specific program. These logbooks will be used to record information about the site and laboratory operations, as well as document routine operations.

Completion of data entry forms, associated with all routine environmental data operations, are required even when the field logbooks contain all appropriate and associated information required for the routine operation being performed.

- Field Logbooks - Logbooks are used for each monitoring site, specific program, audit, or individual. Each notebook should be hardbound and paginated. After use in the field, field logbooks are retained in Site Operator's office.
- Laboratory Logbooks – Logbooks are used for sample custody, sample preparation and instrumental analysis. Each notebook should be paginated. An electronic database (Laboratory Information Management System or LIMS) exists in which the ERG Lab retains all data records pertaining to sample tracking, preparation, and analysis, as well as general comments and notations and other pertinent information required for support of the GA AAMP's data integrity activities. Refer to ERG's Laboratory Attachment for more details.

### **9.2.2 Chain-of-Custody Forms**

For any samples that are taken to the ERG Lab for analysis, a Chain-of Custody (COC) form is created. Custody records document the "chain of custody": the date and person responsible for the various sample handling steps associated with each sample and the information that acknowledges that sample integrity remained intact. Custody records also provide a reviewable trail for quality assurance purposes and can be used as evidence in legal proceedings. The GA AAMP and ERG Lab track and document the whereabouts of each sample at each stage throughout the data collection operation using the Field Data Sheet and the COC form as shown in the applicable SOPs listed in Table 7. Entries on the COC form are made by hand. The information is then entered into the sample tracking system, where an electronic record is kept. More information about COC forms is detailed in Section 12.0.

## **9.3 Data Archiving and Retrieval**

The storage and retrieval of the air quality monitoring data are conducted through the archiving system of GA EPD. All the information listed in Table 5 will be retained in house for at least five years from the date of collection. However, if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the five-year period, the

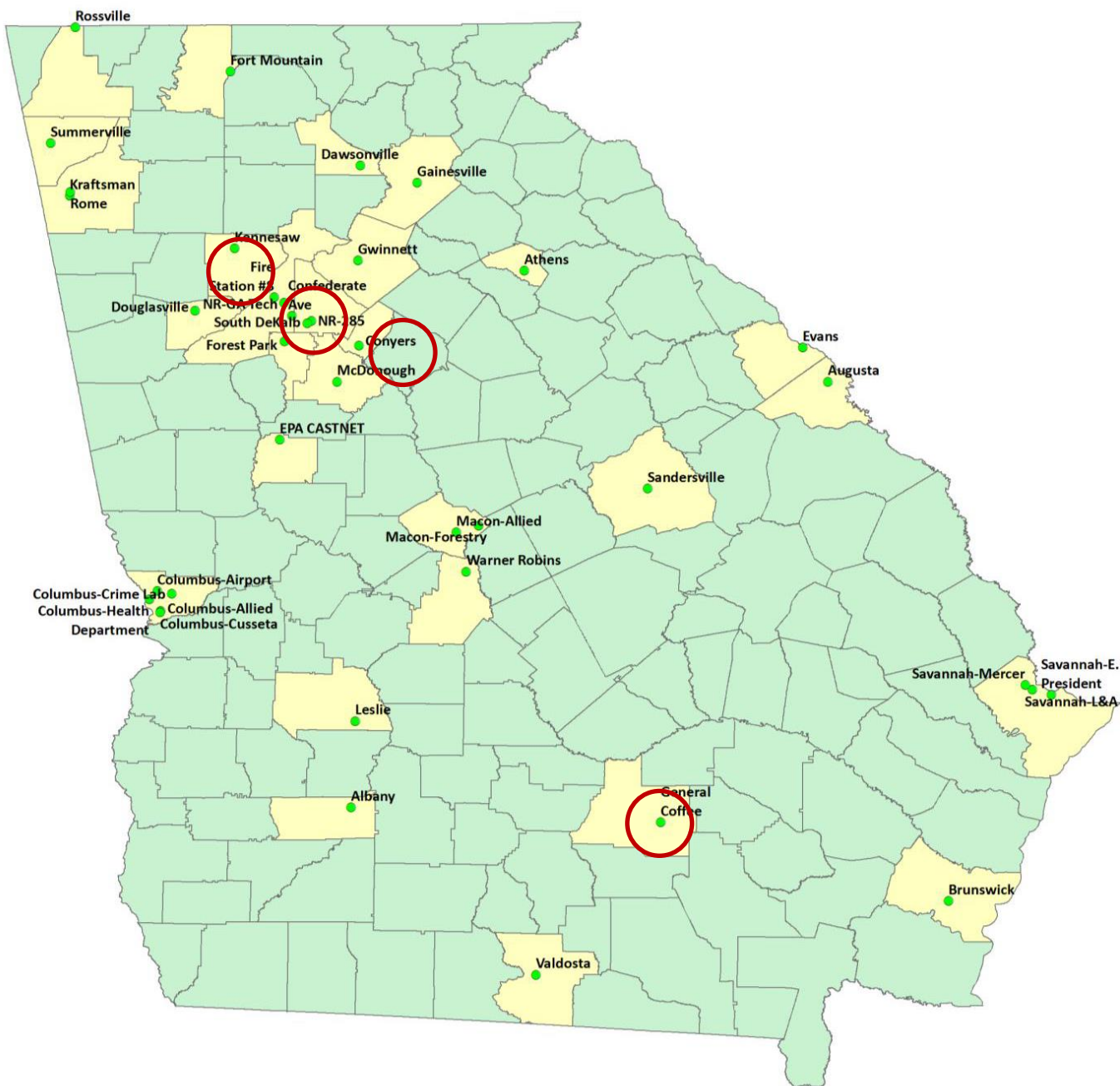
records will be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the five year-period, whichever is later.

## **10.0 Network Description**

For a detailed description of the GA AAMP's ethylene oxide study sampling design, refer to Section 6.0. Figure 16 shows the areas that the GA AAMP will monitor for ethylene oxide (indicated by red circles).

Details regarding the South DeKalb, NR-285, and General Coffee sites can be found in GA AAMP's *Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Plan* at <https://airgeorgia.org/>.

The GA AAMP may place samplers in other locations around additional facilities deemed necessary for the collection of ethylene oxide data. Those samplers will follow this QAPP, and samplers around any additional facilities will follow the monitoring objectives and procedures defined in this QAPP. For all sites used for this data study that are not established GA AAMP network sites, placement of samplers in relation to any affected source is contingent on the availability of ambient monitoring locations. All other aspects of the sample (from collection to verification) will follow the procedures outlined in this QAPP.



**Figure 16. Location of Ethylene Oxide Monitoring Sites**

### 10.1 Monitoring Objective

The GA AAMP's ethylene oxide sites are representative of a middle to neighborhood scale and collect data with a source-oriented monitoring objective.

## 10.2 Sampling Frequency

For a detailed description of the GA AAMP's ethylene oxide study sampling frequency, refer to Section 6.0. Latitude and longitude coordinates will be disclosed after the study is complete. Samples will be collected from midnight to midnight. Sampling frequencies are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6. Sampling Frequency of Ethylene Oxide Monitors**

Site Location	Sampling Instruments	Sampling Media	Monitor Type	Sampling Schedule	Monitor Purpose
Within approximately ¼ -mile radius of Becton-Dickinson	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary and collocated	Primary-Every 6 days; Collocated-Once a month	Characterization of air surrounding facilities
Within approximately ½ and 1-mile radius of Becton-Dickinson	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately one spatial sample per month	Qualitative spatial comparison
Within approximately ¼ mile radius of Sterigenics	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary and collocated	Primary-Every 6 days; Collocated-Once a month	Characterization of air surrounding facilities
Within approximately ½ and 1-mile radius of Sterigenics	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Samplers	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately one spatial sample per month	Qualitative spatial comparison
South DeKalb	Entech CS1200E Passive Canister Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary and collocated	Every 6 days; Collocated – once a month	Comparison/background
South DeKalb	ATEC 2200 Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately 3 per study	Qualitative comparison
NR-285	Xonteck Model 910 Air Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Approximately 3 per study	Qualitative comparison
General Coffee	Xonteck Model 911 Air Sampler	6-Liter stainless steel canister	Primary	Every 12 days	Rural background

### 10.3 Site Selection

GA AAMP considered the following aspects when establishing the ethylene oxide air monitoring sites:

- Understanding the monitoring objective(s)
- Identifying the spatial scale most appropriate for the monitoring objective(s)
- Identifying the general locations where the monitoring site(s) should be placed according to wind direction
- Identifying specific monitoring sites

The sites will be chosen as GA AAMP's ethylene oxide sites due to the following factors:

- Modeled ethylene oxide emissions data showing highest concentrations
- Transport of pollutants downwind of facilities
- Characterize air upwind of facilities

## 11.0 Sampling Method Requirements

### 11.1 Field Collection Description

Ethylene oxide samples are collected in 6 Liter stainless steel canisters. The Site Operators receive certified "clean" canisters from the ERG Lab. These canisters are evacuated to at least -28 inches of mercury gauge pressure when connected to the samplers. When not attached to the sampler, the canister is capped using a brass or stainless steel cap. Unique sample identification (ID) numbers are printed on tags attached to the canister (Figure 22, in next Section). Each canister also has a unique ID permanently written on the canister. For this short term study, the passive ethylene oxide monitor kits were sent to ERG Lab for a zero leak check at the beginning of the study. These results were evaluated and no contamination was found. The ERG Lab data is available upon request.

Prior to sampling, each canister must pass the leak check procedure. Primary samples will be collected on a one in 6-day schedule. Collocated samples should be collected once a month. Refer to Section 6.0 for more details regarding sampling schedules. The sample will run for 24 hours  $\pm$  1 hour. The Entech passive sampler is complete when it reaches subambient pressure, typically 2 to 4 inches mercury (inHg) (all other samplers i.e. the ATEC and Xonteck samplers should have an ending pressure of  $\geq +5$  psig). The filled canister is then removed from the VOC sampler and subsequently delivered to the ERG Lab for analysis. For more information regarding the ERG Lab, see Laboratory Attachment of this document.

### 11.2 Sampling Methodology

The methods described herein provide for measurement of the relative concentration of ethylene oxide in ambient air for a 24-hour sampling period. The method described in this section is based on *Compendium Method for the Determination of Toxic Organic Compounds in Air*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Section TO-15, January 1999. The samplers located near the facilities and at the South DeKalb site will be a CS1200E Passive Sampler from Entech Instruments, which will connect directly to a 6-liter stainless steel canister (Figure 17). A TM1200

Canister Sampling Timer treated with silica for non-reactivity will be used to automatically start and stop the sampling at a 24-hour period. See GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure Entech CS1200E Passive Sampler Kit* for more details.



**Figure 17. Entech CS1200E Passive VOCs Sampler Set-Up**

In addition, at the South DeKalb site, the ethylene oxide sampler will be the ATEC 2200 with a 6-liter stainless steel canister (Figure 18). See GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for Operation of a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Canister Sampler for a National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS)* for more details.



**Figure 18. ATEC 2200 VOCs Sampler**

The ethylene oxide sampler at the NR-285 site will be the Xonteck Model 910 Sampler with a 6-liter stainless steel canister (Figure 19). See GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for the Xonteck Model 910 VOCs Canister Sampler* for more details.



**Figure 19. Xonteck Model 910 VOCs Sampler**

At the General Coffee site, the ethylene oxide sampler will be the Xonteck Model 911 Sampler with a 6-liter stainless steel canister (Figure 20). See GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for Xonteck Model 911 VOCs Canister Sampler* for more details.



**Figure 20. Xonteck Model 911 VOCs Sampler**

### 11.3 Standard Operating Procedures

In order to perform the sampling, analysis, and QC activities consistently, GA AAMP has prepared and updated standard operating procedures (SOPs) for each routine or repetitive task as a part of the QAPP. The SOPs prepared and updated by GA AAMP for the ethylene oxide monitoring study are summarized in Table 7. At the time of writing this QAPP, some SOPs were still being updated.

The GA AAMP and ERG Lab's SOPs detail the instrument operation requirements. Table 7 shows a list of GA AAMP's SOPs that apply to the VOCs samplers. For ERG Lab's SOPs, see Section 8.0 and Appendix D of the ERG Laboratory Attachment of this document.



**Table 7. GA AAMP’s SOPs for Ethylene Oxide Collection**

<b>SOP</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>
Standard Operating Procedure for Operation of a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Canister Sampler for a National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS)	1	August 2017
Standard Operating Procedure for the Xonteck Model 910 VOCs Canister Sampler	0	September 2019
Standard Operating Procedure for Xonteck Model 911 VOCs Canister Sampler	0	September 2019
Standard Operating Procedure Entech CS1200E Passive Sampler Kit	0	September 2019
Standard Operating Procedure for Data Validation of Integrated Data	2	September 2018

#### **11.4 Sample Probe/Sample Train**

For the VOCs samplers at the ethylene oxide monitoring sites, the GA AAMP uses the Entech Passive VOCs samplers, ATEC samplers, and the Xonteck 910/911 VOCs samplers, which are free standing samplers and do not have a sampler probe/train that requires maintenance. In addition to the leak checks described in these documents and in Section 14.0 of this QAPP, GA AAMP will clean the exterior of the VOCs sampler at least once during this study, or as needed. Details are shown in the applicable Operations’ SOPs listed in Table 7.

#### **11.5 Sampler Leak Check**

The GA AAMP performs a leak check before each sample is collected. Details are explained in the applicable Operations’ SOPs listed in Table 7. Per the SOPs noted above and Table 4 contained in this QAPP, the passive ethylene oxide samplers underwent a leak check performed by the ERG Laboratory prior to beginning this study.

#### **11.6 Maintenance of Sampler Probe/Sampler Train**

Preventative maintenance is performed on the ethylene oxide samplers by GA AAMP as described in the applicable SOPs listed in Table 7. Per the SOPs noted above and Table 4 contained herein this QAPP, the following maintenance is performed as stipulated. The GA AAMP replaces the sample inlet filter as indicated by pressure issues. The sample probes and inlets will be cleaned as needed, in addition to the sample line replacement.



## **11.7 Modifications to Samplers**


In the event of needed corrective action, the Site Operator notifies the Operations Unit Manager. The QA Unit Manager and Program Manager should also be notified. Details are described in the applicable SOP listed in Table 7.

## **12.0 Sample Numbering and Custody**

Unique sample IDs are generated by the ERG Lab and labeled appropriately on the sampling media (see Section 11.0 for details of how sample IDs are addressed). The GA AAMP utilizes these sample IDs to match the laboratory data to the field data, as applicable. GA AAMP may employ custody seals on the samples, and the samples are either in secured GA EPD buildings, ERG buildings, secured at the sampling location, or in the possession of GA EPD or ERG personnel.

A critical activity within any data collection phase involving physical samples is the handling of sample media prior to sampling; transporting sample media to the field, handling samples in the field at the time of collection; storage of samples (in the field or other locations); transport of samples from the field site; and the analysis of the samples. Custody records document the “chain of custody”: the date and person responsible for the various sample handling steps associated with each sample and the information that acknowledges that sample integrity remained intact. Custody records also provide a reviewable trail for quality assurance purposes and can be used as evidence in legal proceedings. The GA AAMP and ERG Lab track and document the whereabouts of each sample at each stage throughout the data collection operation using the Field Data Sheet, Chain-of-Custody (COC) Form, and ERG Tracking Tag as shown in the applicable SOPs listed in Table 7. Entries on the COC form are made by hand. The information is then entered into the ERG sampling tracking system (LIMS), where an electronic record is kept. More details are shown in the SOPs in Table 7 and the ERG’s Laboratory Attachment of this document. Examples of the COC Form, Sample Tracking Tag, and Logbook are shown below.

Figure 21. Example of Chain-of-Custody Form

		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ERG Lab ID #</div>	
<small>501 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560</small>			
<b>AIR TOXICS SAMPLE CHAIN OF CUSTODY</b>			
<b>Lab Pre-Sampling</b>	Site Code: _____		Canister Number: _____
	City/State: _____		Lab Initial Can. Press. ("Hg): _____
	AQS Code: _____		Cleaning Batch #: _____
	Collection Date: _____		Date Can. Cleaned: _____
	Options: SNMOC (Y/N): _____		Duplicate Event (Y/N): _____
	TOXICS (Y/N): _____		Duplicate Can #: _____
<b>Field Setup</b>	METHANE (Y/N): _____		
	Relinquished by: _____		Date: _____
	<hr/>		
	Received by: _____		Date: _____
	Operator: _____		MFC Setting: _____
	System #: _____		Elapsed Timer Reset (Y/N): _____
<b>Field Recovery</b>	Setup Date: _____		Canister Valve Opened (Y/N): _____
	Field Initial Can. Press.: _____ <b>psig psia "Hg (Circle one)</b>		
	<hr/>		
	Recovery Date: _____		Sample Duration (3 or 24 hr): _____
	Operator: _____		Elapsed Time: _____
	Field Final Can. Press.: _____ <b>psig psia "Hg (Circle one)</b>		
<b>Lab Recovery</b>	Status: <b>VALID</b> <b>VOID</b> (Circle one)		Canister Valve Closed (Y/N): _____
	Relinquished by: _____		Date: _____
	<hr/>		
	Received by: _____		Date: _____
	Lab Final Can. Press.: _____ <b>psig "Hg (Circle one)</b>		Converted to psia: _____
	Status: <b>VALID</b> <b>VOID</b> (Circle one)		Gauge: <b>1</b> <b>2</b> (Circle one)
If void, why: _____			
<b>Samples stored in Air Tox Lab (Room 130)</b>			
<small>5-2018</small>			
Comments: _____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

Analysis: _____	
Sample ID: _____	
Laboratory ID: _____	
Date Sampled: _____	
Canister #: _____	Press/Vac: _____
Site: _____	Dup/Rep: _____
Comment: _____	

**Figure 22. ERG's Sample Tracking Tag**

8/29/19	Entech passive Sampler: NP-26534	
	Sample Date: 8/30/19	
	Setup Date: 8/29/19	Pickup Date: 9/3/19
	Sample ID: AK11563	
	Begin Vacuum: -30 inHg	End Press/Vac: -3 inHg
	Leak check: PASSED	
	Comment:	
	Operator: <i>[Signature]</i>	

**Figure 23. Example of the GA AAMP Logbook Entry**

## 12.1 Pre-Sampling Custody

The pre-sampling custody is the sample handling stage that includes sample media purchasing, logging in, labeling, identification, pre-sampling weighing, transportation, and installation on

sampler. For GA AAMP's SOPs, see the applicable SOPs listed in Table 7 for more details. For the ERG Lab, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 9.1 for more details.

### **12.1.2 Sample Preparation**

Sample preparation is an essential portion of the ethylene oxide project. Cleaning, evacuation, testing, verification and storage of canisters are functions that are required for sample preparation.

Sample set-up of the ethylene oxide samplers take place any day after the previous sample has been recovered. Canisters for air collection for VOCs analyses must be used within 30 days after certified clean. Detailed sample set-up procedures are available from the corresponding GA AAMP's SOPs. For a description of ERG Lab's sample preparation, see Laboratory Attachment Section 10.0 of this document.

### **12.1.3 Sample Volume**

The volume of air to be sampled is specified by the manufacturer and is in the method specifications. Samples are expected to be 24 hours; therefore, the Site Operators must set the flow rates to collect a sufficient sample to obtain the minimum sample volume. In some cases, a shorter sample period may occur due to power outages. A valid sample run should not be less than 23 hours or greater than 25 hours. If the sample period is less than 23 hours or greater than 25 hours, the sample will be nulled and the Operations Unit Manager notified. The Entech passive sampler is complete when it reaches subambient pressure, typically -2 to -4 inHg (all other samplers i.e. the ATEC and Xonteck samplers should have an ending pressure of  $\geq +5$  psig).

## **12.2 Post Sampling Custody**

Post sampling procedures include: sample removal, field record keeping and transportation of samples, how to protect the sample from contamination, temperature preservation requirements, and the permissible holding times to ensure against degradation of sample integrity. See the applicable GA AAMP's SOP in Table 7, and for the ERG Lab, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 9.1 for more details.

### **12.2.1 Sample Contamination Prevention**

To prevent contamination during transport to the laboratory, the VOCs stainless steel canisters should be capped and handled to ensure that the valve to canister connection remains intact and the interior surface is not compromised.

### **12.2.2 Temperature Preservation Requirements**

During transport from the ERG Lab to the sample location, VOCs canisters have no specific requirements for temperature control per TO-15 Compendium Sections 1.3, 2.3, and 9.2.8.1.

### 12.2.3 Permissible Holding Times

The *Technical Assistance Document for the National Air Toxics Trends Station Program, Revision 3*, dated October 2016 states the permissible holding times for the VOCs samples. The VOC Canister analysis should be within 30 days of end of collection or preparation according to TO-15 Compendium Sections 1.3, 2.3, and 9.2.8.1.

### 12.3 Delivery to ERG Lab

Once the ethylene oxide samples are collected and prepared for delivery, the Site Operators send the samples to the ERG Lab via UPS, following protocol in applicable SOPs. When the samples are received at the ERG Lab, the chain-of custody form is filled in to record the sample receipt by Laboratory personnel. The ERG Lab analyst maintains records of sample preparation, analysis, and data input and management. See the applicable ERG Lab SOPs and Section 9.0 of the Laboratory Attachment for details.

### 12.4 Make-up Samples

Due to the number of sites involved in this study, there will not be make-up ethylene oxide samples taken. The frequency and duration of the sampling should ensure sufficient ethylene oxide data is available.

## 13.0 Analytical Methods

The method stated here provides for chromatographic analyses at the ERG Lab for samples collected at the GA AAMP ethylene oxide sites. The basic method used by ERG Lab is based on the Toxic Organic Compendia (TO-15) listed in Section 11.0. The sample media used to collect samples at ethylene oxide sites is a canister as shown in Table 1. In addition, the trip blank and laboratory blank must also be prepared. See Section 12.1.2 and the applicable ERG Lab's SOPs for more detail. The instruments used for laboratory analysis of the samples collected at the GA AAMP's ethylene oxide sites are listed in Table 8.

**Table 8. Instruments Used in the ERG Lab**

Parameter	Instrument	Method
VOCs	Agilent HP 8890/5977B with Entech 7200A interface Agilent HP 6890/5973 with Entech 7200A interface	GC/MS, TO-15

### 13.1 Sample Contamination Prevention

The analytical support component of the ethylene oxide sites has rigid requirements for preventing sample contamination. To minimize contamination, the sample media clean-up and sample

preparation rooms are separate from the instrumentation rooms. In addition, heating and ventilation systems are checked by certified technicians. Hoods are also checked quarterly.

For the VOCs analytical method, the best prevention of contamination is not opening the canister in the laboratory. All post sampling Entech passive canisters that enter the ERG Lab should have subambient pressure of -2 to -4 inHg (all other samplers i.e. the ATEC and Xonteck samplers should have an ending pressure of  $\geq +5$  psig). Care must be taken when the canisters are under vacuum and stored in the laboratory. If there is a slight leak in the canister cap or valve, then laboratory air can enter into the canister and contaminate the run.

### **13.2 Temperature Preservation Requirements**

There are no temperature requirements.

### **13.3 Permissible Holding Times**

The permissible holding times for the ethylene oxide samples are detailed in the TO Compendia and the SOPs shown in Table 7.

## **14.0 Quality Control Requirements**

Quality Control (QC) is a means of periodic evaluation of the acceptability of the data. That is, does the data meet certain criterion. This section contains descriptions of the various QC checks which GA AAMP performs in conjunction with collecting ethylene oxide data. For a description of ERG Lab's quality control requirements, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 11.0.

### **14.1 Instrument Checks**

For this short-term study, the passive ethylene oxide monitor kits were sent to ERG Lab for collection and analysis of a zero sample, as well as a leak check, at the beginning of the study. The certification data is stored on the GA AAMP's local network for reference by anyone in the GA AAMP. The ATEC sampler was zero checked prior to this study as part of the NATTS Network requirements. For any samplers that were not zero checked, if high values are suspected due to a bias in the data, a comparison between that sampler and the passive sampler may be done for qualitative purposes. Each sampler will be uniquely identified. For a description of ERG Lab's calibration requirements, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 13.0.

The initial canister pressure must be checked prior to sample collection by measurement of the canister vacuum with a pressure gauge or pressure transducer. If a built-in gauge on the sampling unit cannot be calibrated, a standalone gauge will be employed for this measurement. This initial pressure will be documented on the sample collection form. Canisters must show  $\geq -28$  inHg.

Once vacuum is verified, the canister is connected to the sampling unit and a leak check is performed. A leak check may be performed by quickly opening and closing the valve of the canister to generate a vacuum in the sampling unit. The vacuum/pressure gauge in the sampling

unit will be observed for a minimum of 5 minutes to ensure that the vacuum does not change by more 1 inHg.

## 14.2 Precision Checks

One of GA AAMP's ethylene oxide samplers at each facility will be collocated with an additional sampler that will allow GA AAMP to make precision determinations. Collocated samplers operate monthly. There are two types of precision that will be determined for ethylene oxide data: collocated precision and replicate precision.

### 14.2.1 Precision Determination

Collocated precision evaluates the results of two monitors sampling side by side. The monitors separately operate at the same time and undergo the same sample collection, handling, and analysis procedures. In order to determine the precision, one compares results from the primary sampler concentration to the collocated sampler concentration by using the Relative Percent Difference noted below:

$$\text{Equation 14.2.1: Relative Percent Difference (RPD)} = \left[ \frac{ABS(Value_1 - Value_2)}{\frac{(Value_1 + Value_2)}{2}} \right] \times 100\%$$

The replicate precision is a measure of the reproducibility of the laboratory analyses. A replicate evaluation is performed on each batch by the ERG Lab with results sent to GA AAMP. A replicate is simply a re-analysis of the same canister of sample and then comparing the results of the replicate analysis to the first analysis. The ERG Lab will perform replicate analysis on 10% of samples. The percent RPD calculation for determining replicate precision is the same as the collocated calculation. Refer to the ERG's Laboratory Attachment for more details.

### 14.2.2 Precision Acceptance Criteria

Precision acceptance criteria are found in Section 7.2 of this QAPP.

### 14.2.3 Corrective Actions

Any non-conformances from the criteria specified in Section 14.2 above would be determined on a case-specific basis. In general, data validity for posting results on the GA EPD website purposes is a collective team effort and appropriate actions will be considered based on the circumstances. See the GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for Data Validation of Integrated Data* for further details. For a description of ERG Lab's corrective actions, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 16.3 of this document.

## 14.3 Quality Assurance Audits

An in-house technical systems audit (TSA) will be performed on the GA AAMP's ethylene oxide sampling equipment once per location per study. This will include a review of the Site Operators'

implementing SOPs, sampler maintenance, QC checks, and use of field logbooks and chain of custody forms. Audits are performed by the independent QA Unit in the GA AAMP. A summary report will be prepared by the Field Auditor. Please see the appropriate SOP shown in Table 7 for further details.

#### **14.4 Trip Blanks**

Trip blanks are collected for primary ethylene oxide samples once per month at the Sterigenics, (Cobb County) and Becton Dickinson (Covington) monitoring locations. Please see the GA AAMP's VOCs SOPs for details of the trip blanks. Trip blank acceptance criteria are found in Section 7.0 of this QAPP. Any non-conformances from the criteria specified in Section 7.0 would be determined on a case-specific basis. In general, data validity is a collective team effort and appropriate actions will be considered based on the circumstances. See the GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for Data Validation of Integrated Data* for further details.

### **15.0 Instrument/Equipment Testing, Inspection, and Maintenance Requirements**

#### **15.1 Maintenance**

The GA AAMP sends each passive ethylene oxide sampler to the ERG Lab for maintenance and leak check. This was conducted prior to beginning this study. For details of ERG's maintenance and leak check procedures, see ERG's Laboratory Attachment, Section 12.0. See the applicable Operations SOPs for maintenance of other ethylene oxide samplers.

#### **15.2 Instrument Check-In**

##### **15.2.1 Receipt from Maintenance**

When GA AAMP receives a VOCs monitor after it has undergone its maintenance, GA AAMP inspects the monitor for any damage during shipment. GA AAMP also turns on the unit and evaluates for proper operation.

##### **15.2.2 Zero Bias Check**

Please see the *Standard Operation Procedure for Operation of a Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Canister Sampler for a National Air Toxics Trends Station* for further details of how to determine bias using ultra pure zero air or nitrogen.

#### **15.3 New Equipment**

When GA AAMP receives a new VOCs sampler, the same procedures will be used for instrument check-in as outlined in Section 15.2.



## **15.4 Spare Parts Inventory**

The GA AAMP maintains appropriate spare parts for the VOCs samplers. Primarily, GA AAMP has at least two backup monitors which are rotated through the maintenance program so that the GA AAMP has ample supply in case of failure of a critical part in a sampler. In addition, spare stainless steel valves and sample lines are available as needed.

## **15.5 Site Maintenance**

### **15.5.1 Cleaning of the Sample Inlets**

For the ethylene oxide samplers, leak checks will be performed before sampling. The particulate filter should be replaced as indicated by the final pressure on the canister. Pressure/vacuum indicates a blockage. Vacuum pressure gauges are calibrated initially before use. Documentation of these checks is stored on the GA AAMP local network drive.

### **15.5.2 Quality Assurance Audits**

An audit of the Site Operator's sample collection will be conducted at each of the five locations (Cobb County, Covington, South DeKalb, NR-285, and General Coffee) during the study. This audit will review equipment, adherence to the SOP, field documentation, and chain of custody records to ensure compliance with the GA AAMP's QAPP. The results of the audits (and any identified corrective actions) are summarized in a report to the QA Unit Manager.

## **16.0 Instrument Checks Frequency**

For the Entech CS 1200E Passive VOCs Canister Samplers at the sites near each facility and at the South DeKalb site, the ERG Lab performed a canister leak check and blank check on each canister prior to beginning this study. The initial canister pressure/vacuum is checked prior to each sampling. The initial pressure will be documented on the sample collection COC form. Canisters must show  $\geq -28$  inches Hg vacuum to conduct sampling. Once vacuum is verified, the canister is connected to the sampling unit and a leak check is performed. A leak check is performed in the field by quickly opening and closing the valve of the canister to generate a vacuum in the sampling unit. The vacuum/pressure gauge in the sampling unit will be observed for a minimum of 5 minutes to ensure that the vacuum does not change by more than 1 inHg. The vacuum/pressure gauges are calibrated initially before use, and on an as needed basis. Particulate filters are disposable and replaced if the sampling flow rate or final canister pressure/vacuum indicates a blockage or buildup of particulates.

For the Xontek Model 910 (NR-285), Xontek Model 911 (General Coffee) and ATEC 2200 (South DeKalb) VOCs Samplers, the GA AAMP uses a NIST traceable flow measurement device, a thermometer (if separate from flow meter), and barometer (if separate from flow meter). The calibration standards were sent to the supplier for NIST traceable certification prior to the study. An Excel spreadsheet is maintained by the GA AAMP to ensure that these standards are re-certified in a timely manner.

For a description of ERG Lab's calibration requirements, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 13.0 of this document.

## **17.0 Inspection, Acceptance, Requirements for Supplies and Consumables**

This section is not required for a Category II QAPP.

## **18.0 Non-Direct Measurements**

GA AAMP relies on the data that is generated through field and laboratory operations. However, other significant data is obtained from sources outside the GA AAMP or from historical records. This section addresses data not obtained by direct measurement from the GA AAMP. Possible databases and types of data and information that might be used include:

- Chemical and Physical Properties Data
- Sampler Manufacturers' Operational Literature
- Geographic Location Data
- External Monitoring Databases
- Population Data from the US Census Bureau
- Traffic Data from Georgia Department of Transportation
- Wind Roses and other atmospheric data from other meteorological stations
- Emission Inventory from EPA

Any use of outside data will be quality controlled to the extent possible following the QA procedure outlined in this document and in applicable EPA guidance documents.

### **18.1 Chemical and Physical Properties Data**

Physical and chemical properties data and conversion constants are often required in the processing of raw data into reporting units. This type of information that has not already been specified in the monitoring regulations will be obtained from the following nationally and internationally recognized sources. Other data sources may be used with approval of the Program Manager.

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- ISO, IUPAC, ANSI, and other widely-recognized national and international standards organizations
- EPA
- The current edition of certain standard handbooks may be used without prior approval of the QA Unit Manager

### **18.2 Sampler Operation and Manufacturers' Literature**

Another important source of information needed for sampler operation is manufacturers' literature. Operations manuals and users' manuals frequently provide numerical information and equations pertaining to specific equipment. The GA AAMP's personnel are cautioned that such information is sometimes in error, and appropriate cross-checks will be made to verify the reasonableness of information contained in manuals. Whenever possible, the Site Operators will compare physical

and chemical constants in the operations' manuals to those given in the sources listed above. If discrepancies are found, the applicable Operations Manager should be the one to determine the correct value by contacting the manufacturer. The following types of errors are commonly found in such manuals:

- Insufficient precision
- Outdated values for physical constants
- Typographical errors
- Incorrectly specified units
- Inconsistent values within a manual
- Use of different reference conditions than those called for in EPA guidance

### **18.3 Geographic Location**

Another type of data that will commonly be used in conjunction with the GA AAMP ethylene oxide project is geographic information. The GA AAMP locates the site using global positioning system (GPS) that meets the requirements in Appendix A of EPA's National Geospatial Data Policy (August 2005). Google Earth is used as the primary means for locating and siting sampling locations.

### **18.4 External Monitoring Databases**

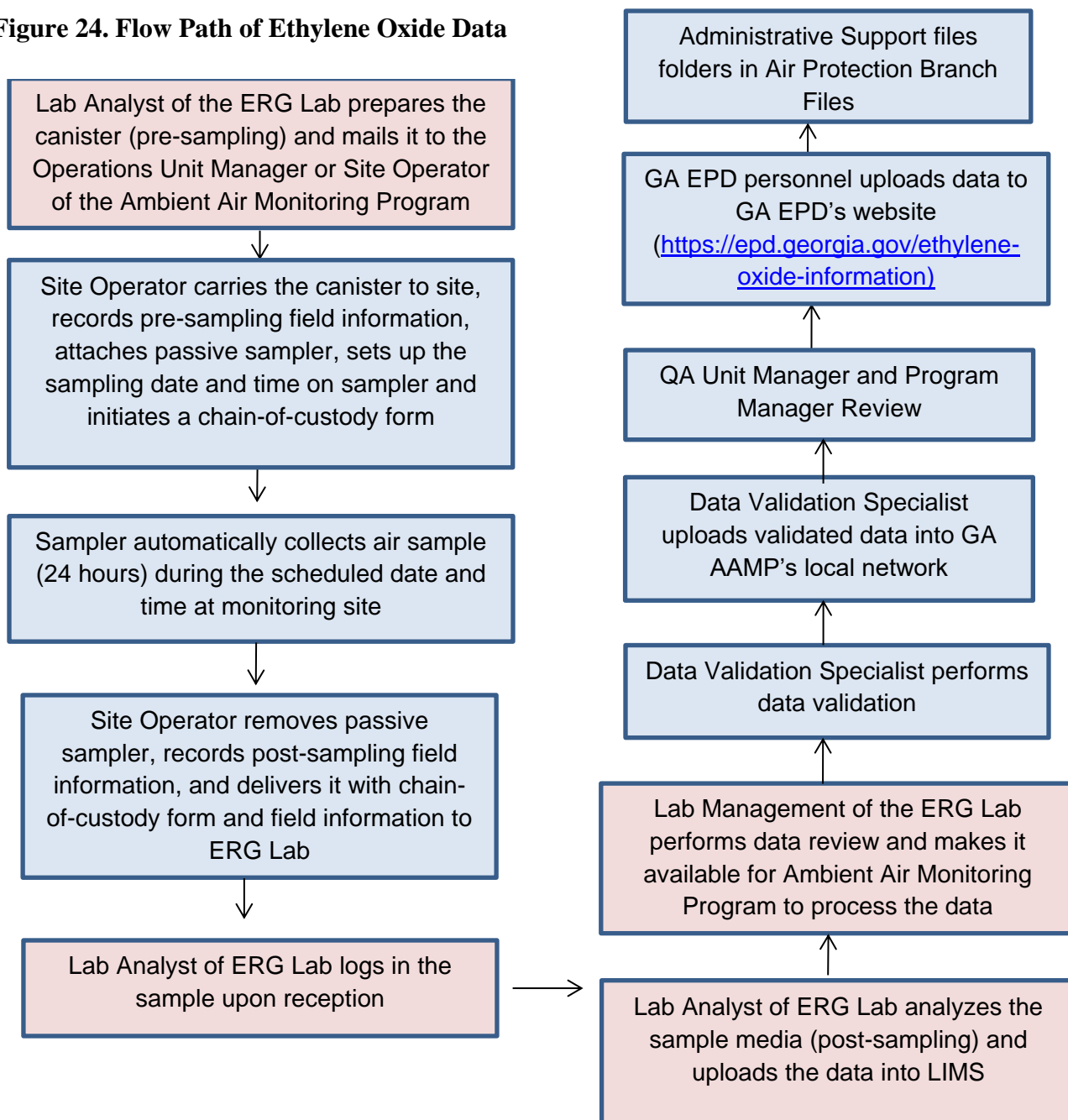
Data from the GA AAMP/GA EPD website may be used in published reports with appropriate caution. Care must be taken in reviewing and using any data that contain flags or data qualifiers. If data is flagged, such data shall not be utilized unless it is clear that the data still meets critical QA/QC requirements. It is impossible to assure that a database such as the GA AAMP/GA EPD website is completely free from errors including outliers and biases, so caution and skepticism is called for in comparing GA AAMP data from other reporting agencies. Users should review available QA/QC information to assure that the external data are comparable with GA AAMP measurements and that the original data generator had an acceptable QA program in place.

## **19.0 Data Management**

This section identifies the procedures that are followed to acquire, transmit, transform, reduce, analyze, store, and retrieve ambient air monitoring data by the field and office personnel of GA AAMP. The details of the processes and procedures in the ERG Lab are described in the ERG Lab's *Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support) QAPP*, and the ERG Laboratory Attachment of this document.

The following chart shows the flow of ambient air data collection process for the data. The collection and management of the data involves two operational entities: GA AAMP (blue blocks) and the ERG Lab (pink blocks). The GA AAMP performs the field activities and the ERG Lab conducts the analytical operations. For more description of ERG Lab's sample and data flow, see Laboratory Attachment, Section 15.0. In addition, please refer the applicable GA AAMP SOPs listed in Table 7 for more detail.

**Figure 24. Flow Path of Ethylene Oxide Data**



## **19.1 Data Collection and Recording**

The GA AAMP uses EPA-approved ambient air samplers for collection of ethylene oxide data. The canisters are collected manually and sent to the ERG Lab for analysis. The analysis results are saved in the ERG's Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) and sent to the GA AAMP where the data is shared on the GA AAMP's local network. The leak check data is collected by the Site Operator and recorded on the local shared network for the Data Validation Specialist to review the data. The audit information is collected by the Field Auditor and recorded on the local shared network for the Site Operator and Data Validation Specialist to review.

## **19.2 Data Transmittal**

For the GA AAMP ethylene oxide data, all sampling media is sent back to the ERG Lab for analysis. Once the laboratory analysis is complete, the data is sent to GA AAMP office via email in a 'read only' portable document format (pdf) and an Excel file.

## **19.3 Data Review and Reduction (Validation)**

For ethylene oxide data, the ERG Lab analyzes the samples and summarizes the data as well as the corresponding QA/QC information in the ERG LIMS system and sends a copy to the GA AAMP. These files are 'read only' to ensure the data are not modified or deleted. The Data Validation Specialist reviews the laboratory data from the ERG Lab and the corresponding information on the chain-of-custody form and field data sheet. The holding time and delivery storage requirements for samples as listed in the SOPs shown in Table 7 must be followed; otherwise, the data will be invalidated. After completion of data review, the Data Validation Specialist prepares the final data associated with any applicable flags or null data codes into reportable data format and prepares a hard copy folder of the relevant information. For more detail, refer to the GA AAMP *Standard Operating Procedure for Data Validation of Integrated Data*.

## **19.4 Data Storage and Retrieval**

The storage and retrieval of the air quality monitoring data are conducted through the archiving system of GA EPD. The raw data is stored in the GA AAMP's local network (electronic data), and central file room (paper copy) for a period of at least five years, unless any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the five-year period. If this happens, the records will be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues that arise from it, or until the end of the regular five-year period, whichever is later.

The GA AAMP's raw data records that are housed on local network are only available to the GA AAMP staff. The raw data is then validated as discussed in the next Sections and posted to the GA EPD's website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>).



## **20.0 Assessment and Response Actions**

Assessments are used to measure the performance and effectiveness of the quality system. These assessments and evaluations ensure the implementation of this QAPP, and that the ethylene oxide data is being collected for its intended use.

An in-house technical systems audit (TSA) will be performed on the GA AAMP's ethylene oxide sampling equipment. This will include a review of the Site Operators' implementing SOPs, sampler maintenance, QC checks, and use of field logbooks and chain of custody forms. These audits are performed by Field Auditor of the independent QA Unit in the GA AAMP. A summary report will be prepared by the Field Auditor.

The field assessments are performed as described in Section 14.0. The data validation will be performed as described in Sections 22.0 and 23.0. Detailed procedures of the quality assessment items can be found in the corresponding GA AAMP's SOPs (Table 7).

The laboratory assessments are performed as described in the ERG Lab's QAPP. For details of the ERG Lab assessments, see the ERG Lab QAPP attached. As EPA contract laboratory, the ERG Lab is subject to oversight by the EPA contract auditing group.

Although the GA AAMP produces quality data, the ethylene oxide data does not have to be certified by the GA AAMP Program Manager/Project Administrator, as the samplers are not SLAMS samplers.

## **21.0 Reports to Management**

With each set of ethylene oxide samples, a report summarizing the information will be sent to the GA AAMP and GA EPD management. The report will include a summary of sampling and analysis. Communication is an integral part of operating the GA AAMP ethylene oxide sites, and the status of the sites is directly communicated with the Site Operators, Operations Unit Manager, QA Unit Manager, and Program Manager as necessary. In addition, each of the Unit Managers meets with the Program Manager at least on a monthly basis to discuss pertinent issues.

## **22.0 Data Validation and Usability**

In order for the ethylene oxide data to be usable, the data undergoes validation procedures to determine that the data has met quality specifications. Validation, performed by Site Operators and Data Validation Specialists, can be defined as confirmation, through provision of objective evidence, that the particular requirements for a specific intended use are fulfilled. Site Operators and Data Validation Specialists evaluate the data to establish and confirm that the data was collected according to this QAPP and the SOP requirements. The Data Validation Specialist estimates the potential effect that any deviation from the QAPP and SOP may have on the usability of the associated data item, its contribution to the quality of the reduced and analyzed data, and its effect on decisions.

For GA AAMP, data validation is a process of reviewing and reducing raw data, with the use of objective evidence, to confirm requirements have been fulfilled and the intended use of the processed data for posting on the GA EPD's website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>). The data validation process is based on sound documentation and checks. It is a systematic approach to produce reportable data that is accurate and complete. The GA AAMP performs data validation as data is received from the ERG Lab. It involves the data handling personnel of all units in GA AAMP as shown in the organization chart (Figure 1 in Section 4). Refer to the GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for Data Validation of Integrated Data* for more information.

## 22.1 Sampling Design

The GA AAMP chose the ethylene oxide monitoring sites according to emission models, wind rose data, proximity to the facilities, and proximity to the interstate or rural area as described in Section 6.0 and Section 10.0.

## 22.2 Sample Collection Procedures

The ethylene oxide sample collection procedures for the GA AAMP are outlined in Section 12.0 of this QAPP. The field audits discussed in Section 14.0 verify that the applicable SOPs listed in Table 7 are being followed when collecting samples. Potentially unacceptable data points are routinely identified through the application of error flags/codes. Each flag/code is associated with a unique error shown in Table 9. These error flags/codes are routinely reviewed as part of the data validation process. This activity assists in identifying suspect data points that could invalidate the resulting averaging periods. Any deviation from the established sampling criteria must be documented in the appropriate logbook and on the field data sheet. Accurate and complete documentation of any sample collection deviations will assist in any subsequent investigations or evaluations. Investigations and evaluations may be necessary to determine whether the data obtained from a particular site may qualify as a baseline or indicator for other sites.

**Table 9. Data Codes**

<u>Null Codes</u>	<u>Description</u>
AA	Sample Pressure out of Limits
AB	Technician Unavailable
AC	Construction/Repairs in Area
AD	Shelter Storm Damage
AE	Shelter Temperature Outside Limits
AF	Scheduled but not Collected
AG	Sample Time out of Limits
AH	Sample Flow Rate out of Limits
AI	Insufficient Data (cannot calculate)
AJ	Filter Damage
AK	Filter Leak
AL	Voided by Operator

AM	Miscellaneous Void
AN	Machine Malfunction
AO	Bad Weather
AP	Vandalism
AQ	Collection Error
AR	Laboratory Error
AS	Poor Quality Assurance Results
AT	Calibration
AU	Monitoring Waived
AV	Power Failure
AW	Wildlife Damage
AX	Precision Check
AY	Q C Control Points (zero/span)
AZ	Q C Audit
BA	Maintenance/Routine Repairs
BB	Unable to Reach Site
BC	Multi-point Calibration
BD	Auto Calibration
BE	Building/Site Repair
BG	Missing ozone data not likely to exceed level of standard
BH	Interference/co-elution/misidentification
BI	Lost or damaged in transit
BJ	Operator Error
BK	Site computer/data logger down
BM	Accuracy check
BN	Sample Value Exceeds Media Limit
BR	Sample Value Below Acceptable Range
CS	Laboratory Calibration Standard
DA	Aberrant Data (Corrupt Files, Aberrant Chromatography, Spikes, Shifts)
DL	Detection Limit Analyses
FI	Filter Inspection Flag
MB	Method Blank (Analytical)
MC	Module End Cap Missing
SA	Storm Approaching
SC	Sampler Contamination
ST	Calibration Verification Standard
TC	Component Check & Retention Time Standard
TS	Holding Time Or Transport Temperature Is Out Of Specs.
XX	Experimental Data
<u>Qualifier Codes</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Deviation from a CFR/Critical Criteria Requirement
2	Operational Deviation

3	Field Issue
4	Laboratory Issue
5	Outlier
6	QAPP Issue
7	Below Lowest Calibration Level
9	Negative value detected - zero reported
1V	Data reviewed and validated
CB	Values have been Blank Corrected
CC	Clean Canister Residue
CL	Surrogate Recoveries Outside Control Limits
DI	Sample was diluted for analysis
EH	Estimated; Exceeds Upper Range
FB	Field Blank Value Above Acceptable Limit
FX	Filter Integrity Issue
HT	Sample pick-up hold time exceeded
LB	Laboratory blank value above acceptable limit
LJ	Identification Of Analyte Is Acceptable; Reported Value Is An Estimate
LK	Analyte Identified; Reported Value May Be Biased High
LL	Analyte Identified; Reported Value May Be Biased Low
MD	Value less than MDL
MS	Value reported is 1/2 MDL substituted.
MX	Matrix Effect
ND	No Value Detected
NS	Influenced by nearby source
QX	Does not meet QC criteria
SQ	Values Between SQL and MDL
SS	Value substituted from secondary monitor
SX	Does Not Meet Siting Criteria
TB	Trip Blank Value Above Acceptable Limit
TT	Transport Temperature is Out of Specs.
V	Validated Value
VB	Value below normal; no reason to invalidate
W	Flow Rate Average out of Spec.
X	Filter Temperature Difference out of Spec.
Y	Elapsed Sample Time out of Spec.
<u>Inform Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
IA	African Dust
IB	Asian Dust
IC	Chem. Spills & Industrial Accidents
ID	Cleanup After a Major Disaster
IE	Demolition
IF	Fire – Canadian

IG	Fire - Mexico/Central America
IH	Fireworks
II	High Pollen Count
IJ	High Winds
IK	Infrequent Large Gatherings
IL	Other
IM	Prescribed Fire
IN	Seismic Activity
IO	Stratospheric Ozone Intrusion
IP	Structural Fire
IQ	Terrorist Act
IR	Unique Traffic Disruption
IS	Volcanic Eruptions
IT	Wildfire-U. S.
J	Construction

Null codes are used when the data is not usable and needs to be invalidated.

Quality Assurance (“QA”) qualifier codes are input when there is an issue that may affect the data due to a procedural malfunction, or general quality assurance.

Informational qualifiers (“INFORM”) are only for informational purposes.

### **22.3 Sample Handling**

Pertinent deviations from established sample-handling protocols for each sample physically retrieved for monitoring sites and equipment must be recorded on the sample custody sheet assigned to each filter for collection and recorded in the applicable electronic database for all pollutants.

### **22.4 Analytical Procedures**

The ethylene oxide data is validated and verified utilizing both manual and electronic methods. Specific criteria are utilized at the ERG Lab with blanks, duplicates, replicates, and collocated samples to determine acceptable data, the minimum acceptable values, and other criteria that are indicative of valid qualifying data. The ERG Lab can flag suspect data utilizing the list provided in Table 9.

### **22.5 Instrument Check Procedures**

Refer to Section 16.0 for details regarding checking the sampling instruments. More information can be found in applicable Operations’ and Data Validation SOPs found in Table 7.



## **22.6 Quality Control Procedures**

Section 14.0 specifies the QC checks that are to be performed during sample collection, handling, and analysis. These include analyses of standards, blanks, spikes, and replicates, which provide indications of the quality of data being produced by specified components of the measurement process. For each specified QC procedure, the acceptance criteria and corrective action (and changes) should be specified. Data Validation Specialists should document the corrective actions that were taken, which samples were affected, and the potential effect of the actions on the validity of the data. More information regarding QC checks and corrective actions can be found in Section 14.0, as well as the applicable Operations' and Data Validation SOPs found in Table 7.

## **22.7 Data Reduction and Processing Procedures**

As mentioned in the above sections, internal technical systems audits will be performed to ensure the data reduction and processing activities mentioned in the QAPP are being followed. Data will be reviewed and final concentrations will be validated by the Data Validation Specialist. The data will also be reviewed to ensure that associated flags or any other data qualifiers have been appropriately associated with the data and that appropriate corrective actions were taken. Upon completion of adjustments and/or corrective actions, the Data Validation Specialist uploads the final monitoring data, along with any applicable null codes, to the GA AAMP's local shared drive. Also, he/she notifies the Data Analysis Unit Manager, Operations Unit Manager, Site Operator, and Quality Assurance Unit Manager with the results of validation. The final values uploaded to the local shared drive should match the independent spreadsheet. Then the final ethylene oxide data will be uploaded to GA EPD's website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>) by GA EPD personnel.

## **23.0 Validation and Verification Methods**

For GA AAMP, data validation is a process of reviewing and reducing raw data, with the use of objective evidence to confirm requirements have been fulfilled. Data verification is the process of independently (QA) checking the processed data, and verifying, with objective evidence, the validity and intended use of the processed data for upload to GA EPD's website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>). The data validation and verification process is based on sound documentation and valid Quality Control (QC) and Quality Assurance (QA) checks. It is a systematic approach to produce reportable data that is accurate and complete. GA AAMP performs data validation as the data is received from the ERG Lab. It involves the data handling personnel of all units in GA AAMP as shown in the organization chart (Figure 1 in Section 4). Refer to GA AAMP's *Standard Operating Procedure for Data Validation of Integrated Data* for more information.

The following outline shows steps involved in the data review. Data validation and verification are discussed in more detail below the outline.

Level 0 (Raw data review):

- Site Operator evaluates samples as they are collected and notes any anomalies observed with sample collection.

Level 1 (Data analyzed):

- Laboratory Analyst processes samples and notes any anomalies as samples are processed.

Level 2 (Data Validation):

- Data Validation Specialist reviews data from ERG Lab, field data sheets, COCs, etc., ensuring MQOs are met. Applies null data codes or qualifier codes, and prepares file for upload.

Level 3 (Data Verification):

- Quality Assurance Unit Manager and Program Manager review and sign to approve data for upload.

### **23.1 Data Validation**

The ERG Lab analyzes the ethylene oxide samples and posts the data in a spreadsheet in their LIMS system. Once the laboratory analysis is complete, the data is sent to GA AAMP office via email in a 'read only' portable document format (pdf) and an Excel file. The Data Validation Specialist reviews the data, as well as the corresponding QA/QC information and the corresponding information on the chain-of-custody form and field data sheet. The MQOs for the ethylene oxide samples as listed in Table 4 must be followed, otherwise the data will be flagged or invalidated appropriately, according to Table 9. After completion of data review, a data folder is then generated by the Data Validation Specialist as data is received from the ERG Lab for the next steps of data validation. Data will be reviewed to ensure that associated flags or any other data qualifiers have been appropriately associated with the data and that appropriate corrective actions were taken. Upon completion of adjustments and/or corrective actions, the Data Validation Specialist uploads the final monitoring data, along with any applicable null codes, to the GA AAMP's local shared drive and notifies the QA Unit Manager that the data is ready for his/her review. The final values uploaded to the local shared drive should match the independent spreadsheet. Also, the Data Validation Specialist notifies the Operations Unit Manager and Site Operator with the results of validation.

### **23.2 Data Verification and Upload**

The QA Unit Manager receives the folder prepared by the Data Validation Specialist and verifies the information therein. He/she ensures proper qualifying data codes or null data codes have been applied, and ensures data is acceptable and complete. The QA Unit Manager makes appropriate notation of review, and comments if any corrections need to be made by the Data Validation Specialist. The QA Unit Manager submits the data to the Program Manager for final approval, and the data is then forwarded through GA EPD management for posting on the GA EPD website (<https://epd.georgia.gov/ethylene-oxide-information>).

## **24.0 Reconciliation with User Requirements**

A preliminary data review will be performed to uncover potential limitations to using the data, to reveal outliers, and generally to explore the basic structure of the data. The next step is to calculate basic summary statistics, generate graphical presentations of the data, and review these summary statistics and graphs to determine if representativeness, comparability, completeness, precision, bias, and sensitivity, were met. Representativeness can be assessed with site location information and is based on potential sources and select weather station information. Comparability is based on method measure of the level of confidence with which one data set can be compared to another. Completeness is measured by the amount of valid sample data obtained compared to what was expected. Precision is determined from replicate collocated analyses. Sensitivity is demonstrated through MDLs.

If the sampling design and statistical tests conducted during the final reporting process show results that meet acceptance criteria, it can be assumed that the network design and the uncertainty of the data are acceptable. Further use of the data will include characterizing concentrations in potentially affected nearby neighborhoods based on method sensitivity.

To determine if the GA AAMP will continue sampling ethylene oxide data, a qualitative analysis of the data will be assessed. In addition, the GA AAMP will ensure that the MQOs for data completeness and percent difference are met.

## Revision History

Versions of <i>Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Georgia Ambient Air Monitoring Program Ethylene Oxide</i>		
Revision 0	September 2019	Original version
Revision 1	March 2020	Edited language regarding placement of monitors, and collocated and spatial frequencies; added statement regarding placement of potential future monitors; specified trip blank locations; added GA AAMP Additional Sampling Sites Attachment

## References

Eastern Research Group. 2019. *Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support) QAPP*. Morrisville, Georgia. March 2019.

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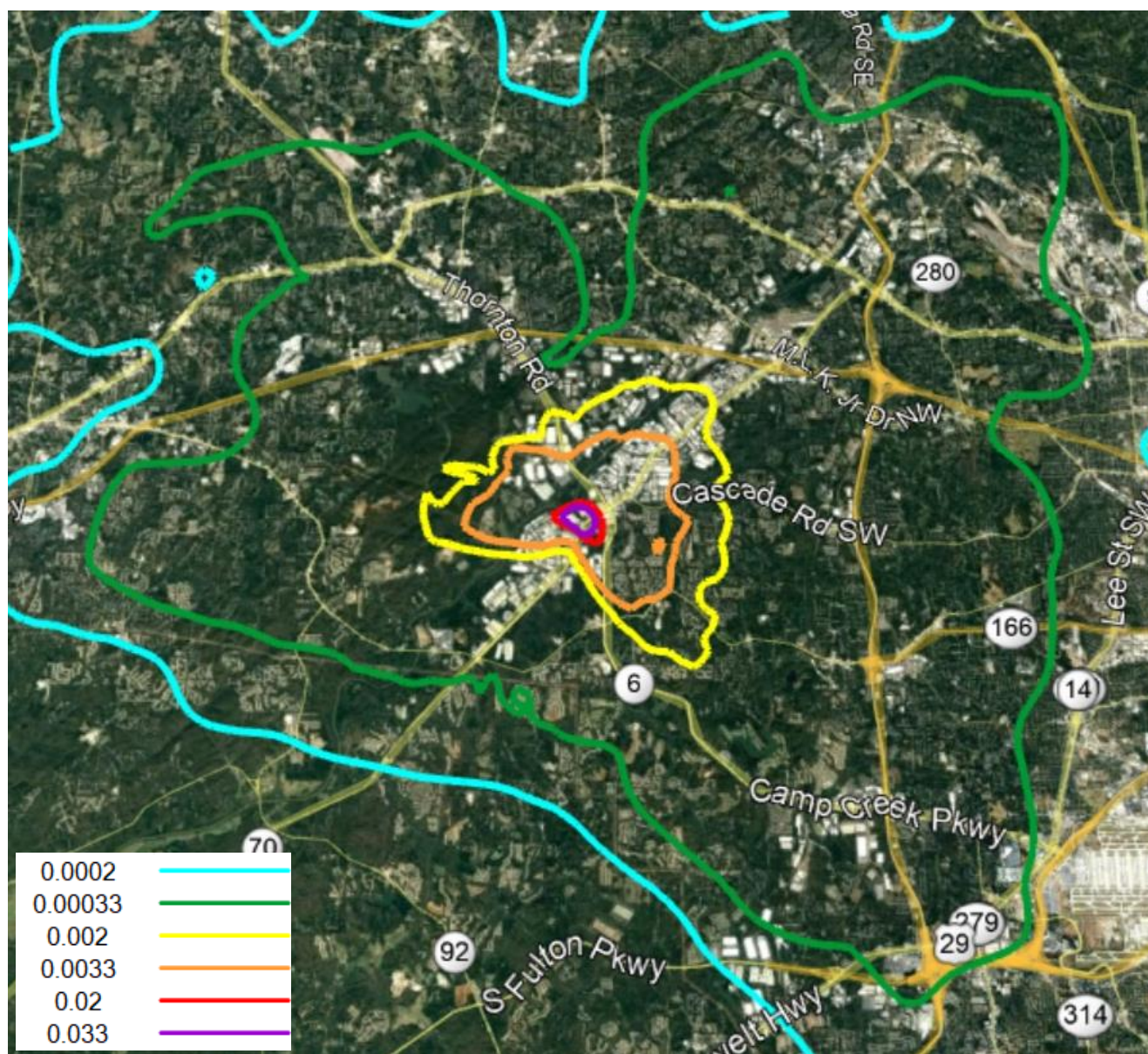
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<https://www.epa.gov/national-air-toxics-assessment/2014-national-air-toxics-assessment>  
<https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/2014-national-emissions-inventory-nei-data>

### **GA AAMP Additional Sampling Sites Attachment**

Sterilization Services of Georgia (SSG) in Fulton County is not a source of ethylene oxide that was identified by the 2018 NATA; however, the Planning and Support Program of GA EPD conducted modeling and SSG was modeled to have emissions above Georgia's Acceptable Ambient Concentrations (AACs). Computer models were used to predict the concentrations of toxic air pollutants (TAPs) being analyzed using facility information provided by the source and other information developed by GA EPD staff. The modeling results were compared to the 15-min, 24-hour, and annual AACs. GA EPD's 15-min and 24-hour AACs are derived from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) permissible exposure limits (PEL), OSHA Total Weight Average (TWA) PEL. GA EPD's annual AACs are derived from U.S. EPA's risk values which are found in EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Risk Based Air Concentration (RBAC) database. The impacts of facility-wide ethylene oxide emissions were evaluated according to the Georgia Air Toxics Guideline.

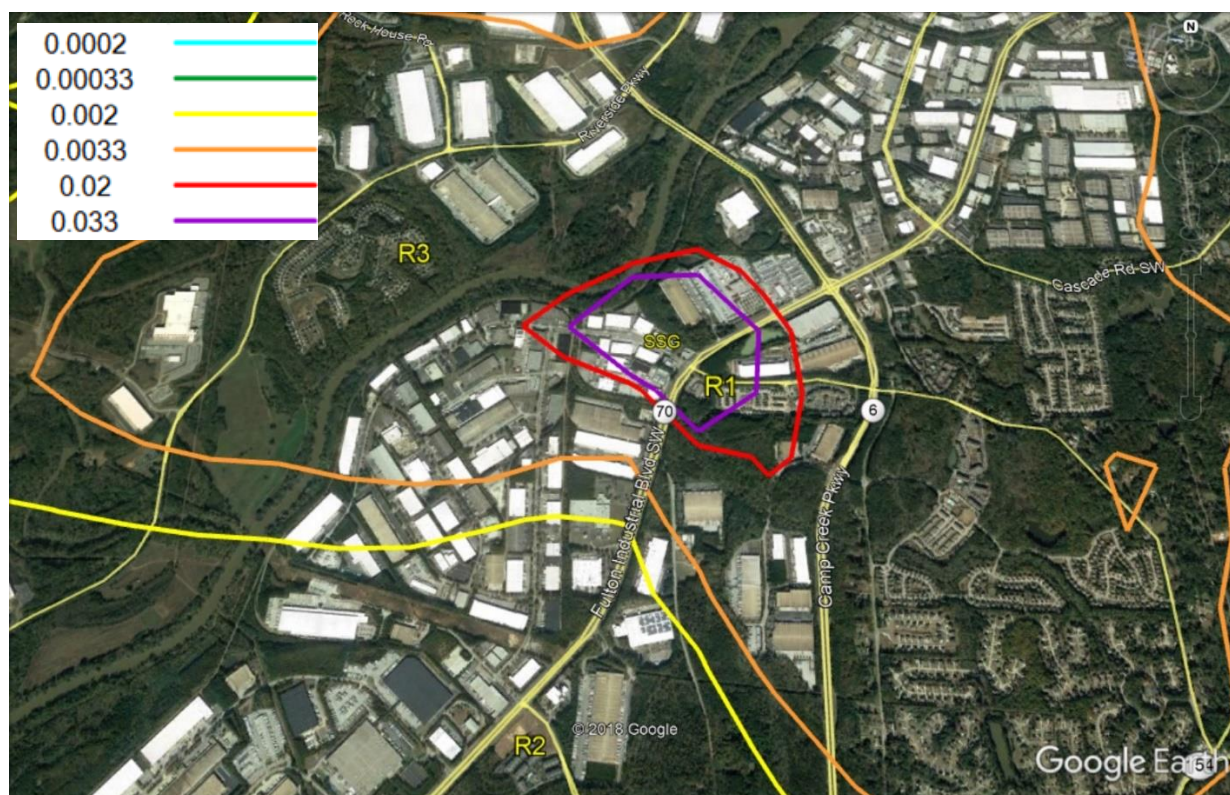
To determine the ambient monitoring sites near SSG in Fulton County, GA, the GA AAMP considered the modeled emission data which was generated by the Planning and Support Program of GA EPD. Dispersion models of the ethylene oxide emissions data from the facility were conducted to determine concentrations of ethylene oxide around the facility. This model is shown in the following figures. The modeled values are shown in micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) and identified nearby residential areas with ethylene oxide concentrations above the annual AAC. Due to the limited availability of acceptable locations which can be considered ambient air in the industrialized area surrounding SSG, the GA AAMP identified two acceptable sampling locations within approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the facility for the purposes of the ethylene oxide study. The sampling sites are located in the primary and secondary downwind directions from SSG. These locations were selected due to areas of highest modeled concentrations and the identification of vulnerable populations in the vicinity of the facility. Both sampling locations are within or adjacent to a residential community, and no other acceptable monitoring sites were identified during the investigation.





**Figure 25. Contours of Modeled Annual Averaged Ground-level Concentrations Across the 5-Year Period (in  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) for the Current Scenario Overlaid on a Google Earth Map**



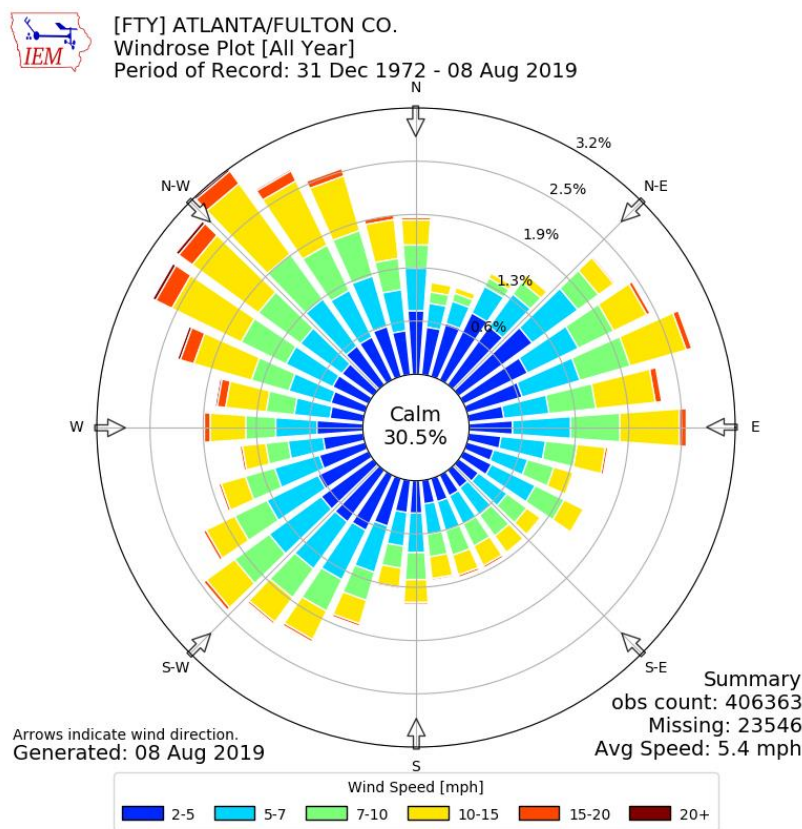


**Figure 26. A Close-up of Figure 25**

Wind rose data from the Atlanta Fulton County Airport near SSG was assessed by the GA AAMP, and primary and secondary wind patterns were determined. Distance from the Atlanta Fulton County Airport to SSG is shown in Figure 27 below. Wind rose data from the Atlanta Fulton County Airport is shown in Figure 28.



**Figure 27. Distance from SSG to Atlanta Fulton County Airport**



**Figure 28. Annual Wind Rose Data at Atlanta Fulton County Airport, December 31, 1970-August 8, 2019**



The GA AAMP began sampling near SSG on January 16, 2020. The sampling will follow the sampling schedule of once every six days as discussed for the other monitoring sites in Section 6.0 of this document. A collocated sample should be collected each month from the site nearest the residential community. Other than the number of sites used to characterize the ethylene oxide concentration around the facility, the quality assurance procedures described in this QAPP will be followed for the sampling in Fulton County. For the duration of the project, the sampling timeframe in Fulton County will be concurrent with the sampling timeframe for the Cobb County and Covington sites described in Section 6.0.

### **Laboratory Attachment**

The following information pertaining to the operation of ethylene oxide monitors is provided by the ERG Laboratory.

# **SUPPORT FOR THE EPA NATIONAL MONITORING PROGRAMS**

**(UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC  
Support)**

**Contract No. EP-D-14-030**

**2019**

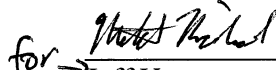
**Quality Assurance Project Plan  
Category 1**

Eastern Research Group, Inc.  
601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700  
Morrisville, NC 27560

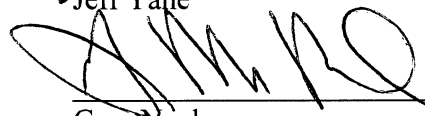
2019 Quality Assurance Project Plan, Category 1  
UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support (Contract No. EP-D-14-030)

Approved by:


U.S. EPA Project Officer:

for  Date: 4/16/19  
Jeff Yane

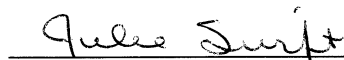
U.S. EPA QA Manager:

 Date: 4/16/19  
Greg Noah

U.S. EPA Delivery Order Manager:

 Date: 4/16/19  
Xi (Doris) Chen

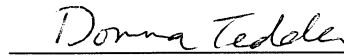
ERG Program Manager:

 Date: 4/16/19  
Julie Swift

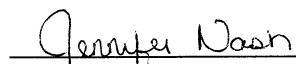
ERG Deputy Program Manager:

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**DISCLAIMER**

This Category 1 Quality Assurance Project Plan has been prepared specifically to address the operation and management of the U.S. EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS and NMOC). The contents have been prepared in accordance with Level I Specifications of the EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans, EPA QA/R-5 and the EPA Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans, EPA QA/G-5.



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C	ERG Changes/Comments for 2019 QAPP
D	ERG Standard Operating Procedures
ERG-MOR-003C	Field Procedure for Collecting Ambient Air Toxics and Carbonyl Compounds Samples Using the ERG(C):AT/C Sampling System (with O <sub>3</sub> Denuder Scrubber)
ERG-MOR-003D	Field Procedure for Collecting Ambient Air Toxics and Carbonyl Compounds Samples Using the ERG:AT/C Sampling System (with O <sub>3</sub> Denuder Scrubber and Mass Flow Meter)
ERG-MOR-005	Standard Operating Procedure for the Concurrent GC/FID/MS Analysis of Canister Air Toxic Samples using EPA Compendium Method TO-15 and EPA Ozone Precursor Method
ERG-MOR-013	Field Procedure for Collecting Ambient Air Hexavalent Chromium Samples Using the ERG:CR6 Sampling System
ERG-MOR-017	Standard Operating Procedure for Developing, Documenting, and Evaluating the Accuracy of Spreadsheet Data
ERG-MOR-022	Standard Operating Procedure for the Preparation of Standards in the ERG Laboratory

ERG-MOR-024	Standard Operating Procedure for Preparing, Extracting, and Analyzing DNPH Carbonyl Cartridges by Method TO-11A
ERG-MOR-030	Standard Operating Procedure for Canister Sampling System Certification Procedures
ERG-MOR-033	Standard Operating Procedure for Hazardous Waste
ERG-MOR-039	Standard Operating Procedure for Maintaining Laboratory Notebooks
ERG-MOR-044*	Standard Operating Procedure for Method 8270C – GC/MS Analysis of Semivolatile Organics
ERG-MOR-045	Standard Operating Procedure for Sample Receipt at the ERG Chemistry Laboratory
ERG-MOR-046*	Field Procedure for Collecting Speciated and/or Total Nonmethane Organic Compounds Ambient Air Samples Using the ERG:S/NMOC Sampling System
ERG-MOR-047B	Field Procedure for Collecting Ambient Carbonyl Compounds Samples Using the ERG:C Sampling System
ERG-MOR-049	Standard Operating Procedure for analysis of Semivolatile Organic Compounds (Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons) Using EPA Compendium Method TO-13A & ASTM D 6209-13
ERG-MOR-057	Standard Operating Procedure for Project Peer Review
ERG-MOR-060	Standard Operating Procedure for PDFID Sample Analysis by Method TO-12
ERG-MOR-061	Standard Operating Procedure for Standard Preparation Using Dynamic Flow Dilution System
ERG-MOR-062	Standard Operating Procedure for Sample Canister Cleaning
ERG-MOR-063	Standard Operating Procedure for the Preparation and Analysis of Ambient Air for Hexavalent Chromium by Ion Chromatography
ERG-MOR-079	Standard Operating Procedure for Sample Login to the Laboratory Information Management System

ERG-MOR-084	Standard Operating Procedure for the Preparation and Extraction of High Volume Quartz and Glass Fiber Filters for Metals by ICP-MS using Method IO 3.1 and FEM Method EQL-0512-201
ERG-MOR-085	Standard Operating Procedure for the Preparation and Extraction of 47mm Filters for Metals by ICP-MS using Method IO 3.1 and FEM Method EQL-0512-202
ERG-MOR-095	Standard Operating Procedure for the Analysis of High Volume Quartz, Glass Fiber Filters, and 47mm Filters for Metals by ICP-MS using Method IO-3.5, FEM Method EQL-0512-201, and FEM Method EQL-0512-202
ERG-MOR-097	Standard Operating Procedure for Manual Integration of Chromatographic Peaks
ERG-MOR-098	Standard Operating Procedure for the Preparation of Monitoring Data for AQS Upload
ERG-MOR-099	Standard Operating Procedure for the Laboratory Information Management System
ERG-MOR-100	Standard Operating Procedure for Carbonyl System Certification
ERG-MOR-105	Standard Operating Procedure for Sample Canister Cleaning using the Wasson TO-Clean Automated System

\*These SOPs are not current because they are not in need. Once EPA/State/Local or Tribal agency requests this work, the SOP will be updated and provided to the EPA before work begins.

E Subcontractor QAPPs will be added if they are initiated



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## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Atmospheric Analysis and Consulting
AMTIC	Ambient Air Monitoring Technical Information Center
AQS	Air Quality Subsystem
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
BFB	4-Bromofluorobenzene
BLK	Blank
BS/BSD	Blank Spike/Blank Spike Duplicate
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAR	Corrective Action Report
CCB	Continuing calibration blank
CCV	Continuing calibration verification
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COC	Chain of Custody
CSATAM	Community Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DFTPP	Decafluorotriphenylphosphine
DNPH	2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine
DPR	Daily Performance Check
DQOs	Data Quality Objectives
DUP	Duplicate
DVD	Digital Versatile Disk
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERG	Eastern Research Group, Inc.
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FB	Field Blank
FC-43	perfluorotributylamine
FEM	Federal Equivalency Method
FID	Flame Ionization Detector
GC	Gas Chromatograph
GPRA	Government Performance and Results Act
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutant(s)
He	Helium
H <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen

## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS (Continued)

Hg	Mercury
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
HSV	High standard verification
IC	Ion Chromatography
IC	Initial Calibration Standards (for ICP-MS)
ICAL	Initial Calibration
ICB	Initial Calibration Blank
ICP-MS	Inductively Coupled Plasma/Mass Spectrometer
ICSA/IFA	Interference Check Standard A
ICSAB/IFB	Interference Check Standard B
ICV	Initial calibration verification
ID	Identification
IS (or ISTD)	Internal Standard
KED	Kinetic Energy Discrimination
LCS	Laboratory Control Standard
LCV	Low Calibration Verification
LIMS	Laboratory Information Management System
LOQ	Limit of Quantitation
LRB	Laboratory Reagent Blank
m	Meter(s)
MB	Method Blank
MDLs	Method Detection Limit(s)
mL	Milliliter
mm	Millimeter
mM	Millimolar
MQOs	Measurement Quality Objective
MS	Mass Spectrometer
MS/MSD	Matrix Spike/Matrix Spike Duplicate
MUR	Method Update Rule
µg	Micrograms
µg/mL	Micrograms per milliliter
µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Microgram per cubic meter
µL	Microliters
µm	Micrometer

## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS (Continued)

µg/mL	Micrograms per milliliter
N <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NATTS	National Ambient Toxics Trends Stations
NELAC	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference
NELAP	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
ng	Nanogram
ng/m <sup>3</sup>	Nanogram per cubic meter
nm	Nanometer
NMOC	Nonmethane Organic Compounds
NMP	National Monitoring Program
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Nitrogen
O <sub>3</sub>	Ozone
OAQPS	Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
OD	Outer Diameter
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PAMS	Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PDF	Portable Document Format
PDFID	Preconcentration Direct Flame Ionization Detection
PDS	Post digestion spike
PE	Performance Evaluation
POC	Parameter Occurrence Code
ppbC	Parts per Billion as Carbon
ppbv	Parts per Billion by volume
ppmC	Parts per Million as Carbon
psig	Pounds per square inch gauge
PT	Proficiency Testing
PUF	Polyurethane Foam
QA	Quality Assurance
QAPPs	Quality Assurance Project Plan(s)



## SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS (Continued)

QC	Quality Control
QL	Quantitation Limit
RE	Relative Error
RF	Response Factor
RPD	Relative Percent Difference
RRF	Relative Response Factor
RRTs	Relative Retention Times
RSD	Relative Standard Deviation
RT	Retention Time
RTP	Research Triangle Park
SB	Solvent Blank
SIM	Selected Ion Monitoring
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SNMOC	Speciated Nonmethane Organic Compounds
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedure(s)
SQL	Sample Quantitation Limit
SRD	Serial dilution
SRM	Standard Reference Material
SSQC	Second Source Quality Control
STI	Sonoma Technology, Inc.
SVOC	Semivolatile Organic Compounds
TAD	Technical Assistance Document.
TSAs	Technical System Audits
TSP	Total Suspended Particulate
UAM	Urban Airshed Model
UATMP	Urban Air Toxics Monitoring Program
UPS	United Parcel Service of America
UV	Ultraviolet
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compound

## **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Copies of this plan and all revisions will be provided to:

- Jeff Yane, Work Assignment Manager, U.S. EPA, C404-02, RTP, NC
- Xi (Doris) Chen, Delivery Order Manager, U.S. EPA, C339-02, RTP, NC
- Greg Noah, AT QA Coordinator, U.S. EPA, C304-06, RTP, NC

U.S. EPA Regional contacts may obtain a copy of the QAPP by contacting the ERG Program Manager. It is the responsibility of each Regional contact to make copies of the plan for appropriate State personnel or to refer them to ERG Program Manager. The ERG staff working on this contract will receive a copy of this QAPP and all revisions.

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT**  
**SECTION 1**  
**PROJECT/TASK ORGANIZATION**

**1.1 Assignment of Program Personnel**

Table 1-1 presents the program organization listing the program assignment and responsible person for each aspect of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Monitoring Programs (NMP). The program organizational chart is presented in Figure 1-1. All Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) staff working on this contract are provided access to a current electronic copy of this signed, EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

ERG's primary support on this contract includes Nonmethane Organic Compounds (NMOC), Speciated Nonmethane Organic Compounds (SNMOC), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Metals, Hexavalent Chromium, and other Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). Subcontracting services are extended by ChromIAn for onsite technical assistance for Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations (PAMS) analysis, Sonoma Technology, Inc. (STI) for data validation, Atmospheric Analysis and Consulting, Inc. (AAC) Lab for VOCs by Method TO-17, pesticides/Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), anions, diisocyanates, and 4,4'-methylenedianiline, and RTI International for metals analysis, in the event of a large workload.

ERG is responsible to the client for the work of the subcontractor and choosing subcontractors that meet the applicable requirements for the methods and contracts. The subcontractor should meet the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) requirements for the appropriate method. ERG shall maintain a record of subcontractor compliance, including documentation of subcontractor's Method Detection Limits (MDLs), QAPPs, etc. Sample analysis will not begin with the subcontractor until MDLs, QAPPs, etc., have been approved by EPA and ERG. Before sample analysis, the subcontractor may perform Proficiency Testing (PT) samples and/or Technical System Audits (TSAs) if they are available through Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS). If such measures are not

available, ERG will request audit reports performed with the subcontract lab and will supply PT audits if requested by the EPA when analysis is contracted with the laboratory.

#### 1.1.1 Program Manager

Ms. Julie Swift, an ERG Vice President, serves as the Program Manager for EPA's NMP. In this role, she has the primary responsibility for understanding program level needs, both EPA's and their clients' (i.e., State, Local, and Tribal agencies). Ms. Swift is ultimately accountable for providing timely, cost effective, and high-quality services that meet the needs of the NMP efforts. Her responsibility is ensuring EPA/client satisfaction by verifying that all components necessary for effective management are in place and active during the contract performance period. Ms. Swift coordinates with the ERG Quality Assurance (QA) Officer, and task leaders to provide EPA/client perspective, communicate technical issues and needs, and ensure the program staff facilitates decisions appropriate to their roles on Contract EP-D-14-030. She prepares budgetary and schedule information and prepares all information for presentation to EPA at scheduled program meetings. As the Program Manager, Ms. Julie Swift is responsible for the technical operation and the quality of the program on a day-to-day basis. She leads the analytical tasks and provides technical direction and support. She assists in the resolution of technical issues and serves as a resource for Task Leaders regarding any project issues. Ms. Swift also performs an overall review of the data that is reported monthly.

#### 1.1.2 Deputy Program Manager

As the Deputy Program Manager, Ms. Laura Van Enwyck assists the Program Manager for EPA's NMP. She assists the Program Manager in all aspects of the technical operation and the quality of the program on a day-to-day basis. She assists the analytical Task Leaders and provides technical direction and support. She assists in the resolution of technical issues and serves as a resource for Task Leaders regarding project issues. Ms. Van Enwyck is also the Carbonyl and HAPs Support Task Leader.

#### 1.1.3 Program Technical Adviser

The Program Technical Adviser, Mr. Dave Dayton assists in the resolution of technical issues. He communicates with ERG management and the technical staff for discussion of real and potential technical problems. He peer reviews draft and final program report products and provides oversight of efforts to evaluate and characterize data.

#### 1.1.4 Program QA Coordinator

Ms. Donna Tedder, the Program and Laboratory QA Coordinator, is responsible for ensuring the overall integrity and quality of project results. Ms. Tedder, or her designee, will do a 10 percent QA review for all sample analyses delivered for reporting by the Program Manager. In the case of subcontracted work, 20 percent of data from subcontractor will be reviewed. The lines of communication between management, the Program QA Coordinator, and the technical staff are formally established and allow for discussion of real and potential problems, preventive actions, and corrective procedures. The key Quality Control (QC) responsibilities and QC review functions are summarized in Table 1-2. On major quality issues, Ms. Tedder reports independently to Ms. Jan Connery, ERG's corporate QA Officer.

#### 1.1.5 Deputy Program QA Coordinator

The Deputy Program QA Coordinator, Ms. Jennifer Nash, is responsible for ensuring the integrity and quality of project results. The Deputy QA Coordinator will assist the Program QA Coordinator with the QA review for sample analyses delivered for reporting by the Program Manager. The major QC responsibilities and QC review functions are summarized in Table 1-2. The Deputy QA Coordinator will work closely with the Program QA Coordinator to ensure the overall quality of the Program.

#### 1.1.6 Task Leaders

ERG Task Leaders are responsible for meeting the project objectives, meeting report schedules, and directing the technical staff in execution of the technical effort for their respective task(s). The Task Leaders will review 100 percent of all sample analyses. The Program QA Coordinator will request 10 percent of that data for review prior to data reporting by the Program Manager. The Task Leaders manage the day-to-day technical activities on delivery orders for this program. They assess and report on the project's progress and results (e.g., recordkeeping, data validation procedures, sample turnaround time) and ensure timely, high-quality services that meet the requirements in this QAPP.

**Table 1-1**  
**Program Organization**

Program Assignment	Program Personnel Assigned	Phone Number	Email Address
Program Manager	Julie Swift	(919) 468-7924	<a href="mailto:julie.swift@erg.com">julie.swift@erg.com</a>
Deputy Program Manager	Laura Van Enwyck	(919) 468-7930	<a href="mailto:laura.vanenwyck@erg.com">laura.vanenwyck@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Network Site Coordination	Randy Bower	(919) 468-7928	<a href="mailto:randy.bower@erg.com">randy.bower@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Shipping and Receiving	Randy Bower	(919) 468-7928	<a href="mailto:randy.bower@erg.com">randy.bower@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Air Toxics	Randy Bower	(919) 468-7928	<a href="mailto:randy.bower@erg.com">randy.bower@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Carbonyl Analysis	Laura Van Enwyck	(919) 468-7930	<a href="mailto:laura.vanenwyck@erg.com">laura.vanenwyck@erg.com</a>
Task Leader – Hexavalent Chromium	Glenn Isom	(919) 468-7940	<a href="mailto:glenn.isom@erg.com">glenn.isom@erg.com</a>
Task Leader – Metals	Randy Mercurio	(919) 468-7922	<a href="mailto:randy.mercurio@erg.com">randy.mercurio@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - NMOC Analysis	Mitchell Howell	(919) 468-7915	<a href="mailto:mitch.howell@erg.com">mitch.howell@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Semivolatiles	Chris Kopp	(919) 468-7945	<a href="mailto:chris.kopp@erg.com">chris.kopp@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - SNMOC Analysis	Mitchell Howell	(919) 468-7915	<a href="mailto:mitch.howell@erg.com">mitch.howell@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - PAMS Support *	Julie Swift	(919) 468-7924	<a href="mailto:julie.swift@erg.com">julie.swift@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - HAPs Support **	Laura Van Enwyck	(919) 468-7930	<a href="mailto:laura.vanenwyck@erg.com">laura.vanenwyck@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Data Characterization	Regi Oommen	(919) 468-7829	<a href="mailto:regi.oommen@erg.com">regi.oommen@erg.com</a>
Task Leader - Annual Report/AQS Entry	Jaime Hauser	(919) 468-7813	<a href="mailto:jaime.hauser@erg.com">jaime.hauser@erg.com</a>
Program Technical Adviser	Dave Dayton	(919) 468-7883	<a href="mailto:dave.dayton@erg.com">dave.dayton@erg.com</a>
Program QA Coordinator	Donna Tedder	(919) 468-7921	<a href="mailto:donna.tedder@erg.com">donna.tedder@erg.com</a>
Deputy QA Coordinator	Jennifer Nash	(919) 468-7881	<a href="mailto:jennifer.nash@erg.com">jennifer.nash@erg.com</a>
Project Administrator	Kerry Fountain	(919) 468-7962	<a href="mailto:kerry.fountain@erg.com">kerry.fountain@erg.com</a>

\*Subcontracting support when requested from Chromian and Sonoma Technology, Inc.

\*\*Subcontracting support when requested from AAC and RTI International (miscellaneous HAPs).



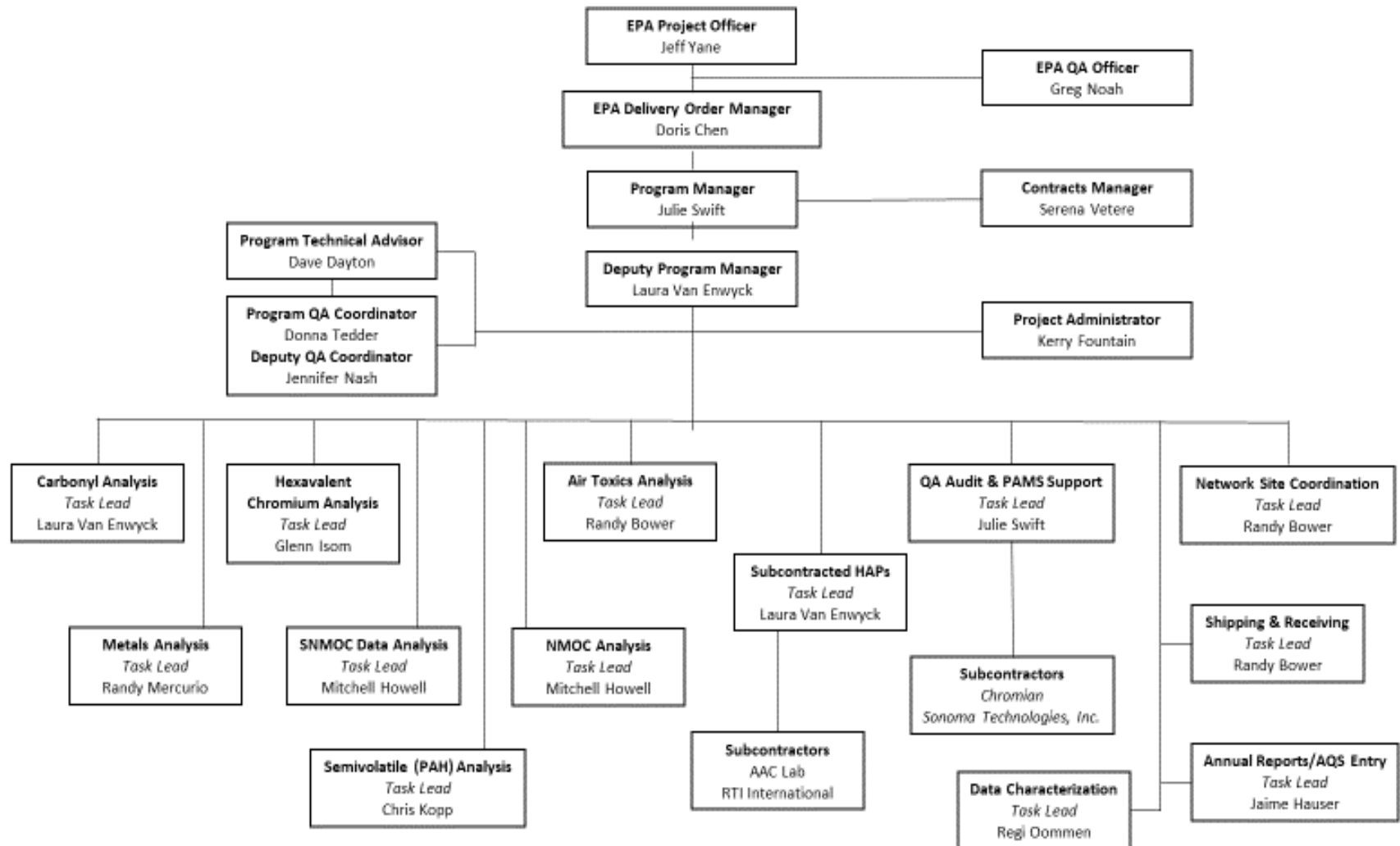


Figure 1-1. National Monitoring Programs Organizational Chart

**Table 1-2**  
**QC Responsibilities and Review Functions**

<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Major Responsibilities</b>
Ms. Julie Swift, Program Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure overall timely performance of high quality technical services</li> <li>• Communicate technical issues and needs</li> <li>• Assist in the resolution of technical problems</li> <li>• Track all management systems and tools</li> <li>• Track deliverables and budget performance</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate level of staffing and committed resources exist to perform work</li> <li>• Communicate daily with the EPA/State/Local/Tribal agencies</li> <li>• Ensure data quality</li> <li>• Check information completeness</li> <li>• Review data completeness and quality before reporting to client</li> <li>• Review all reports</li> <li>• Report project performance (budget and deliverables) to EPA at scheduled meetings and in monthly progress reports</li> <li>• Day-to-day management of task leaders</li> </ul>
Ms. Laura Van Enwyck, Deputy Program Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist Program Manager where needed</li> <li>• Ensure overall timely performance of high quality technical services</li> <li>• Communicate technical issues and needs</li> <li>• Assist in the resolution of technical problems</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate level of staffing and committed resources exist to perform work</li> <li>• Communicate with the EPA/State/Local/Tribal agencies</li> <li>• Ensure data quality</li> <li>• Check information completeness</li> <li>• Review data completeness and quality before reporting to client</li> <li>• Day-to-day management of task leaders</li> </ul>
Mr. Dave Dayton, Program Technical Adviser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in the resolution of technical problems</li> <li>• Communicate potential technical issues and needs</li> <li>• Review draft and final data reports</li> </ul>
Ms. Donna Tedder, Program QA Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make QA recommendations</li> <li>• Review QAPP</li> <li>• Audit laboratory</li> <li>• Review QA reports</li> <li>• Evaluate the effect of technical issues on data quality</li> <li>• Review 10% of all data for reporting</li> <li>• Review documentation (SOPs, reports, etc.)</li> </ul>

**Table 1-2**  
**QC Responsibilities and Review Functions (Continued)**

Responsible Person	Major Responsibilities
Ms. Jennifer Nash, Deputy Program QA Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist QA Coordinator where needed</li> <li>• Make QA recommendations</li> <li>• Review QAPP</li> <li>• Assist with laboratory audit(s)</li> <li>• Evaluate the effect of technical issues on data quality</li> <li>• Review 10% of all data for monthly reporting</li> <li>• Review documentation (SOPs, reports, etc.)</li> </ul>
Task Leader(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review documentation</li> <li>• Review 100% of analytical data generated by analysts</li> <li>• Develop analytical procedures</li> <li>• Propose procedural changes</li> <li>• Train and supervise analysts</li> <li>• Meet task report schedules</li> <li>• Manage day-to-day technical activities</li> <li>• Check information completeness</li> <li>• Review instrument and maintenance log books</li> <li>• Review calibration factor drift</li> <li>• Perform preventive maintenance</li> </ul>

## SECTION 2

### PROBLEM DEFINITION/BACKGROUND

The Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1990 required EPA OAQPS to set National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the “criteria” pollutant ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). In areas of the country where the NAAQS for O<sub>3</sub> was being exceeded, additional measurements of the ambient NMOC were needed to assist the affected States in developing/revising O<sub>3</sub> control strategies. Measurements of ambient NMOC are important to the control of VOCs that are precursors to atmospheric O<sub>3</sub>. Due to previous difficulty in obtaining accurate NMOC concentration measurements, EPA started a monitoring and analytical program in 1984 to provide support to the States. ERG has continuously supported EPA for the NMOC programs since 1984.

In 1987, EPA developed the Urban Air Toxics Monitoring Program (UATMP) to help State, Local and Tribal air monitoring agencies characterize the nature and extent of potentially toxic air pollution in urban areas. Since 1987, several State and local agencies have participated in the UATMP by implementing ambient air monitoring programs. These efforts have helped to identify the toxic compounds most prevalent in the ambient air and indicate emissions sources that are likely to be contributing to elevated concentrations. Studies indicate that a potential for elevated cancer risk is associated with certain toxic compounds often found in ambient urban air<sup>(1)</sup>. As a screening program, the UATMP also provides data input for models used by EPA, State, local and risk assessment personnel to assess risks posed by the presence of toxic compounds in urban areas. The UATMP program is a year-round sampling program, collecting 24-hour integrated ambient air samples at urban sites in the contiguous United States every 6 or 12 days.

The SNMOC program was initiated in 1991 in response to requests by State agencies for more detailed speciated hydrocarbon data for use in O<sub>3</sub> control strategies and Urban Airshed Model (UAM) input.

Title I, Section 182 of the CAA Amendments of 1990 requires States to establish PAMS as part of their State Implementation Plan (SIP) for O<sub>3</sub> nonattainment areas. The rule revises the ambient air quality surveillance regulations to include enhanced monitoring of O<sub>3</sub> and its precursors. The regulations promulgated in 1993 require monitoring of O<sub>3</sub>, oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), selected carbonyl compounds, and VOCs. The required monitoring is complex and requires considerable lead time for the agencies to acquire the equipment and expertise to implement their PAMS network. Under the PAMS program, each site may require a different level of support with respect to sampling frequency, sampling equipment, analyses, and report preparation. Presampling, sampling, and analytical activities are performed according to the guidance provided in the Technical Assistance Document (TAD)<sup>(2)</sup>, for Sampling and Analysis of Ozone Precursors, 1998 revision. The program objective of PAMS is to provide data that are consistent with the proposed rule for ambient air quality surveillance regulations in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 58 (40 CFR Part 58). The ERG team offers site support to any State that needs to set up a PAMS site and/or provide technical help. The specific analytical methodology applicable to the PAMS program will be discussed in this QAPP.

In 1999, EPA expanded this program to provide measurements of additional CAA HAPs to support the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). As required under the GPRA, EPA developed a Strategic Plan that includes a goal for Clean Air. Under this goal, there is an objective to improve air quality and reduce air toxics emissions to levels 75 percent below 1993 levels by 2010 in order to reduce the risk to Americans of cancer and other serious adverse health effects caused by airborne toxics.

In 2001, EPA designed a national network for monitoring air toxics compounds present in ambient air entitled the National Ambient Toxics Trends Station (NATTS). The primary purpose of the NATTS network is tracking trends in ambient air toxics levels to facilitate measuring progress toward emission and risk reduction goals. The monitoring network is intended for long term operation for the principle purpose of discerning national trends in air toxics ambient concentrations.

Beginning in 2003/2004, EPA conducted periodic Community Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring (CSATAM) grant competitions. The resultant 1- to 2-year grants are designed to help State, Local, and Tribal communities identify and profile air toxics sources, characterize the degree and extent of local air toxics problems, and track progress of air toxics reduction activities. Grants have been awarded across the United States, in large, medium, and small communities. The ERG team can offer site support and analysis to any agency for the UATMP, NATTS and CSATAM programs.

The data obtained by following this QAPP will be used by EPA, State, Local, Tribal and risk assessment personnel to determine prevalent O<sub>3</sub> precursors and air toxics in the urban air. The data collected from the continuous yearly sites gives the data analyst consistent high quality analytical results. Sampling and analytical uncertainties are determined through this program by performing 10 percent sampling duplicate (or collocated) and analytical replicate samples for each of the ambient air sites.

This QAPP defines the preparation, sampling, laboratory analyses and QA/QC procedures conducted by ERG for EPA's NMP to deliver data of sufficient quality to meet the programs' objectives. Many of these procedures described in this QAPP are based on experiences obtained during previous National Program Studies.

## **SECTION 3**

### **PROJECT/TASK DESCRIPTION**

This section describes the activities performed under each of the major EPA NMP components (NMOC, SNMOC, UATMP, CSATAM, NATTS, and PAMS). ERG dedicates passivated canisters, sampling equipment and expendable sampling media to the program to maintain known quality that meets the program objectives. An applicable measurement methods list is presented in Table 3-1. Sampling and analysis are determined when delivery orders are provided by EPA.

#### **3.1 PAMS, NMOC and SNMOC**

The program objective of PAMS is to provide data that are consistent with the proposed rule for Ambient Air Quality Surveillance in accordance with 40 CFR Part 58. The ERG team can offer site support to any State that needs to set up a PAMS site and/or maintain it with technical help. Canister and/or carbonyl samples are collected typically every 3 days by State/Local/or Tribal agency personnel starting on the first of June through the end of September at each of the designated sites.

The NMOC and SNMOC programs require collection of ambient air samples over a 3-hour period. This sample collection period occurs from 6:00 - 9:00 a.m. local time to capture mobile source pollutants during the morning “rush hour” simultaneously with sunrise, which provides the energy necessary for many photochemical reactions. Weekday sampling will be the responsibility of the individual States involved in this program. Canister and/or carbonyl samples are collected by State/Local/or Tribal agency personnel every weekday, typically starting on the first Monday of June through the end of September at each of the designated sites.

ERG can provide sampler, sampler training, and any technical assistance needed throughout the monitoring program. At least one week before each sample collection episode, ERG ships the necessary clean, certified canisters and/or carbonyl cartridges to the site along



with the field chain of custody (COC) forms. The time-integrated ambient samples are then collected and shipped to ERG for analysis.

### **3.2 UATMP, NATTS and CSATAM**

The UATMP program was initiated as an analytical/technical support program focused on ascertaining ambient air levels of organic toxic species. The program has since expanded to provide for the measurement of additional HAPs and the standard sample collection frequency was increased to 1 in 6 days, with some sites continuing at 1 in 12 days.

The NATTS Network is intended for long term operation for the principle purpose of discerning national trends. The primary purpose of the NATTS network is tracking trends in ambient air toxics levels to facilitate measuring progress toward emission and risk reduction goals. The monitoring network is intended to be able to detect a 15 percent difference (trend) between two successive 3-year annual mean concentrations within acceptable levels of decision error. The standard sample collection frequency is 1 in 6 days.

The program objective of the CSATAM Program is designed to help State, Local, and Tribal communities identify and profile air toxics sources, characterize the degree and extent of local air toxics problems, and track progress of air toxics reduction activities. Grants have been awarded across the entire United States, in large, medium, and small communities. Awarded grants fall into one of three categories: community-scale monitoring, method development/evaluation, and analysis of existing data. The sample collection frequency may be 1 in 6 days or 1 in 12 days. Targeted pollutants generally reflect the NATTS core compounds, criteria pollutants, and/or pollutants related to diesel particulate matter.

The ERG team can offer site support and analysis to any State that needs VOC, carbonyl, or other analyses for the PAMS, UATMP, NATTS and CSATAM programs, as shown in Table 3-1. Relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are also referenced in the table.

**Table 3-1**  
**List of Analytical and Support Services**

Analysis	Based on Method	SOP (ERG-MOR-XXX)
<b>Analysis</b>		
Total NMOC	TO-12 <sup>(3)</sup>	-060
Speciated NMOC/PAMS Hydrocarbons via GC/FID	TAD for Ozone Precursors <sup>(2)</sup>	-005
VOCs via GC/MS	TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	-005
Concurrent SNMOC and VOC via GC/MS/FID	TAD for Ozone Precursors <sup>(2)</sup> /TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	-005
Carbonyls via HPLC	TO-11A <sup>(5)</sup>	-024
PM <sub>10</sub> HAP Metals via ICP-MS	IO-3.5 <sup>(6)</sup> /EQL-0512-201 <sup>(7)</sup> / EQL-0512-202 <sup>(8)</sup>	-095
TSP Hexavalent Chromium via IC	ASTM D7614 <sup>(9)</sup>	-063
SVOC analysis via GC/MS (SCAN)	TO-13A <sup>(10)</sup> / Method 8270D <sup>(11)</sup>	-044***
PAH analysis via GC/MS (SIM)	TO-13A <sup>(10)</sup> / ASTM D6209-13 <sup>(12)</sup>	-049
PCB/Pesticides via GC *	TO-4A <sup>(13)</sup>	*
Anions via IC *	NIOSH 7903 <sup>(14)</sup> **	*
VOCs via GC/MS (from cartridge) *	TO-17 <sup>(15)</sup>	*
Diisocyanates *	OSHA Method 42 <sup>(16)</sup>	*
4,4'-Methylenedianiline *	NIOSH Method 5029 <sup>(17)</sup>	*
<b>Site Support</b>		
NMOC/SNMOC	TAD for Ozone Precursors <sup>(2)</sup>	-046***
VOC	TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	-003 or -021
Carbonyls	TO-11A <sup>(5)</sup>	-003 or -047
Hexavalent Chromium	ASTM D7614-12 <sup>(9)</sup>	-013
PAMS Technical	NA	NA
PAMS QA	NA	NA
<b>Other Services</b>		
Performance Samples for VOC	TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	-061
Performance Samples for Carbonyls	TO-11A <sup>(5)</sup>	-024
Performance Samples for PAH	TO-13A <sup>(10)</sup> / ASTM D6209-13 <sup>(12)</sup>	-049
Performance Samples for PM <sub>10</sub> HAP Metals	IO-3.5 <sup>(6)</sup> /EQL-0512-201 <sup>(7)</sup> / EQL-0512-202 <sup>(8)</sup>	-095
Performance Samples for TSP Hexavalent Chromium	ASTM D7614-12 <sup>(9)</sup>	-063
Sampler Certification for Carbonyls	TO-11A <sup>(5)</sup>	-100
Sampler Certification for VOC	TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	-030
Uniform Calibration Standards	TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	-061
AQS Data Entry (per pollutant group)	NA	-098
Report Development/Data Characterization	NA	NA

\*Will be supplied by subcontractor when analysis is requested.

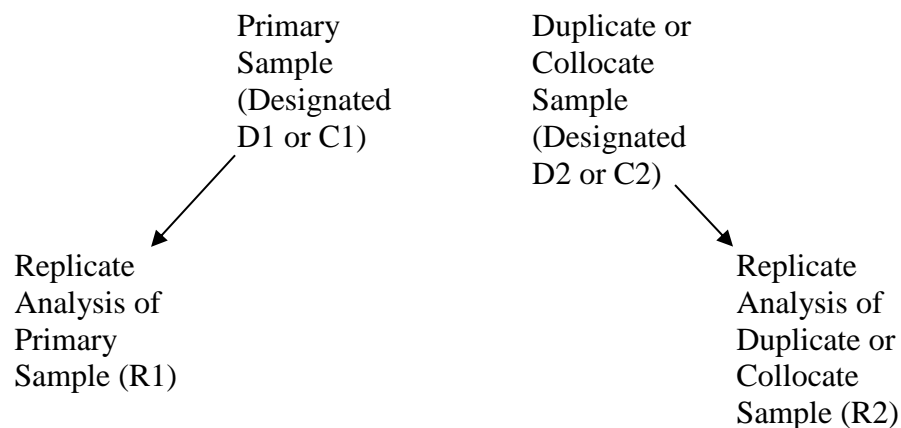
\*\*NIOSH Method 7903 was replaced with 7906, 7907 and 7908.

\*\*\*SOP is currently archived but will be updated if needed for sample analysis.

ERG can provide sampler, sampler training, and any technical assistance needed throughout the monitoring program. Canister and/or carbonyl samples are collected by State/Local/or Tribal agency personnel every 6 or 12-days at each of the designated sites. At least one week before each sample collection episode, ERG ships the necessary clean, certified canisters and/or carbonyl cartridges to the site along with the field COC forms. The time-integrated ambient samples are then collected and shipped to ERG for analysis.

ERG then prepares the program data for a final annual report describing sampling and analysis procedures, results, discussion of results, compilation of statistics, and recommendations. To determine the overall precision of analysis for the programs, replicate analyses (10 percent of the total number of samples) are used following the schematic shown in Figure 3-1. After the final data report receives approval by the EPA Project Officer and Delivery Order Manager, ERG distributes the final report to designated recipients. ERG provides the final data summaries to the associated agencies electronically in Excel® and Adobe® formats. ERG staff finalizes and uploads the data into the Air Quality Subsystem (AQS) database.

**Figure 3-1. Duplicate/Collocate and Replicate Analysis Schematic**



## SECTION 4

### DATA QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA FOR MEASUREMENT DATA

As ERG performs measurement services only, DQOs for defining a toxics network program are not identified in this QAPP. A well-prepared description of the Measurements Quality Objectives (MQOs) can be found in the TAD for the NATTS Program prepared for EPA in October 2016<sup>(18)</sup>. This section will discuss the MQOs of the ERG laboratory analyses, emphasizing the levels of uncertainty the decision maker is willing to allow/accept from the analytical results. The DQOs for the four programs – NMOC, UATMP, PAMS, and CSATAM – are similar but are not identical. Therefore, the programs are discussed separately.

The NATTS TAD presents the requirements for collecting and reporting data for the NATTS network. Eighteen compounds have been identified as major risk drivers based on a relative ranking performed by EPA and have been designated as NATTS Core or “Tier I” compounds. All other reported compounds, for any NMP, are considered compounds of interest, but do not necessitate the NATTS MQOs. The Tier I compounds are acknowledged throughout this document. ERG exemptions from the NATTS TAD are listed in Appendix A.

Once a DQO is established, the quality of the data must be evaluated and controlled to ensure that data quality is maintained within the established acceptance criteria. MQOs are designed to evaluate and control various phases (sampling, preparation, analysis) of the measurement process to ensure that the total measurement uncertainty is within the range prescribed by the DQOs. MQOs can be defined in terms of the following data quality indicators:

Precision - a measure of mutual agreement between individual measurements performed according to identical protocols and procedures. This is the random component of error.

Bias - the systematic or persistent distortion of a measurement process that causes error in one direction. Bias is determined by estimating the positive and negative deviation from the true value as a percentage of the true value.

Representativeness - a measure of the degree to which data accurately and precisely represent a characteristic of population, parameter variations at a sampling point, a process condition, or an environmental condition.

Detectability - the determination of the low range critical value of a characteristic that a method-specific procedure can reliably discern.

Completeness - a measure of the amount of valid data obtained from a measurement system compared to the amount that was expected to be obtained under correct, normal conditions. Data completeness requirements are included in the reference methods (see References, Section 21).

Comparability - a measure of the level of confidence with which one data set can be compared to another.

Bias has been the term frequently used to represent closeness to “truth” and includes a combination of precision and bias error components. The MQOs listed will attempt to separate measurement uncertainties into precision and bias components. Table 4-1 lists the MQOs for pollutants to be measured in all areas of the UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC program.

Analytical Precision is calculated by comparing the differences between Replicate analyses (two analyses of the same sample) from the arithmetic mean of the two results as shown below. Replicate analyses with low variability have a lower Relative Percent Difference (RPD) (better precision), whereas high variability samples have a higher RPD (poorer precision).

$$RPD = \frac{|X_1 - X_2|}{\bar{X}} \times 100$$

Where:

$X_1$  = Ambient air concentration of a given compound measured in one sample;  
 $X_2$  = Concentration of the same compound measured during replicate analysis;  
 $\bar{X}$  = Arithmetic mean of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ .

Method precision is calculated by comparing the concentrations of the duplicates/collocates for each pollutant. The Coefficient of Variation (CV) calculation shown below is ideal when comparing paired values, such as a primary concentration versus a duplicate concentration.

$$CV = 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{(p-r)}{0.5 \times (p+r)} \right]^2}{2n}}$$

Where:

- p = the primary result from a duplicate or collocated pair;
- r = the secondary result from a duplicate or collocated pair;
- n = the number of valid data pairs (the 2 adjusts for the fact that there are two values with error).

**Table 4-1**  
**Measurement Quality Objectives for the National Program (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, NMOC)**

Program	Reporting Units	Precision from analysis of Replicate Samples (RPD)	Precision (CV) from collection of Duplicate/Collocate Samples	Representativeness	Comparability/ Based on Method	Bias	Completeness	Minimum Detection Limits*
NMOC	ppmC	$\leq 10\%$	$\leq 20\%$	Neighborhood	GC-PDFID EPA Compendium Method TO-12 <sup>(3)</sup>	$\pm 25\%$	$>85\%$	To be determined upon need
SNMOC	ppbC	$\leq 25\% \geq 5x \text{ MDL}$	$\leq 25\% \geq 5x \text{ MDL}$	Neighborhood	GC-FID TAD for O <sub>3</sub> Precursors <sup>(2)</sup>	$\pm 25\%$	$>85\%$	See Table 11-12
VOC	ppbv	$\leq 25\% \geq 5x \text{ MDL}$	For NATTS Tier I compounds, $\leq 15\%$ , others $\leq 25\% \geq 5x \text{ MDL}$	Neighborhood	GC-FID/MS EPA Compendium Method TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	$\pm 25\%$	$>85\%$	For NATTS Tier I, see NATTS TAD Table 4.1-1 Others, see Table 11-13
Carbonyls	ppbv	$\leq 10\% \geq 0.5 \mu\text{g/cartridge}$	For NATTS Tier I compounds, $\leq 15\%$ , others $\leq 20\% \geq 0.5 \mu\text{g/cartridge}$	Neighborhood	HPLC EPA Compendium Method TO-11A <sup>(5)</sup>	$\pm 25\%$	$>85\%$	For NATTS Tier I, see NATTS TAD Table 4.1-1 Others, see Table 11-14
Metals	ng/ per cubic meter (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	$\leq 20\% \geq 5x \text{ MDL}$	For NATTS Tier I compounds, $\leq 15\%$ , others $\leq 20\% \geq 5x \text{ MDL}$	Neighborhood	ICPMS IO-3.5 <sup>(6)</sup> /EQL-0512-201 <sup>(7)</sup> / EQL-0512-202 <sup>(8)</sup>	$\pm 25\%$	$>85\%$	For NATTS Tier I, see NATTS TAD Table 4.1-1 Others, see Table 11-16
Hexavalent Chromium	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	$\leq 20\%$ for conc. $> 5x \text{ MDL}$	$\leq 20\%$	Neighborhood	IC-UV Detector ASTM D7614-12 <sup>(9)</sup>	$\pm 25\%$	$>85\%$	0.0038 ng/m <sup>3</sup>

\*For NATTS Tier 1 compounds, minimum detection limits are listed in the NATTS TAD.



**Table 4-1**  
**Measurement Quality Objectives for the National Program (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, NMOC) (Continued)**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Reporting Units</b>	<b>Precision from analysis of Replicate Samples (RPD)</b>	<b>Precision (CV) from collection of Duplicate/Collocate Samples</b>	<b>Representativeness</b>	<b>Comparability/ Based on Method</b>	<b>Bias</b>	<b>Completeness</b>	<b>Minimum Detection Limits</b>
Semivolatiles	micro-gram/m <sup>3</sup> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	≤ 10% for conc. ≥ 0.5 µg/mL	For NATTS Tier I compounds, ≤15%, others ≤ 20% for conc. ≥ 0.5 µg/mL	Neighborhood	GC/MS EPA Compendium Method TO-13A <sup>(10)</sup> and ASTM D6209-13 <sup>(12)</sup> , (or SW-846 Method 8270D <sup>(11)</sup> )	± 25%	>85%	For NATTS Tier I, see NATTS TAD Table 4.1-1 Others, see Table 11-15
PCB/ Pesticides	ng/m <sup>3</sup>	≤ 15%	≤ 15%	Neighborhood	GC EPA Compendium Method TO-4A <sup>(13)</sup>	± 25%	>85%	To be determined upon need
Anions	ppbv	≤ 15%	≤ 15%	Neighborhood	IC NIOSH Method 7903 <sup>(14)</sup>	± 25%	>85%	To be determined upon need
VOCs via cartridge	ppbv	≤ 15%	≤ 15%	Neighborhood	GC/MS EPA Compendium Method TO-17 <sup>(15)</sup>	± 25%	>85%	To be determined upon need
Diisocyanates	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	≤ 15%	≤ 15%	Neighborhood	HPLC OSHA Method 42 <sup>(16)</sup>	± 25%	>85%	To be determined upon need
4,4'-Methylene-dianiline	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	≤ 15%	≤ 15%	Neighborhood	HPLC NIOSH Method 5029 <sup>(17)</sup>	± 25%	>85%	To be determined upon need

\*For NATTS Tier 1 compounds, minimum detection limits are listed in the NATTS TAD.

## **SECTION 5**

### **SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS/CERTIFICATION**

The activities of EPA's NMP are performed using accepted EPA, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sampling and analytical protocols for the field sampling training personnel and analytical laboratory staff.

#### **5.1 Field Activities Training Personnel**

Field activities training personnel involved in this project have over 30 years of experience in the duties they will be performing in the field. The training of ERG field activities personnel is recorded in the ERG Training Records files. Special certification is not needed for an operator to set up the sampling systems. Each State should document and record the training of their personnel on the field testing procedures provided by ERG.

The States' field testing staff will be subject to on-site surveillance by EPA. ERG's Task Leader will provide appropriate corrective action enforcement, if necessary, for the ERG personnel setting up the sampling equipment and the field testing staff. ERG provides on-the-job training in the field on sampler use and maintenance, for supervisors and field site operators. The appropriate SOPs used during training are presented in Appendix D. ERG does not provide SOPs for sampling systems that are not maintained by ERG. Sampling System Training forms used during operator training in the field is presented in Figure 7.2 for VOC/Carbonyl and Carbonyl samplers. The forms will only be provided when new site personnel are trained on the sampling systems. After training is completed and signed in the field, the yellow copy is retained for site records. The original copy is scanned in the laboratory and stored by the QA coordinator.

The sampling equipment for monitoring sites may be inside a sampling building or outside. There are no hazards inherent to the samplers and no special safety training or equipment will be required. Site hazards should be addressed on a site-by-site basis by the site

operator's SOPs. All ERG field activities training personnel will follow the ERG Corporate Health and Safety Plan.

## **5.2 Analytical Laboratory Personnel**

Analytical laboratory personnel involved in this project have been trained in their tasks and have up to 30 years of experience in the duties they will be performing in the analytical laboratory. Training of ERG laboratory personnel is recorded in ERG Training Records in an Excel® database and filed as a hardcopy. It is the responsibility of the trainee and the laboratory's Project Administrator to keep the Training Records up to date. It is the responsibility of the Program Manager and Quality Assurance Coordinator to approve analysis training records. Technical training and overview is provided to the analyst by the Task Leader for that analysis. Technical training includes general techniques and specific training based on the appropriate SOP, method, and program QAPP. The trainee first observes the task, then performs the task under supervision of the trainer, then performs the task under supervision of the Task Lead (if the Task Lead is not the trainer). After training, demonstration of each personnel's ability to perform an analytical task involves repeated measurements of a standard, which is described in more detail in each analytical SOP. Currently, no special certifications are needed for the analysis of the ambient samples received for these programs.

ERG maintains appropriate SOPs for each of the analytical methods. These SOPs are presented in Appendix D. All SOPs document equipment and/or procedures required to perform each specific laboratory activity. Laboratory staff will be subject to on-site surveillance by the QA staff and periodic performance evaluation (PE) samples. These audits will assure the program that the appropriate analysts and analytical procedures are being used. The samples involved in this program are generated by monitoring air emissions. Health and Safety training is performed annually. The laboratory personnel will adhere to the ERG Corporate Health and Safety manual.

## **SECTION 6**

### **DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS**

The EPA NMP are a collection of individual ambient monitoring programs that generate documents and records that need to be retained/archived. All ERG staff working on this contract are provided access to a current electronic copy of this signed, EPA approved QAPP. Annually, the staff is required to sign a form to document that they read and understood the QAPP. In this QAPP, ERG's reporting package (information required to support the analytical results) includes all data required to be collected as well as support data deemed important by ERG/EPA.

#### **6.1 Data Management**

ERG has a structured records management system that allows for the efficient archive and retrieval of records. Each laboratory archives the data from the computer systems onto the shared network drive. The laboratory paper copies of all analyses are stored on site in a secured temperature-controlled area for up to five years after the close of the contract. The laboratory also archives the data in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data server which is backed up weekly, monthly, and biannually. The Program Manager has final authority for the storage, access to, and final disposal of all records kept for the EPA NMP.

#### **6.2 Preliminary Monthly Data Reports**

Preliminary monthly summary data reports are sent in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) and Excel formats to EPA and appropriate State/Local/Tribal agencies. The monthly data reports will include analytical results, associated MDL, final units, associated QC samples, and data qualifiers.

### **6.3 Quarterly QA Report**

A QA report for each type of data analysis is sent to EPA and appropriate State/Local/Tribal agencies on a quarterly basis in the form of control charts including initial calibration verifications, continuing calibration verifications, method blanks, initial calibration blanks, continuing calibration blanks, and blank spikes.

### **6.4 Annual Summary Reports Submitted to EPA**

Final reports are presented to EPA contacts at the end of the sampling period. State/Local/Tribal agencies receive electronic copies (i.e., PDF). The final report is submitted for the data collected from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year. The report can contain the following information:

- Names of participating sites and corresponding metadata information, including city name, location and the AQS codes;
- Description of the sampling and analytical methodologies used by the laboratory;
- Completeness of the monitoring effort for each site;
- Background information on the methodology used to present and analyze the data;
- General combined and individual site summary of the year's results;
- Discussion of different trends for the select HAPs chosen for analysis;
- Risk screening evaluations using toxicity factors (e.g., UREs or RfCs);
- Variability analysis (intra-site and seasonal comparisons);
- Pollution roses to determine predominant direction for select compounds;
- Discussion of precision and accuracy and other prevalent QC concerns; and
- Yearly discussions of conclusions and recommendations.

If corrections are needed after the final report is presented to EPA, the report is retrieved, and corrections are sent to all relevant personnel.

## 6.5 Records and Supporting Data

All raw data required for the calculation of air toxics concentrations, submission to the EPA/AQS database, and QA/QC data are collected electronically or on data forms that are included in the field and analytical methods sections. All hardcopy information is filled out in indelible ink. Corrections are made by inserting one line through the incorrect entry, initialing the correction (ERG maintains a signature log), and placing the correct entry alongside the incorrect entry, if this can be accomplished legibly, or by providing the information on a new line. Table 6-1 presents the location of the data records for field and laboratory operations stored at the ERG laboratory.

**Table 6-1. Data Documentation and Records**

Item	Record	Short Term Location Storage	Long Term Location Storage
<b>Field Operations</b>			
Sampling System Training	Sampling System Training Form	ERG	Copy scanned and hardcopy stored by ERG
COC	ERG COCs	Field gets “pink” copy, ERG gets “yellow” and “white” copy	Copy scanned and stored on ERG LIMS
QC Sample Records (field blanks, duplicate/ collocated, sample integrity, etc.)	COC	Field	Copy scanned and stored on ERG LIMS
General Field Procedures	COC	Field	Copy scanned and stored on ERG LIMS
<b>Laboratory Records</b>			
Sample Prep Data	Bench sheets	Hardcopy filed, LIMS, shared network drive	Hardcopy archived, LIMS, shared network drive

**Table 6-1. Data Documentation and Records, Continued**

Item	Record	Short Term Location Storage	Long Term Location Storage
<b>Laboratory Operations</b>			
Sample Management Records (sample receipt, handling, storage, etc.)	COCs	LIMS, with sample analytical data	LIMS, with sample analytical data
Test Methods	SOPs	Hardcopy filed, shared network drive	Shared network drive
QA/QC Reports (General QC records, MDL information, calibration, etc.)	Individual records for each analysis	Hardcopy filed, shared network drive	Hardcopy archived, shared network drive
Corrective Action Reports	Individual records for each analysis	Hardcopy filed, a copy in data package if appropriate	All copies archived
<b>Data Reduction, Verification, and Validation</b>			
Electronic Data (used for reporting and AQS)	Excel® and Access®	Shared network drive	Shared network drive

#### 6.5.1 Notebooks

ERG issues laboratory notebooks upon request. These notebooks are uniquely numbered and associated with the laboratory personnel. Notebooks are archived upon completion for at least 5 years from the end of a project. Although LIMS data entry forms are associated with all routine environmental data operations, the notebooks can be used to record additional information about these operations. The procedures for maintaining notebooks are presented in *SOP for Maintaining Laboratory Notebooks* (ERG-MOR-039) in Appendix D.

**Field Notebooks** - Field notebooks are the responsibility of EPA, States, Local or Tribal agencies as ERG is not responsible for the collection of samples.

**Laboratory Notebooks** - Notebooks are associated with general procedures such as calibration of analytical balances, standard preparation logs, etc., used in this program.



Logbooks are generated and bound by the laboratory's Project Administrator for procedures such refrigerator/freezer temperatures, canister cleaning, etc. Logbook pages have a unique version identifier. Upon completion, logbooks are archived indefinitely, at a minimum at least 5 years from the end of a project.

#### 6.5.2 Electronic Data Collection

To reduce the potential for data entry errors, automated systems are utilized (where appropriate) and record the same information that is found on data entry forms. In order to provide a back-up, hardcopy data collected on an automated system will be stored for 5 years after the end of the closed EPA NMP contract.

### 6.6 **Data Reporting Package Archiving and Retrieval**

In general, all the information listed above will be retained for at least 5 years from the date of the end of the closed contract with EPA. However, if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving the records has been started before the expiration of the 5-year period, the records will be retained until completion of the action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular 5-year period, whichever is later. The long-term storage is on-site in a locked climate-controlled file room with limited-access. The Project Administrator keeps a record of documents entering and leaving long-term storage. Access to the facility storage area is limited to authorized personnel only.

### 6.7 **Quality System Document Control**

To ensure the use of the most current version of quality system documents, all quality documents (QAPP, SOPs, etc.) generated at the ERG Laboratory must be uniquely identified. Original documents shall include the date of issue, revision number, page number, the total number of pages, and appropriate signatures. Copies of quality documents shall be controlled and include a copy control number. When an original quality document is updated, the QA

Coordinator or designee will ensure that the copy documents are also updated, and old versions are destroyed. During the project, revised QAPPs will be circulated to appropriate EPA personnel and ERG's laboratory staff. For copies of documents out of the laboratory's control, a stamp or watermark stating "Uncontrolled" or "Draft", if applicable, will be applied. Each approved QAPP will be posted on EPA's Ambient Air Monitoring Technical Information Centers (AMTIC) Website without the associated SOPs.

## **MEASUREMENT DATA ACQUISITION**

### **SECTION 7**

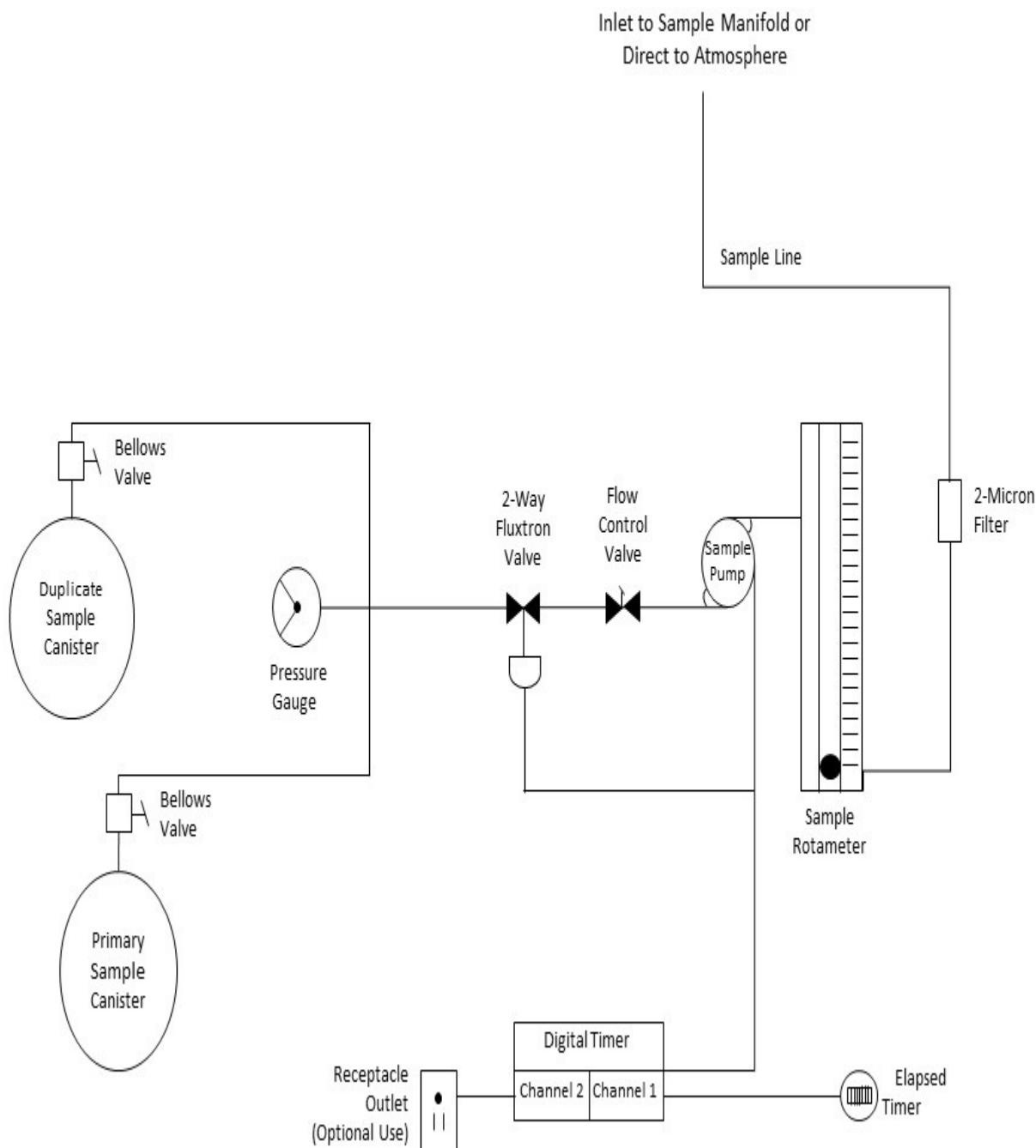
#### **SAMPLING PROCESS DESIGN**

Sampling procedures for the NMOC, SNMOC, UATMP, NATTS, and CSATAM programs are discussed in this section. ERG provides site-specific support for the PAMS and HAPs sampling. All parameters listed in this section are necessary for the sampling systems listed below. ERG is not responsible for the collection of samples nor the design of these programs.

#### **7.1 NMOC and SNMOC Canister Samplers**

Sampling for NMOC and SNMOC takes place each workday from the beginning of June to the end of September at designated NMOC and SNMOC sites from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. local time. Sampling procedures have been discussed in detail in other documents. <sup>(1, 2)</sup> Figure 7-1 is a diagram of the ERG sampling system used for collecting the ambient air samples. Clean, evacuated passivated stainless-steel canisters are shipped daily from ERG's Research Triangle Park (RTP) Laboratory to the NMOC and SNMOC sites. Canisters are connected to the sampling system by local operators. The digital timer automatically activates the pump and solenoid valve to start and stop sample collection. The pump pressurizes air samples during the sampling period to about 15 pounds per square inch gauge (psig), and the flow control valve (variable orifice) ensures a constant sampling rate over the 3-hour period. A 2-micron stainless steel filter is installed in the sampling line to remove particulate from the ambient air that may damage or plug the variable orifice. The sample probe inlet is positioned from 2 to 10 meters (m) above ground level.

ERG installs the sampling systems at the site location and trains associated local operators on site. Operator training is documented on the Sampler Training Form (Figure 7-2). It is the responsibility of the local operators to operate the sampling apparatus and complete the field sample COC form that ERG supplies with each canister. ERG staff maintain telephone



**Figure 7-1. NMO, SNMO, and 3-Hour Air Toxics Sampling System Components**

## VOC/Carbonyl Sampling System Training

3-2018

Installation Date: _____	Trainer: _____
Site ID: _____	Copy of SOP on Site: <u>(Y/N)</u>
Installed Sampler ID #: _____	Replaced Sampler ID #: _____
Time Set: _____	Carb Line Replaced: <u>(Y/N)</u>
Timer Set: _____	VOC Line Replaced: <u>(Y/N)</u>

Trainee:	Signature:	Date:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### NOTES:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*ERG assumes no personal and/or property liability realized by the user from the use of ERG provided equipment. The user, by virtue of accepting the ERG equipment for use, undertakes any/all personal and/or property liabilities that could be associated with its use (including operational, housing, and/or safety).*

**Figure 7-2. VOC/Carbonyl Sampler Training Form**

and/or email contact throughout the project to provide whatever assistance is needed to resolve technical issues that arise during the sampling program.

For a 3-hour ambient air sample, NMOC, SNMOC, and VOC measurements may all be performed from the same canister. Refer to Section 7.2 for sampler certification.

## **7.2 VOC and Carbonyl 24-Hour Samplers**

ERG provides the sites with a sampling schedule each year. A total of 31 sampling days will be scheduled per site for a 12-day sampling schedule and 61 sampling days for the 6-day sampling schedule. Days for duplicate (or collocated) sampling will also be designated. The 2019 Sampling calendar is presented in Appendix B.

Prior to installation of an ERG sampler at a UATMP, NATTS or CSATAM site, the sampler is certified at the ERG laboratory. Certification establishes that the system is functioning correctly and provides for the appropriate level of specified compound recovery and cleanliness. To certify the sampling system, cleaned, humidified nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) is first flushed through the sampler for at least 24 hours to remove the potential for organic contaminants in the system. The canister sub-system of the samplers is then challenged with a mixture of representative VOCs at known concentrations to qualify the sampler recovery characteristics (as recommended in the NATTS TAD)<sup>(18)</sup>. A Sampling System Blank is then collected in canisters and on carbonyl cartridges and is analyzed based on EPA Compendium Method TO-15<sup>(4)</sup> and Method TO-11A<sup>(5)</sup> to verify that the system meets the required cleanliness criteria and can produce non-biased samples (as required by the NATTS TAD<sup>(18)</sup>). These results are documented in a file specific to each sampler by system identification number. The certification procedures are presented in *SOP for Canister Sampling System Certification Procedures* (ERG-MOR-030) and *SOP for Carbonyl System Certification Procedures* (ERG-MOR-100) in Appendix D.

Integrated ambient air samples are collected in 6-liter passivated stainless-steel canisters (SUMMA, Silonite<sup>®</sup>, TO-Can, etc.) and carbonyl cartridges for a 24-hour period beginning at

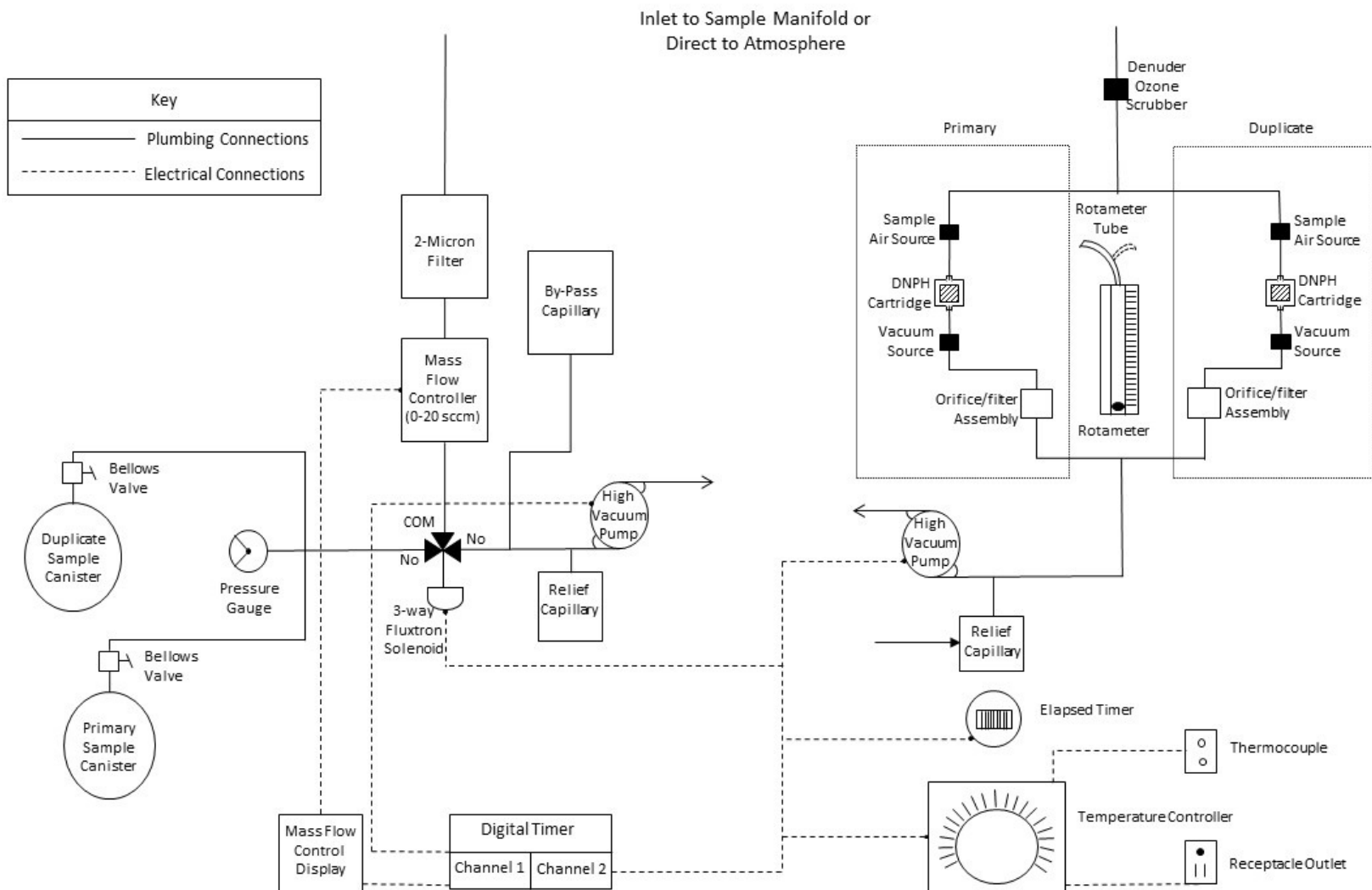
midnight for each scheduled sampling event. Carbonyl cartridges are shipped cold and the cleaned, quality-controlled canisters are shipped under vacuum to the site from the ERG laboratory. After sampling, the final pressure in the canister should ideally be between 2 to 8 inches of Mercury (“Hg) vacuum. The sampling assembly for the sample collection is shown in Figure 7-3.

The physical mechanism for filling the canister is vacuum displacement. The vacuum pump shown in Figure 7-3 is used to purge the mass flow controller and the sample inlet lines. A second vacuum pump is used to draw ambient air through the carbonyl sampling probe and cartridges. Ozone is removed from the sample stream prior to collection on the 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) sampling cartridge. To accomplish O<sub>3</sub> removal, the sample stream (ambient air) is drawn through a potassium iodide-coated denuder O<sub>3</sub> scrubber which is an internally integrated component of the sampler. Carbonyl sampling can occur at sites at the same time as the canister samples are taken or on separate samplers.

### **7.3 Carbonyl Only 24-Hour Samplers**

Carbonyl samples are collected using DNPH-impregnated sampling cartridges with an integrated sampling system (e.g., vacuum pump, capillary critical orifices, and O<sub>3</sub> scrubbers), shown in Figure 7-4. Ambient air is drawn through the cartridges via a separate sampling probe. A potassium iodide-coated denuder O<sub>3</sub> scrubber is an internally integrated component of the sampler that removes O<sub>3</sub> from the sample stream prior to the DNPH sampling cartridge.

Prior to installation of an ERG sampler at a UATMP, NATTS or CSATAM site, the sampler is certified at the ERG laboratory. Certification establishes that the system is functioning correctly and provides for the appropriate level of cleanliness. To certify the sampling system, cleaned, humidified N<sub>2</sub> is first flushed through the sampler for at least 12 hours to remove the potential contaminants from the system. A Sampling System Blank and a reference blank are then collected on carbonyl cartridges and are analyzed based on EPA



**Figure 7-3. 24-Hour Integrated Air Toxics Sampling System Components**



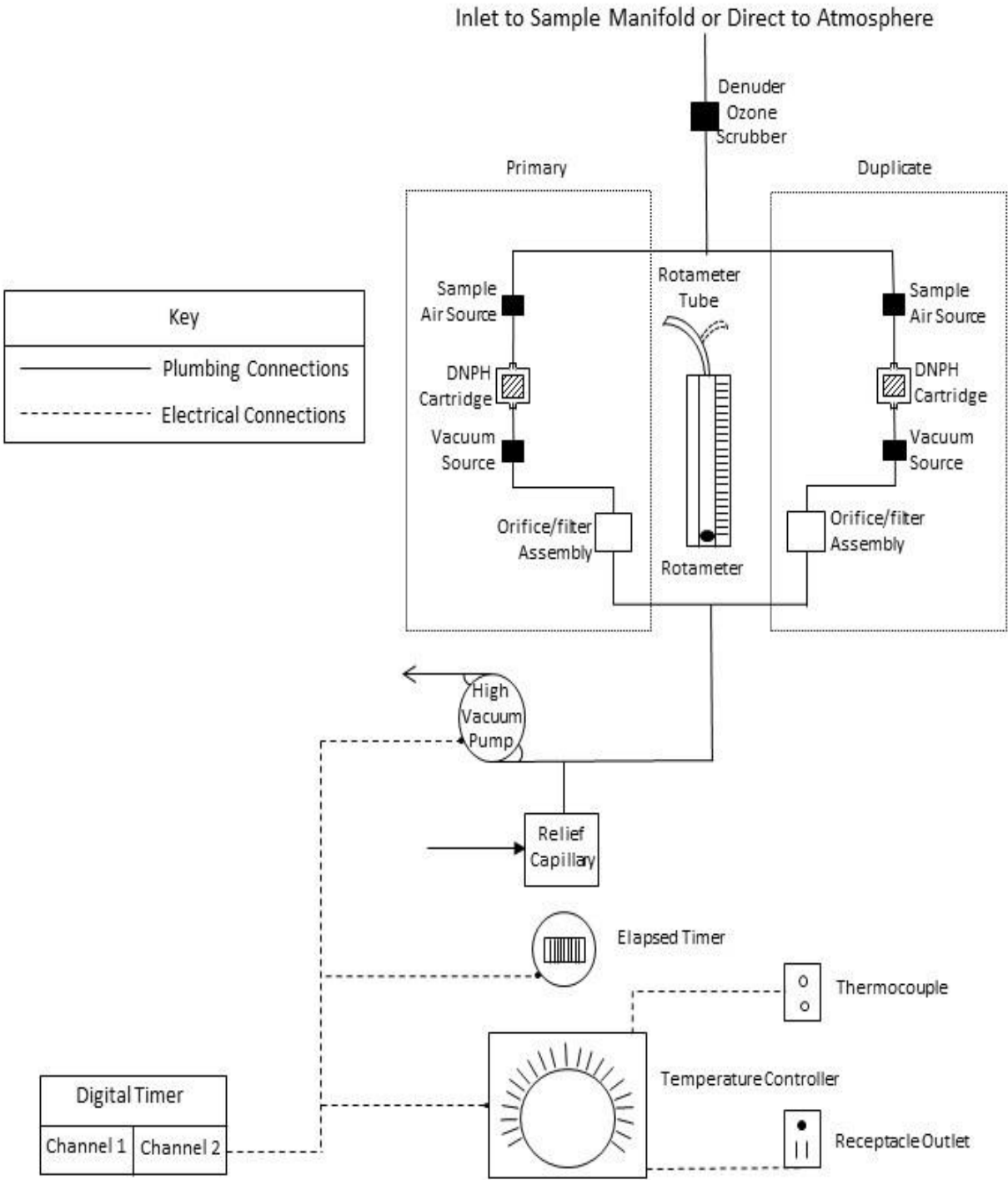


Figure 7- 4. Carbonyl Sampling System Components

Compendium Method TO-11A<sup>(5)</sup> to verify that the system meets the required cleanliness criteria and can produce non-biased samples as required by the NATTS TAD<sup>(18)</sup>. These results are documented in a permanent file specific to each sampler by system identification number. The certification procedure is presented in the *SOP for Carbonyl Sampling System Certification* (ERG-MOR-100) in Appendix D.

A total of 31 sampling cartridges for a 12-day sampling schedule and 61 sampling cartridges for a 6-day sampling schedule will be collected and analyzed per site. Duplicate (or collocated) samples and field blanks will be collected monthly and are designated in the 2019 Sampling calendar presented in Appendix B.

#### **7.4 Hexavalent Chromium Samplers**

Sodium bicarbonate-impregnated cellulose filters are connected to the Hexavalent Chromium sampler as shown in Figure 7-5 and ambient air is drawn through the filters through a glass sampling probe using Teflon sampling lines. Prepared filters are shipped to each site for the hexavalent chromium sampling. ERG ships the bicarbonate-impregnated sodium cellulose filters to each site in coolers (chilled with blue ice packs). The samples are collected for a 24-hour period. Disposable polyethylene gloves are used by the field operators when handling the filters to reduce background contamination. After sampling, the filters are removed from the sampling apparatus, sealed, and returned to the ERG laboratory in the coolers and ice packs in which they were received. Additional qualifying information for the hexavalent chromium sampling and analysis techniques is presented in the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D7614-12<sup>(9)</sup> method and specific details are provided in ERG's *SOP for the Preparation and Analysis of Ambient Air for Hexavalent Chromium by Ion Chromatography* (ERG-MOR-063) presented in Appendix D.

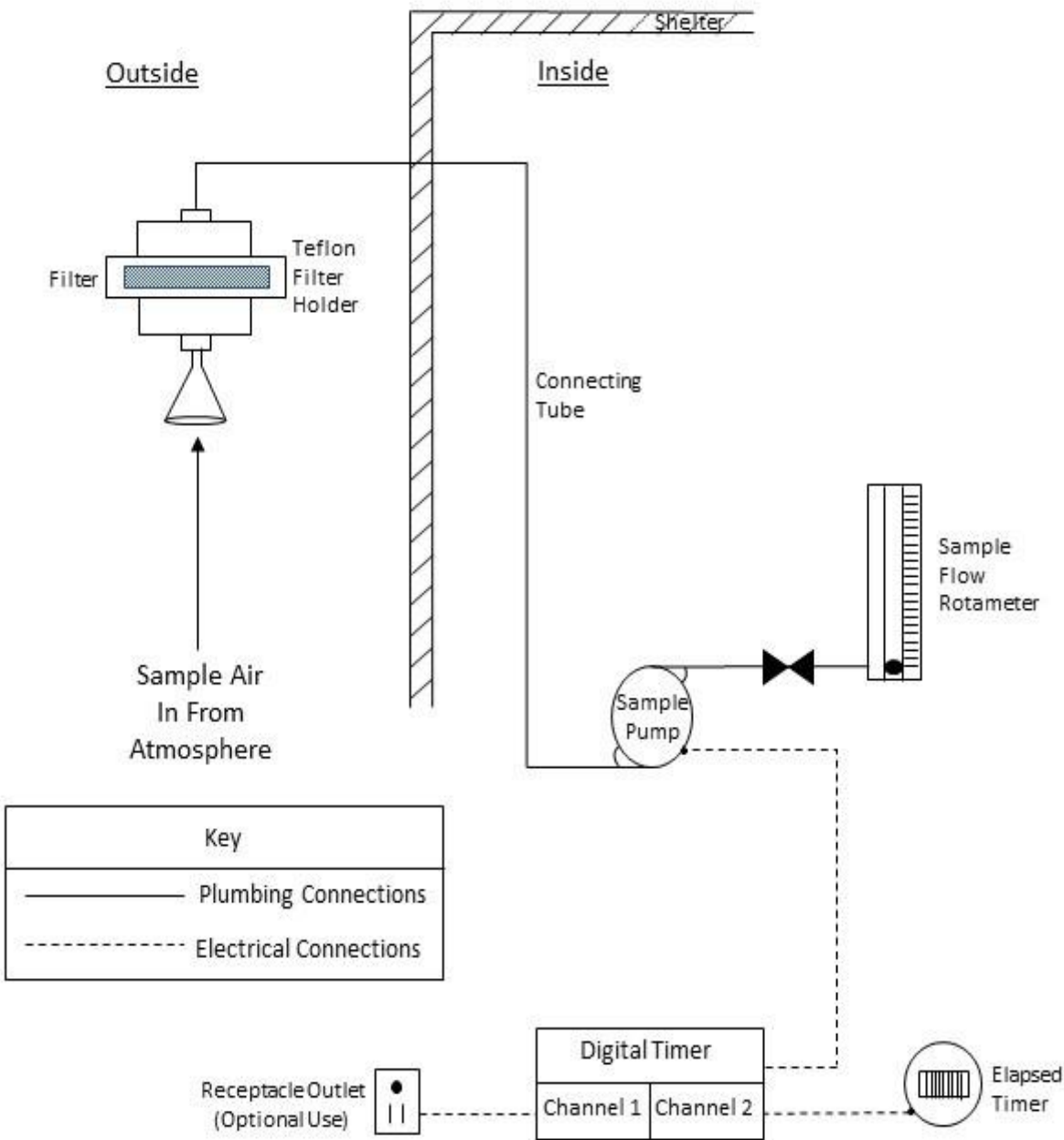


Figure 7-5. Hexavalent Chromium Sampling System Components

## **7.5 PAMS Sampling**

PAMS sampling is performed completely by the PAMS sites in accordance with the Ozone Precursors TAD<sup>(2)</sup> with ERG only supplying support as requested (e.g., sampling system and training for automated gas chromatograph (GC) systems). ERG ships cleaned canisters and prepared carbonyl cartridges to the PAMS sites on the appropriate schedule to support the sampling program, and the samples are shipped to the ERG laboratory for analysis. The need for support of automated GC systems is site specific.

## **7.6 HAPs Sampling**

HAPs sampling is performed by the sites in accordance with the methods listed in Table 3-1, with the exception of hexavalent chromium sampling (see Section 7.4). ERG provides the hexavalent chromium sampling systems and media and receives the samples from the sites for analysis.

## SECTION 8

### SAMPLING METHOD REQUIREMENTS

The sampling methods that are used in this program are described in this Section. Since there are four separate sampling systems and subsequently four separate analytical techniques, each of the sampling methods is different.

The SOPs for each method are reviewed annually and updated as necessary. The QA Coordinator, Program Manager and Writer/Editor will review, sign and date SOPs before distributing to the laboratories satellite file areas. The previous copies will be replaced with the revised edition. The appropriate users are notified of the updated procedure. The original, and all previously revised edits, are stored in an archive file maintained by ERG's Project Administrator.

As ERG is not responsible for actual execution of the field sampling in this program, the ERG SOPs list general sampling guidelines needed for the NMOC, UATMP, Carbonyl, and Hexavalent Chromium sampling. Table 8-1 identifies the different methods and SOP numbers for operation of each type of sampler ERG provides. Some HAPs sampling is not addressed in the NMP Support contract (Metals, PAHs, etc.), and are not discussed in this QAPP.

**Table 8-1**  
**EPA Methods and ERG SOPs for each Sampling System**

<b>Sampling System</b>	<b>Based on Applicable Method</b>	<b>ERG SOP Number</b>
NMOC	EPA Compendium Method TO-12 <sup>(3)</sup>	ERG-MOR-046
VOC	EPA Compendium Method TO-15 <sup>(4)</sup>	ERG-MOR-003
Carbonyl	EPA Compendium Method TO-11A <sup>(5)</sup>	ERG-MOR-047
Hexavalent Chromium	ASTM D7614-12 Method <sup>(9)</sup>	ERG-MOR-013

## SECTION 9

### SAMPLE HANDLING AND CUSTODY REQUIREMENTS


Similar sample custody procedures are followed for all monitoring programs. However, program-specific differences exist because the analytical requirements for the programs vary. As these activities are conducted under one EPA contract, United Parcel Service of America (UPS) with Overnight Delivery will handle all shipping to and from the sites. Unless specified below, samples taken in the field should not require any extra special precautions for shipping.

The Shipping and Receiving Task Leader will ensure that sample media that leaves and field samples that are received in the laboratory follow all procedures listed in this QAPP and the individual SOPs. The Task Leader will also advise the Project Manager of any issues or obstacles regarding sample shipping, receipt, login and storage. The sample custodian working under the Shipping and Receiving Task Leader will ship sample media to the field and receive custody of samples, complete COC receipt information, document sample receipt, and enter COC information into LIMS to create a work order.

#### **9.1 Canister Sample Custody**

##### **9.1.1 Canister Custody**

A color-coded, three-copy canister sample COC form (Figures 9-1 and 9-2) is shipped with each 6-liter canister for the NMOC, SNMOC, UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, or PAMS sites. If duplicate or collocated samples are to be taken, two canisters and two COC forms are sent in the shipping container(s) to the site. When a sample is collected, the site operator fills out the form per the instructions in the on-site notebook. The site operator detaches the pink copy to be retained on-site and sends the remaining copies with the canister in the shipping container to ERG's laboratory.

		ERG Lab ID # <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 150px; height: 20px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>	
601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560			
<b>NMOC SAMPLE CHAIN OF CUSTODY</b>			
<b>Lab Pre-Sampling</b>	Site Code: _____ City/State: _____ AQS Code: _____ Collection Date: _____		Canister Number: _____ Lab Initial Can. Press. ("Hg): _____ Date Can. Cleaned: _____ Cleaning Batch # : _____
	<b>Options</b> NMOC (Y/N): _____ SNMOC (Y/N): _____ TOXICS (Y/N): _____		Duplicate Event (Y/N): _____ Duplicate Can # : _____
	<b>Field Setup</b> Operator: _____ Sys. #: _____ Setup Date: _____ Field Initial Can. Press. ("Hg): _____		Rotameter Setting: _____ Elapsed Timer Reset (Y/N): _____ Canister Valve Opened (Y/N): _____
	<b>Field Recovery</b> Recovery Date: _____ Field Final Can. Press. (psig): _____		Sample Duration (3 or 24 hr): _____ Elapsed Time: _____ Canister Valve Closed (Y/N): _____
<b>Lab Recovery</b>	Received by: _____ Date: _____ Status:   Valid       Void       (Circle one) If void, why: _____		Lab Final Can. Press. (psig): _____
	<b>NMOC</b> Analyst: _____ Database entry by: _____ Date: _____ Date: _____ Batch ID _____ NMOC Instrument: _____ Inj. 1 (AC): _____ (ppmC): _____ Inj. 2 (AC): _____ (ppmC): _____ Inj. 3 (AC): _____ (ppmC): _____ Average AC: _____ Standard Dev. (AC): _____ Average Conc. (ppmC): _____ Standard Dev. (ppmC): _____		
<b>SNMOC Option</b>	Analyst: _____ Date: _____ Batch ID _____		
<b>Toxics Option</b>	Analyst: _____ Date: _____ Batch ID _____		


Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

**Figure 9-1. Example NMOC COC**

		<div>ERG Lab ID #</div>	
601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560			
<b>AIR TOXICS SAMPLE CHAIN OF CUSTODY</b>			
<b>Lab Pre-Sampling</b>	Site Code: _____		Canister Number: _____
	City/State: _____		Lab Initial Can. Press. ("Hg): _____
	AQS Code: _____		Cleaning Batch #: _____
	Collection Date: _____		Date Can. Cleaned: _____
	Options:		
	SNMOC (Y/N): _____		Duplicate Event (Y/N): _____
	TOXICS (Y/N): _____		Duplicate Can #: _____
	METHANE (Y/N): _____		
Relinquished by: _____		Date: _____	
<b>Field Setup</b>	Received by: _____		Date: _____
	Operator: _____		MFC Setting: _____
	System #: _____		Elapsed Timer Reset (Y/N): _____
	Setup Date: _____		Canister Valve Opened (Y/N): _____
	Field Initial Can. Press.: _____ psig psia "Hg (Circle one)		
<b>Field Recovery</b>	Recovery Date: _____		Sample Duration (3 or 24 hr): _____
	Operator: _____		Elapsed Time: _____
	Field Final Can. Press.: _____ psig psia "Hg (Circle one)		
	Status: <b>VALID</b> <b>VOID</b> (Circle one)		Canister Valve Closed (Y/N): _____
	Relinquished by: _____		Date: _____
<b>Lab Recovery</b>	Received by: _____		Date: _____
	Lab Final Can. Press.: _____ psig "Hg (Circle one)    Converted to psia: _____		
	Status: <b>VALID</b> <b>VOID</b> (Circle one)		Gauge: <b>1</b> <b>2</b> (Circle one)
	If void, why: _____		
<i>Samples stored in Air Tox Lab (Room 130)</i>			

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

**Figure 9-2. Example Air Toxics COC**



Upon receipt, the sample canister vacuum/pressure is measured and compared against the field documented vacuum/pressure to ensure the canister remained airtight during transport. If the receiving vacuum differs from the field vacuum more than 3“Hg, the program manager is notified, and sample canister may be voided. Because there are potential differences in barometric pressures and temperatures between the sampling site and the receiving laboratory (such as those sites at high altitudes), and different accuracies for different types of pressure gauges, there can be a consistent difference in final field pressure and lab receipt pressure for canister samples. This difference and other parameters are considered to determine the validity of the canister samples. These are monitored daily and the pressures are logged into an Excel spreadsheet. This allows the laboratory the ability to determine if the difference is due to gauges or if the canister leaked en route. A sample of the spreadsheet is presented in Table 9-1.

**Table 9-1**  
**Example of Canister Pressure Check Spreadsheet**

<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Field Pressure Reading</b>	<b>Lab Pressure Reading</b>	<b>Difference</b>
8/30/18	NBIL	2 “Hg	6 “Hg	4 “Hg
9/7/18	NBIL	1 “Hg	4 “Hg	3 “Hg
9/14/18	NBIL	3 “Hg	7 “Hg	4“Hg
9/16/18	NBIL	4 “Hg	7 “Hg	3 “Hg
8/30/18	BLKY	5 “Hg	5 “Hg	0 “Hg
9/7/18	BLKY	5 “Hg	3.5 “Hg	1.5 “Hg
9/13/18	BLKY	5 “Hg	5 “Hg	0 “Hg
9/16/18	BLKY	5 “Hg	4 “Hg	1 “Hg

The canister should be cleaned no more than 30 days before sampling. If the canister is older than 30 days, a note will be made in LIMS and a flag will be added to the sample results in AQS. More detailed sample receipt procedures and sample acceptance policies are presented in the *SOP for Sample Receipt at the ERG Chemistry Laboratory*, ERG-MOR-045 in Appendix D. The sample specific information from the COC is then entered into LIMS (example login page is shown in Figure 9-3) following the *SOP for Sample Login to the Laboratory Information Management System*, ERG-MOR-079 found in Appendix D. The sample is given a unique LIMS

identification (ID) number and tagged (see Figure 9-4), noting the site location and the sample collection date.

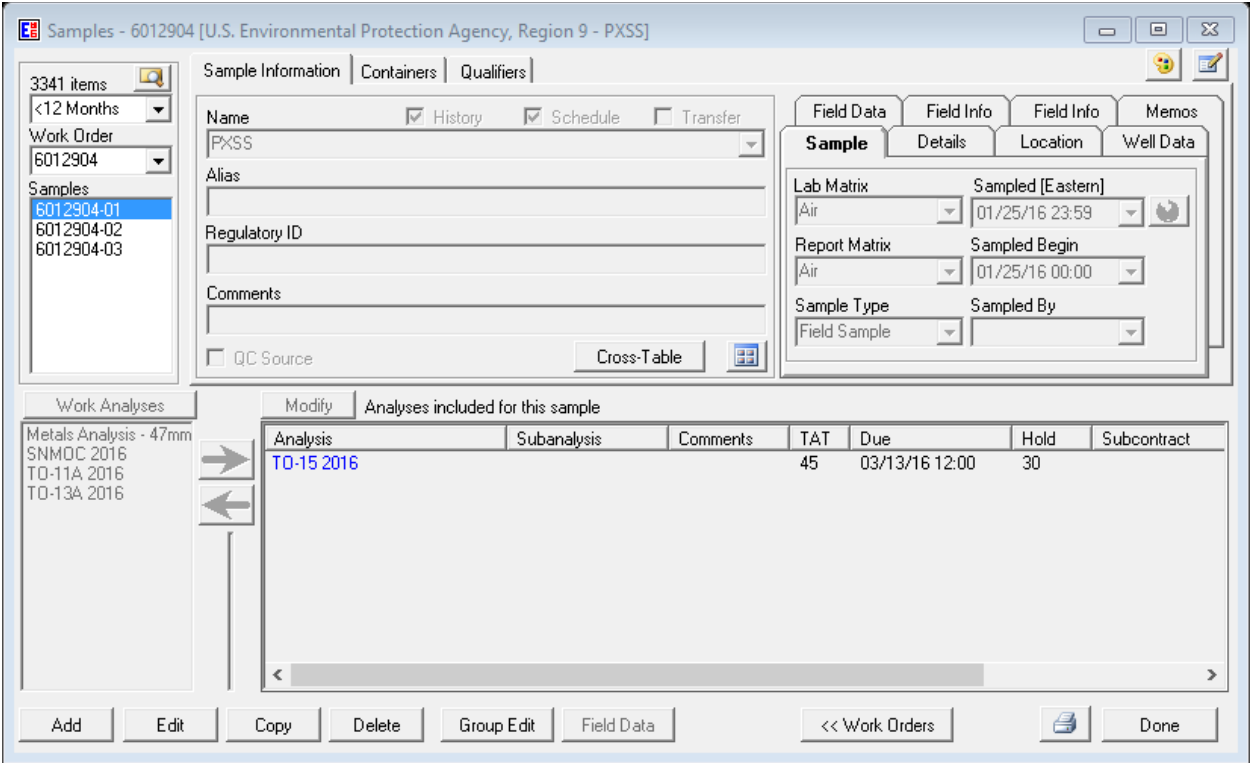


Figure 9-3. Example ERG LIMS Login Page

Analysis: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sample ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Sampled: \_\_\_\_\_  
Canister #: \_\_\_\_\_ Press/Vac: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site: \_\_\_\_\_ Dup/Rep: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

Figure 9-4. Canister Tag

The LIMS ID number is recorded on the canister tag and on all ERG copies of the COC. The remaining copies of the canister sample COC are separated. The white copy is scanned (the

PDF is stored in the LIMS system) and is kept with the canister sample until analysis is complete. After sample analysis, the white copy goes into the data package with the sample data. The yellow copy is stored chronologically in a designated file cabinet for one year. The file cabinet is in Room 102 in the Laboratory building.

#### 9.1.2 Canister Analytical Routing Schedule

Each canister has a unique canister identification number inscribed on the canister. This number is used during can cleaning, field collection, laboratory receipt, and laboratory sample analysis and is included on the individual Toxics/SNMOC COCs and entered into the LIMS.

The canister sample analysis hold time is 30 days from the sampling date. The samples are sent to the ERG Air Toxics Laboratory for VOC and SNMOC/PAMS GC/Flame Ionization Detector/Mass Spectrometer (FID/MS) analysis. The canister sample is analyzed and kept in the laboratory until after the analyst reviews the relevant analytical data.

#### 9.1.3 Canister Cleanup

All canisters are cleaned prior to reuse following SOP ERG-MOR-105 (*SOP for Sample Canister Cleaning using Wasson TO-Clean Automated System*) as shown in Appendix D. The canisters are cleaned using the procedure described in Section 10.1.1. The unheated system (following SOP ERG-MOR-062, *SOP for Sample Canister Cleaning*) is maintained as a backup, if needed, and is described in Section 10.1.2. The canisters are cleaned to <3x MDL or 0.2 parts per billion by volume (ppbV), whichever is lower, and 20 parts per billion as Carbon (ppbC) for Total SNMOC. If the canister fails the Blank criteria, it is returned to the cleaning system bank with the other canisters that were cleaned along with it and all canisters are put through an additional Vacuum and Pressure cycle. The same canister is analyzed again. All canisters, whether used for NMOC, SNMOC, UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, or PAMS, are cleaned by the same procedure and are entered into the canister cleanup log, shown in Figure 9-5 for the heated systems and in Figure 9-6 for the unheated systems.

Heated Canister Cleaning Systems Logbook

2016-2

Upper

Rear

Front

Lower

Rear

Front

Batch ID

Cleaning Date

Initials

Program

Oven Temperature (°C)

Leak Check

Pass

Fail

Extra Cycle Date

Final Evac Date

Upper

Rear

Front

Lower

Rear

Front

Batch ID

Cleaning Date

Initials

Program

Oven Temperature (°C)

Leak Check

Pass

Fail

Extra Cycle Date

Final Evac Date

Review Initials & Date

L:\Forms\Canister cleaning\Wasson Can Cleaning system log v2.xlsx

Figure 9-5. Canister Cleanup Log for the ERG Heated Cleaning System

**Figure 9-6. Canister Cleanup Log for the ERG Unheated Cleanup System**


## 9.2 Carbonyl Sample Custody

Figure 9-7 shows the color-coded, three-copy COC form used for all carbonyl sampling documentation. A COC is shipped to the site with the carbonyl cartridges. After sampling, the COC form is completed by the site operator and the pink copy is retained for site records. The carbonyl sample cartridges and remaining COC copies are shipped to ERG's analytical laboratory.

When samples are received, they are logged into the LIMS database and given a unique LIMS ID number following the *SOP for Sample Login to the Laboratory Information Management System*, SOP ERG-MOR-079, found in Appendix D. The remaining copies of the COC are separated. The white copy of the COC is scanned (the PDF is stored in the LIMS system) and is labeled with the LIMS ID number, site code, sampling date, individual sample designations, and date of receipt and initials of receiving personnel and put into a bag. The sample bag is stored in a refrigerator designated for carbonyl samples only. The yellow copy is stored chronologically in a designated file cabinet for one year. The file cabinet is in Room 102 in the Laboratory building. More detailed sample receipt procedures and sample acceptance policies are presented in the *SOP for Sample Receipt at the ERG Chemistry Laboratory*, ERG-MOR-045.

### 9.2.1 Carbonyl Analytical Routing Schedule

The carbonyl cartridge samples are extracted within 14 days of the sampling day and analyzed within 30 days after extraction. The extracts are kept in the designated extract refrigerator until after the analyst and the Task Leader reviews all the relevant analytical data.



601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560

ERG Lab ID #

CARBONYL COMPOUNDS CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Lab Pre-Samp.

Site Code: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

AQS Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Relinquished by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cartridge Pouch #: \_\_\_\_\_

Collection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cartridge Lot #: \_\_\_\_\_

Duplicate Event (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

Field Setup

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Set-Up Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Sys. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Sampling Rotameter Reading (cc/min): \_\_\_\_\_

Elapsed Timer Reset (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

Field Recovery

Recovery Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Sampling Rotameter Reading (cc/min): \_\_\_\_\_

Cartridges Capped (Y/N): \_\_\_\_\_

Relinquished by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample Duration (3 or 24 hr): \_\_\_\_\_

Elapsed Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: **VALID** **VOID** (Circle one)

Lab Recovery

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: **VALID** **VOID** (Circle one)

If void, why: \_\_\_\_\_

Sample Volume (total Liters): \_\_\_\_\_

Uncorrected Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

Corrected Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_

IR Gun: **1** **2** (Circle one)

Samples stored in Refrigerator # 11

PAMS

Sample Date	Sample Time	Sample Duration	Sample Volume	Cartridge Lot #	Sample ID	Lab ID

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

Figure 9-7. Example Carbonyl Compounds COC

### 9.3 HAPs Sample Custody

Samples collected on prepared sample media (i.e., XAD-<sup>2</sup>®, Polyurethane Foam (PUF), hexavalent chromium filters, etc.) use supplied three-copy COC forms to document sample collection. Field testing personnel will record applicable collection data (such as time, date, location, meteorological parameters) on the appropriate COC forms (Figures 9-8, 9-9 and 9-10) and keep the pink copies for site records. The COCs are then shipped to ERG with the prepared sample media.


Because the sites supply the filters used for metal analysis, COC forms are normally supplied by the State, Local or Tribal agency for these samples. If needed, however, COC forms can be supplied by ERG electronically inputting multiple filters for metal analysis (Figure 9-11). Samples are received at ERG's laboratory as presented in the *SOP for Sample Receipt at ERG Chemistry Laboratory*, ERG-MOR-045.

All HAPs samples received at the ERG laboratory will be logged into the LIMS as described in the *SOP for Sample Login to the Laboratory Information Management System*, ERG-MOR-079.

### 9.4 Invalid Samples

The sample COC form may indicate that the sample sent from a site is invalid. The sample can be determined invalid at the site or in the laboratory. SOP ERG-MOR-045 describes the sample receiving procedure and sample acceptance. Individual sites will be contacted if there are any questions about the samples upon receipt. When a sample is designated as invalid, the assigned LIMS ID number is notated as a void and is invalidated on the individual respective COC form. Another sample media will be sent to the site with the COC designated to make up on non-standard sampling days. If the site has repeated invalid samples, normally three voids in a row, the ERG site coordinator Task Leader will work with the site personnel to diagnose and correct the problem. The sites will also be notified in the monthly analytical reports of any invalid samples.





601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560

ERG Lab ID # \_\_\_\_\_

### SVOC SAMPLE CHAIN OF CUSTODY

<b>Lab Pre-Sampling</b>	Site Code: _____		Container #: _____			
	City/State: _____		Collection Date: _____			
	AQS Code: _____		Collocated Event (Y/N): _____			
	Cartridge Certification Date: _____		SUR ID: _____			
	Relinquished by: _____		XAD Lot: _____			
	Date: _____		PUF Lot: _____			
		Filter Lot: _____				
<b>Field Setup</b>	Received by: _____		Date: _____			
	Site Operator: _____		System #: _____			
	Set-Up Date: _____		Elapsed Timer Reset (Y/N): _____			
<b>Field Recovery</b>	Recovery Date: _____					
	<b>Collection System Information:</b>					
		Elapsed Time	Temp (°C)	Barometric ("Hg)	Magnehelic ("H <sub>2</sub> O)	Flowrate (std. m <sup>3</sup> /min)
	Start					
	End					
	Average					
	Total Collection Time (Minutes) _____		Total Collection Volume (std. m <sup>3</sup> ) _____			
	Status: <b>Valid</b> <b>Void</b> (Circle one)	Site Operator: _____				
	Relinquished by: _____		Date: _____			
	<b>Lab Recovery</b>	Received by: _____		Date: _____		Container #: _____
Status: <b>Valid</b> <b>Void</b> (Circle one)		Uncorrected Temperature: _____				
If void, why: _____		Corrected Temperature: _____				
Thermometer: <b>IR1</b> <b>IR2</b> (Circle one)						
<b>Samples stored in Refrigerator # 7</b>						

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

Figure 9-8. Example SVOC Sample COC

 <div>ERG Lab ID # _____</div>			
<small>601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560</small> <b>AMBIENT HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM CHAIN OF CUSTODY FORM</b>			
Lab Pre-Sampling	Site Code: _____ Collection Date: _____ City/State: _____ Primary Event (Y/N): _____ AQS Code: _____ Collocated Event (Y/N): _____ Relinquished by: _____ Date: _____		
	<hr/>		
	Field Setup	Received by: _____ Date: _____ Site Operator: _____ System #: _____ Set-Up Date: _____ Elapsed Timer Reset (Y/N): _____ Collection Date: _____ Batch I.D. No.: _____ Initial Rotameter Setting (C.O.B.): _____ (After 5 minutes warm-up) Programmed Start Time: _____ Programmed End Time: _____	
		<hr/>	
Field Recovery		Recovery Date: _____ Recovery Time: _____ Site Operator: _____ Final Rotameter Reading (C.O.B.): _____ (After 5 minutes warm-up) Elapsed Time: _____ Status: Valid Void (Circle one) Relinquished by: _____ Date: _____	
		<hr/>	
		Lab Recovery	Received by: _____ Date: _____ Container #: _____ Status: Valid Void (Circle one) Uncorrected Temperature: _____ If void, why: _____ Corrected Temperature: _____ Collection Time (Minutes): _____ IR Gun: 1 2 (Circle one) Avg. Flowrate (L/min): _____ Total Volume of Air Sampled (m <sup>3</sup> ): _____
			<hr/>
<hr/>			
<hr/>			
<hr/>			
Samples stored in Freezer # 11			

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


\_\_\_\_\_

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

Figure 9-9. Example Ambient Hexavalent Chromium COC



501 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560

ERG Lab ID #

PM<sub>10</sub> / TSP METALS CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Lab Pre-Samp.	Site Code: _____	Collection Date: _____
	City/State: _____	Duplicate Event (Y/N): _____
	AQS Code: _____	
	Relinquished by: _____	Date: _____
Field Setup	Received by: _____	Date: _____
	Set-Up Date: _____	Operator: _____
Field Recovery	Recovery Date: _____	Sample Duration (i.e. 24 hr): _____
	Status:    Valid        Void        (Circle one)	
	Relinquished by: _____	Date: _____
Lab Recovery	Received by: _____	Date: _____
	Status:    Valid        Void        (Circle one)	
	If void, why: _____	

Samples stored in ICP-MS Lab (Room # 128)

PM <sub>10</sub> / TSP METALS	Sample Date	Start Time	End Time	Total Time	System #	Total Vol (m³)	Lab ID
		Start MFC	End MFC	Avg Flow (L/min)	Filter #		
	Sample Date	Start Time	End Time	Total Time	System #	Total Vol (m³)	Lab ID
		Start MFC	End MFC	Avg Flow (L/min)	Filter #		
	Sample Date	Start Time	End Time	Total Time	System #	Total Vol (m³)	Lab ID
		Start MFC	End MFC	Avg Flow (L/min)	Filter #		

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

Figure 9-10. Example Metals COC



## Chain of Custody Record

501 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700, Morrisville, NC 27560

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT			NO. OF CONTAINERS	ANALYSES					STORAGE LOCATION		
SITE											
COLLECTED BY (Signature)											
FIELD SAMPLE I.D.	SAMPLE MATRIX	DATE/TIME									
									REMARKS	ERG LIMS ID (For lab use only)	
REMARKS:											
RECEIVED BY:	DATE	TIME	RELINQUISHED BY:	DATE	TIME	RECEIVED BY:	DATE	TIME	RELINQUISHED BY:	DATE	TIME
LAB USE ONLY											
RECEIVED FOR LABORATORY BY:	DATE	TIME	AIRBILL NO.	OPENED BY:	DATE	TIME	TEMP °C	SEAL #	CONDITION		
REMARKS:											

6-2017

White: Sample Traveler

Canary: Lab Copy

Pink: Field Copy

Figure 9-11. ERG Blank COC Record

## **9.5 Analytical Data**

After analysis, the laboratory will provide narratives describing any anomalies and modifications to analytical procedures, data and sample handling records, and laboratory notes for inclusion in the final report. All laboratory electronic records will be stored for archive on Digital Versatile Disk (DVD), or shared network drive. DVDs are stored in Room 102 in the Laboratory building and the shared network has limited access. Raw data will be stored on the shared network for at least 5 years after the end of the closed contract.

All records generated by measurement activities are signed or initialed by the person performing the work and reviewed by an appropriate Task Leader. Measurement results become part of a project report, of which 10 percent is requested by the QA Coordinator (or a reviewer designated by the QA Coordinator) for review.

## **9.6 Sampling Monitoring Data**

All COC forms from the monitoring sites will be stored with the analytical results. The forms are also scanned and stored in the LIMS as described in the *SOP for Sample Login to the Laboratory Information Management System*, SOP ERG-MOR-079. The COC forms will be reviewed by the sample custodian(s), Task Leaders and Program Manager. The laboratory will contact the individual site if necessary information is not completed on the COC forms. The original field data will remain in ERG custody and will eventually be stored on file with the final report until 5 years after the end of the closed contract.

## **SECTION 10**

### **ANALYTICAL METHODS REQUIREMENTS**

Analytical procedures are program-specific because the instrumentation and the target compounds of the four programs differ. The primary analytical instrument is GC/FID/MS for SNMOC, VOCs and PAMS hydrocarbons; High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) for carbonyls; GC/MS for Semivolatiles (SVOC); Inductively Coupled Plasma/Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) for Metals; and Ion Chromatography (IC) for Hexavalent Chromium. All samples taken for SNMOC, VOCs, or PAMS hydrocarbons can be evaluated by GC/FID/MS because the instrumentation is collecting all of the data at the same time. Corrective action for analytical system failures realized at time of analyses is initiated by the Analyst and supported by the Task Leader for that method. All analytical method SOPs are provided in Appendix D. The methods used for NMOC and other individual HAPs analysis not currently discussed will be added to this QAPP when the individual States request the analyses. Samples will not be analyzed until ERG receives approval from EPA.

The SOPs for each method are reviewed annually and updated as necessary. The QA Coordinator, Program Manager and Writer/Editor will review, sign and date SOPs before distributing to the laboratories satellite file areas. The previous copies will be replaced with the revised edition. The original, and all previously revised edits, are stored in a historical file maintained by ERG's Project Administrator.

#### **10.1 Canister Cleanup System**

The canisters are cleaned using a Wasson TO-Clean Model TO 0108 heated canister cleaning system and is explained in Section 10.1.1. The unheated system is used as backup and is described in Section 10.1.2. A bulk liquid N<sub>2</sub> dewar is located external to the ERG laboratory facility. This dewar continuously produces a volume of ultrapure gaseous N<sub>2</sub> in its headspace area (~100 psig) that is more than adequate to accommodate all in-lab gaseous N<sub>2</sub> applications. Ultrapure gaseous N<sub>2</sub> is extracted from the dewar headspace and delivered to the cleaning

systems. Transport of the gas is accomplished through a 3/8" outer diameter (OD) pre-cleaned stainless-steel tubing.

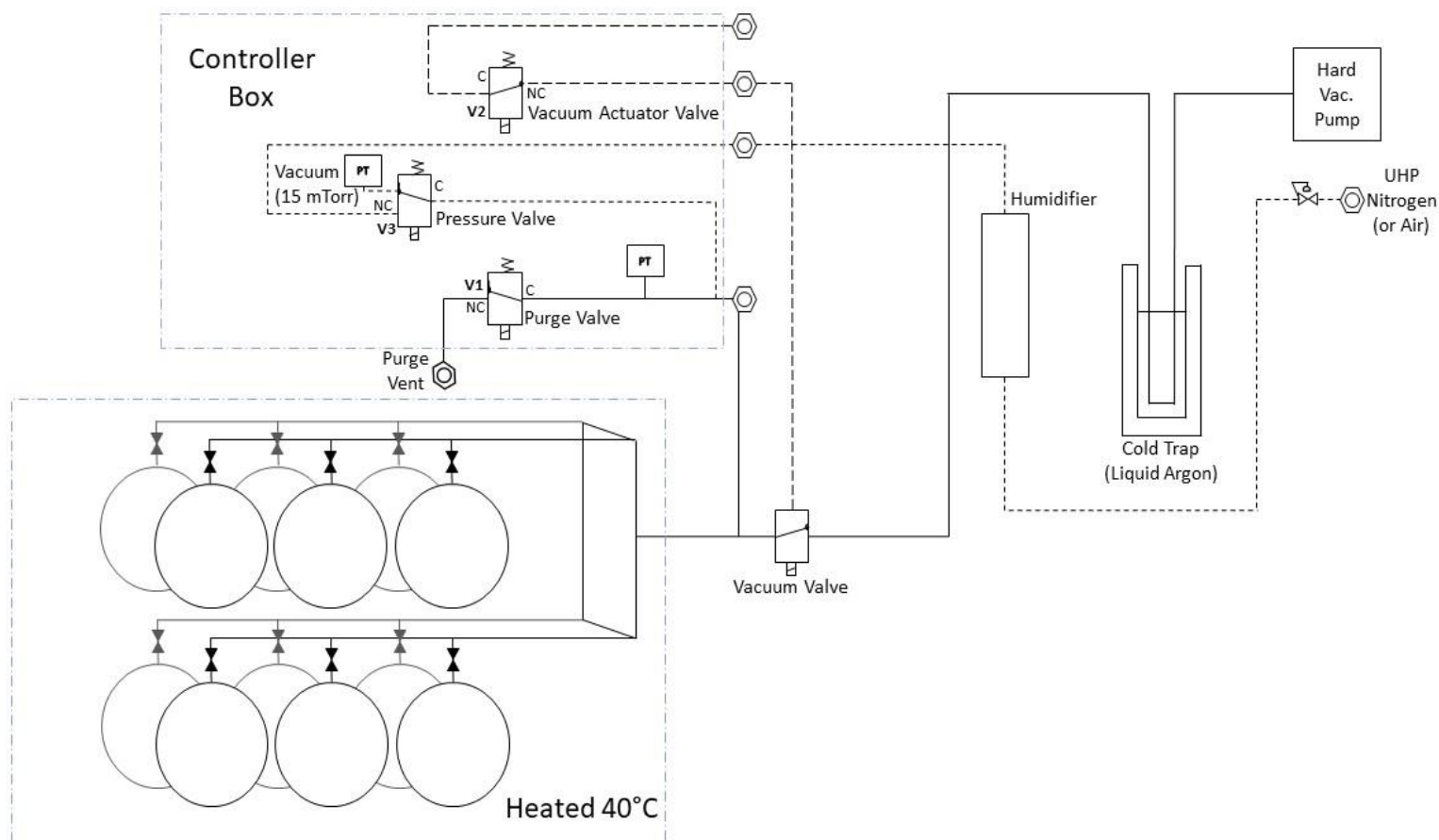
#### 10.1.1 Heated Canister Cleaning System

The TO-Clean heated cleaning systems are commercially available systems manufactured by Wasson-ECE (Figure 10-1). These systems can clean up to twelve canisters per system at a selected temperature from ambient to 100°C. Each system consists of an oven that holds the canisters, an Edwards RV8 vacuum pump, a stainless-steel humidification chamber for the dilution gas, and a control unit. The procedure for cleaning canisters is the *SOP for Sample Canister Cleaning using the Wasson-ECE*, ERG-MOR-105 in Appendix D.

The cleaning system oven has enough capacity to clean up to 12 canisters at a time. Two racks hold up to six canisters each. Canisters are connected to a 12-port, two-level manifold with compression fittings and flexible stainless-steel tubing. Ultra-pure N<sub>2</sub> is the dilution gas and is applied to the manifold via an electrically actuated valve. Vacuum is applied to the manifold through a pneumatically-actuated vacuum valve. The oven is heated to 40°C during the cleaning cycles.

The control unit controls the pressure, vacuum, and vent valves and houses the front panel control unit and oven temperature controller. The touchscreen front panel control stores and executes the cleaning programs, provides manual valve control and leak check diagnostics, and displays vacuum, pressure, and program time information. The oven temperature controller is separate from the front panel control within the control unit and regulates the oven temperature to a preset value.

The Edwards RV8 vacuum pump is separated from the system by a cryogenic trap. This trap removes contaminants and water vapor from the canisters before reaching the pump, and it prevents the sample canisters from being contaminated by back-diffusion of hydrocarbons from the vacuum pump into the cleanup system. The humidifier system is a modified SUMMA<sup>®</sup>-treated 6-liter canister partially filled with HPLC-grade water. The ultra-pure N<sub>2</sub> dilution gas is



**Figure 10-1. Heated Canister Cleanup System Schematic**



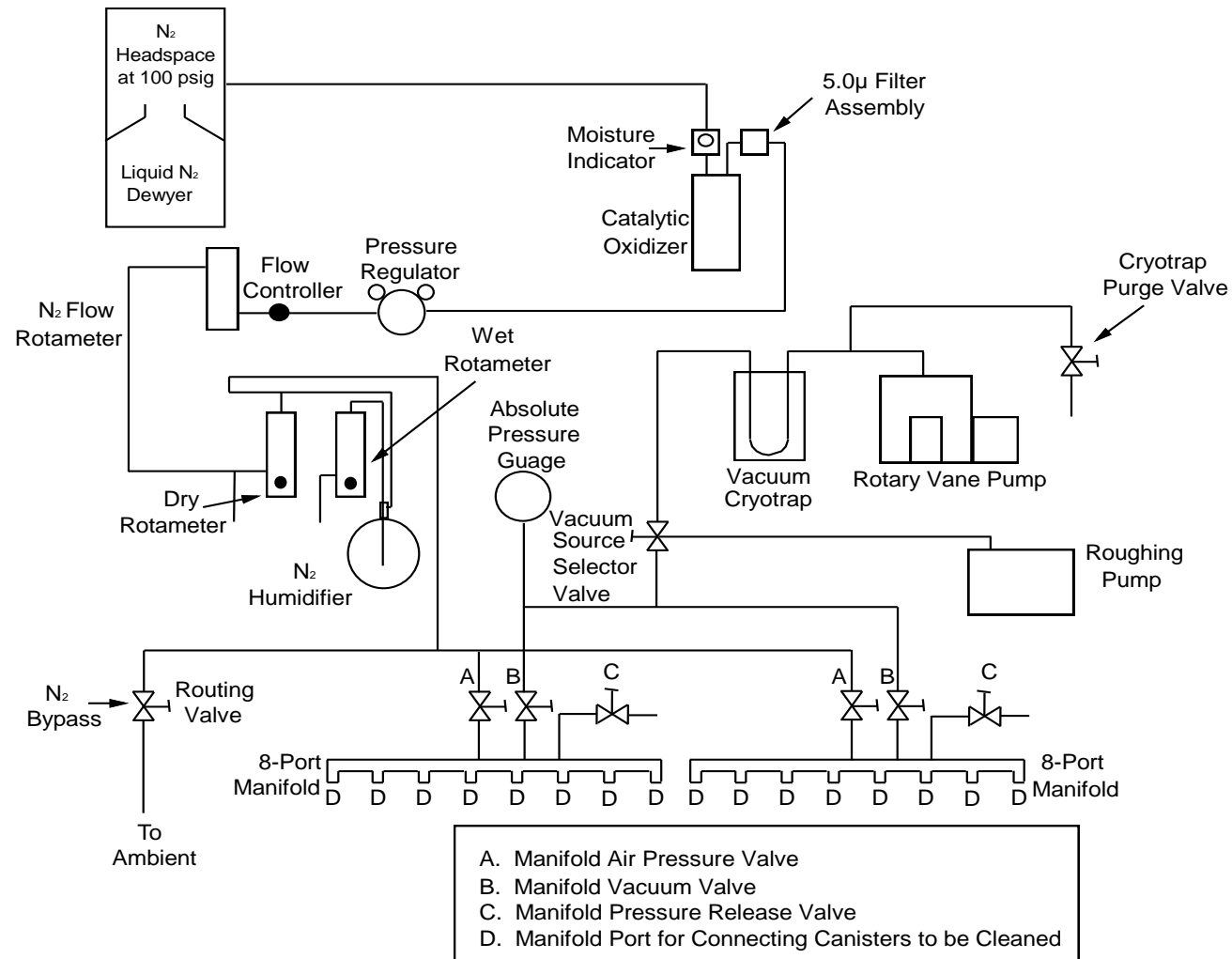
bubbled through the water prior to entering the manifold, achieving an estimated relative humidity of 75 percent.

After sample analyses and data review are completed, 12 canisters are connected to the manifold in the oven. The bellows valve on each canister is opened. The vacuum pump is started and one of the vacuum routing valves is opened, drawing a vacuum on the canisters connected to the corresponding manifold. The canisters are evacuated to a vacuum reading of 400 millitorr and held for 45 minutes. The vacuum valve is then closed and the ultrapure gaseous N<sub>2</sub> that has been humidified is introduced into the evacuated canisters at a rate of 5.0 liters per minute until the pressure in the canisters reach approximately 20 psig. This evacuation and pressurization of the canisters constitutes one Cleanup Cycle.

The Cleanup Cycle is repeated twice more to facilitate a complete canister cleanup procedure. Following the third pressurization, the canister bellows valves are closed and one canister (out of the 12 cleaned) is selected for cleanliness verification analysis. The cleanliness of the canister is qualified by GC/MS and FID analysis. The pass/fail results of the analyses are documented on a shared network so that the pass/fail rate can be monitored. The cleanliness criterion for each bank of 12 canisters is < 3x MDL or 0.2 ppbV for each individual VOC, whichever is lower, and 20 ppbC for Total SNMOC. If the canister does not pass the cleanliness criteria, the canister is reconnected to the cleanup manifold with the other 11 canisters it was cleaned with and another cleaning cycle is performed, and the same canister is analyzed again. Upon meeting these criteria, the canister is reconnected to the cleanup manifold with the other 11 canisters constituting the original bank of 12. All 12 canister bellows valves are opened, and the canisters are evacuated to a vacuum reading of 50 millitorr. The bellow valves are closed, and canisters are ready to be packaged and shipped to each network site.

#### 10.1.2 Unheated Canister Cleaning System

A canister cleanup system (Figure 10-2) has been developed and is used to prepare sample canisters for use in collecting representative whole air samples (*SOP for Sample Canister*



**Figure 10-2. Unheated Canister Cleanup System Schematic**

*Cleaning*, ERG-MOR-062 in Appendix D). This cleaning system is used as a backup to the heated canister cleaning system explained in Section 10.1.1.

A single-stage regulator controls the final N<sub>2</sub> pressure in the canisters and a metering valve is used to control the flow rate at which the canisters are filled during a cleanup cycle. The flow direction is controlled by a separate flow meter, installed in the N<sub>2</sub> gas line. A shutoff valve exists between the N<sub>2</sub> gas line and the humidifier system (which is a modified SUMMA<sup>®</sup>-treated 6-liter canister partially filled with HPLC-grade water). One rotameter and flow-control valve direct the gaseous N<sub>2</sub> into the humidifier where it is bubbled through the HPLC-grade water. A second flow-control valve and flow meter allow gaseous N<sub>2</sub> to bypass the humidifier system, if desired. By setting the flow-control valves separately, the downstream relative humidity can be regulated. Approximately 75 percent relative humidity is used for canister cleaning. This is accomplished by routing 100 percent of the gaseous N<sub>2</sub> flow through the humidifier. Another shutoff valve is located between the humidifier and each 8-port manifold where the canisters are connected for cleanup.

The vacuum system consists of a Precision Model DD-310 vacuum pump, a cryogenic trap, a vacuum and pressure gauge, and a manifold vacuum valve connected as shown in Figure 10-1. The cryogenic trap prevents the sample canisters from being contaminated by back-diffusion of hydrocarbons from the vacuum pump into the cleanup system. The manifold vacuum valves enable isolation of the vacuum pump from the system without shutting off the vacuum pump.

After sample analyses and data review are completed, a bank of eight canisters is connected to each manifold as shown in Figure 10-1. The canister bellows valve on each canister is opened. The vacuum pump is started and one of the vacuum routing valves is opened, drawing a vacuum on the canisters connected to the corresponding manifold. The bank of eight canisters is evacuated to a vacuum reading of 29.5" Hg (as indicated by the pressure gauge), and held for 30 minutes. The vacuum routing valves are then closed and the ultrapure gaseous N<sub>2</sub> that has been humidified is introduced into the evacuated canisters at a rate of 4.0 liters per minute until

the pressure in the canisters reach approximately 20 psig. This “Evacuation and Pressurization” of the canisters constitutes one Cleanup Cycle.

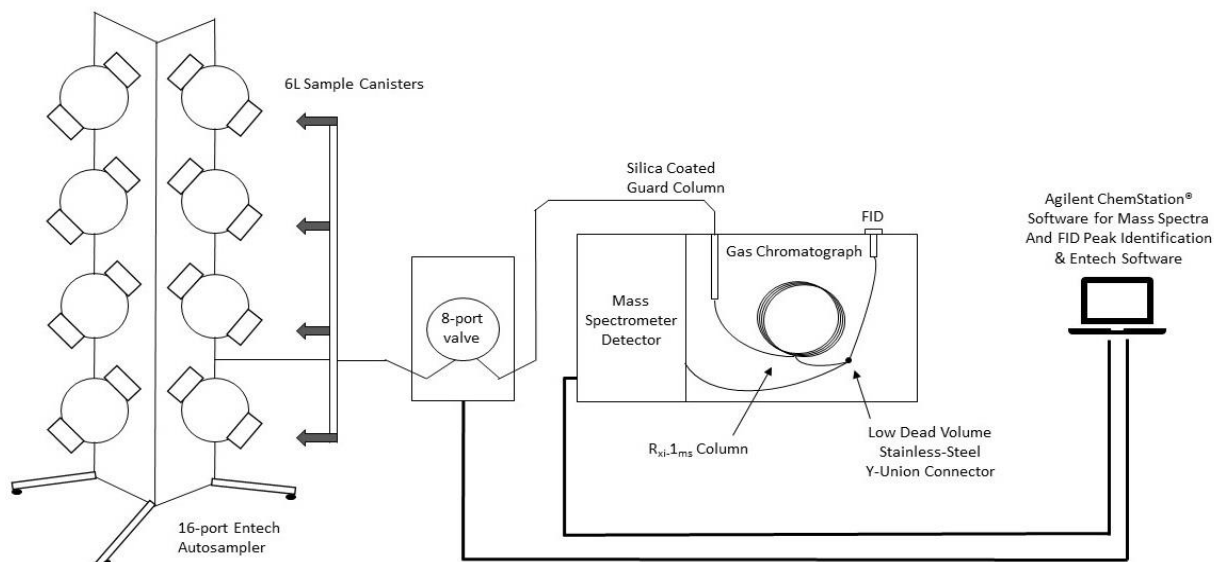
The Cleanup Cycle is repeated twice more to facilitate a complete canister cleanup procedure. Following the third pressurization, the canister bellows valves are closed and one canister (out of the eight cleaned) is selected for cleanliness verification analysis. The cleanliness of the canister is qualified by GC/MS and FID analysis. The pass/fail results of the analyses are documented on a shared network so that the pass/fail rate can be monitored. The cleanliness criterion for each bank of eight canisters is < 3x MDL or 0.2 ppbV for each individual VOC, whichever is lower, and 20 ppbC for Total SNMOC. If the canister does not pass the cleanliness criteria, the canister is reconnected to the cleanup manifold with the other seven canisters it was cleaned with and another cleaning cycle is performed, and the same canister is analyzed again. Upon meeting these criteria, the canister is reconnected to the cleanup manifold with the other seven canisters constituting the original bank of eight. All eight canister bellows valves are opened and the canisters are evacuated to a vacuum reading of approximately 29.5“ Hg for a fourth time. The bellow valves are closed, and the canisters are ready to be packaged and shipped to each network site.

## 10.2 VOC and Concurrent Analytical System

The VOC GC/FID/MS analyses are performed on a 250-milliliter (mL) sample from the canister with an Agilent 6890 GC/FID and an Agilent 5975 MS with Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM) using a 60 m by 0.32-millimeter (mm) Inner Diameter and a 1-micrometer (μm) film thickness Restek R<sub>xi</sub>-1<sub>ms</sub> capillary column followed by a Y-union connector that splits the mobile phase between the MS and the FID. Table 10-1 shows the GC/FID/MS operating conditions. Figure 10-3 shows the GC/FID/MS system arrangement. Canister samples must be analyzed within 30 days from sample collection. The analytical *SOP for the Concurrent GC/FID/MS Analysis of Canister Air Toxic Samples using EPA Compendium Method TO-15 and EPA Ozone Precursor Method* (ERG-MOR-005) is presented in Appendix D.

**Table 10-1**  
**VOC GC/FID/MS Operating Conditions**

Parameter	Operating Value
Sample Volume	250 mL
Restek R <sub>xi</sub> -1 <sub>ms</sub> Capillary Column: Length: Inside diameter: Film thickness: Oven temperature:	60 m 0.32 mm 1 µm -50°C for 5 minutes, 15°C/min to 0°C then 5°C/min to 150°C, then 25°C/min to 220°C for 1 minute then 25°C/min to 150°C for 4 minutes
Temperatures: FID: Injector Oven Temperature: MS Quad Temperature: MS Source Temperature:	300°C 220°C 200°C 280°C (350°C 5975)
Gas Flow Rates: Column Carrier Gas (Helium (He)): FID Make-up (He): FID (Hydrogen (H <sub>2</sub> )): FID (Air):	2 mL/min 30 mL/min 30 mL/min 300 mL/min
Entech Sample Interface Conditions: Module 1 - Glass Bead/Tenax <sup>®</sup> Trap Initial Temperature: Module 2 - Tenax <sup>®</sup> Trap Initial Temperature: Module 3 - Cryofocuser Temperature:	-150°C -50°C -196°C



**Figure 10-3. VOC GC/MS/FID System**

### 10.3 Carbonyl Analytical System

Carbonyl samples are stored in the refrigerator after they are received from the field prior to analysis. The carbonyl cartridge samples are extracted within 14 days of the sampling day and analyzed within 30 days after extractions. Sample preparation is performed by removing the DNPH sampling cartridge from its shipping container and attaching it to the end of a 5 mL Micro-Mate® glass syringe. Five mL of acetonitrile are added to the syringe and allowed to drain through the cartridge into a 5 mL Class A volumetric flask and diluted to the 5 mL mark with acetonitrile. This solution is then transferred to a 2 mL autosampler vial fitted with a Teflon-lined, self-sealing septum and a 4 mL vial with a Teflon-lined cap and both vials are stored in a refrigerator at 4°C until analysis.

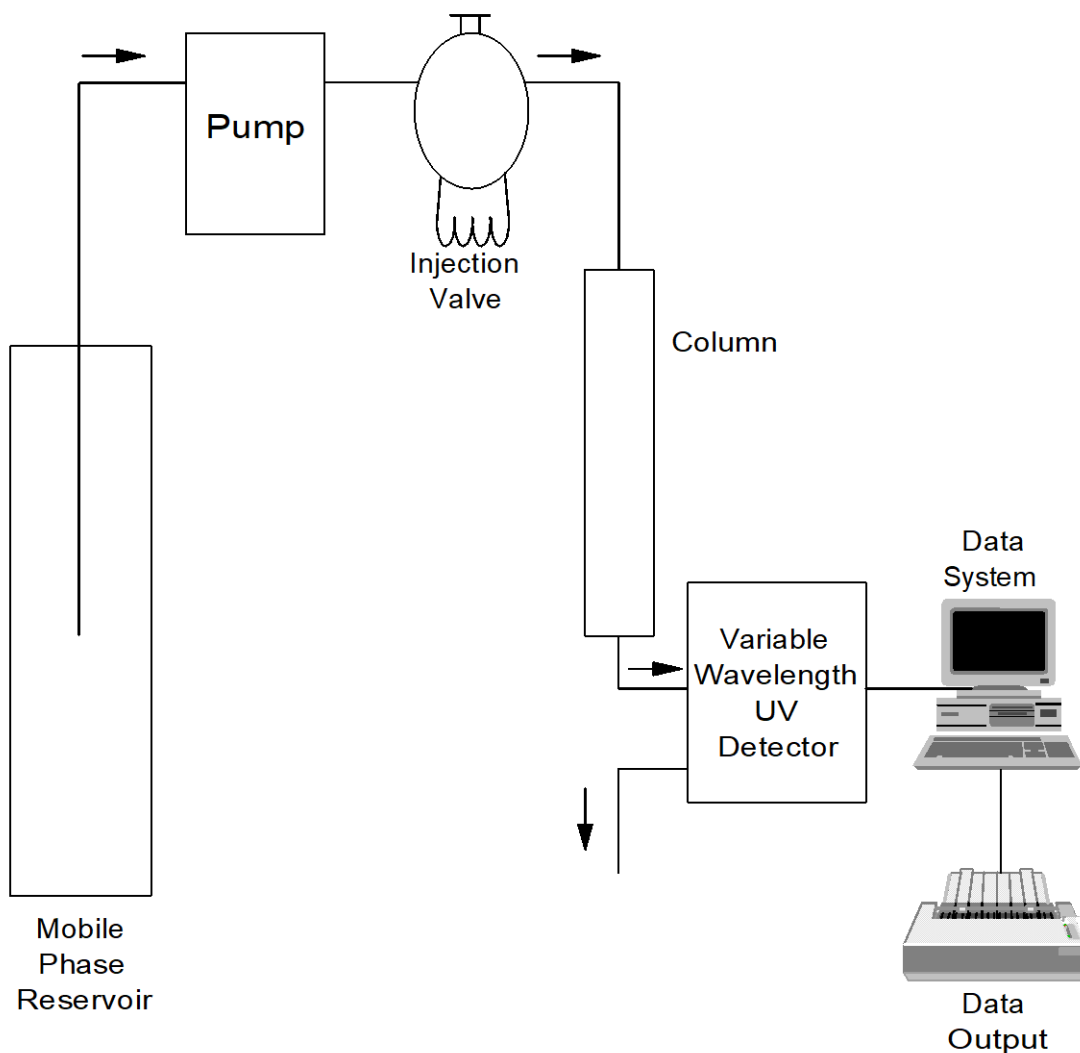
The analytical separation of carbonyls is performed using a Waters HPLC configured with a reverse-phase 250 mm by 4.6 mm C-18 silica analytical column with a 5-micron particle size. A typical HPLC system is shown in Figure 10-4. ERG's system uses an Agilent HPLC chromatographic data software system. Typically, 15-microliters (µL) samples are injected with an automatic sample injector. A mobile phase gradient of water, acetonitrile, and methanol is

used to perform the analytical separation at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/minute. A multiwavelength Ultraviolet (UV) detector is operated at 360 nanometer (nm). The complete *SOP for Preparing, Extracting, and Analyzing DNPH Carbonyl Cartridges by Method TO-11A* (ERG-MOR-024) is presented in Appendix D. Sample and waste disposal procedures are outlined in ERG-MOR-033, the *SOP for Hazardous Waste*.

#### **10.4 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons Analytical Systems**

Sampling modules containing PUF/XAD-2<sup>®</sup>, petri dishes containing glass microfiber filters, tweezers and COC forms and all associated documentation will be shipped to the ERG laboratory from the field. Each filter should be folded in quarters, placed inside the cartridge (with the XAD/PUF) and capped before shipment. Upon receipt at the laboratory, samples will be logged into the LIMS system and stored in the refrigerator. Sample preparation and analysis procedures are based on EPA Compendium Method TO-13A<sup>(10)</sup> and ASTM D6209-13<sup>(12)</sup> method. The hold time is 14 days after sampling for extraction and 40 days after extraction for analysis.

Sample extracts will be analyzed for PAHs using GC/MS in SIM. The MS will be tuned and mass-calibrated as required using perfluorotributylamine (FC-43), per the analytical procedures presented in the *SOP for analysis of Semivolatile Organic Compounds (Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons) Using EPA Compendium Method TO-13A and ASTM D6209* (ERG-MOR-049) (see Appendix D). Sample and waste disposal procedures are outlined in ERG-MOR-033, the *SOP for Hazardous Waste*.



**Figure 10-4. HPLC System**

## 10.5 Metals Using an Inductively Coupled Argon Plasma Mass Spectrometry Analytical System

Upon receipt from the field, the samples are checked against the COC forms and then logged into the LIMS system. Each sample component is examined to determine if damage occurred during travel. Color, appearance, and other sample particulars are noted. Sample preparation and analysis procedures are based on EPA Compendium Methods IO-3.1<sup>(22)</sup> and IO-3.5<sup>(6)</sup>, respectively for the Determination of Metals in Ambient Particulate Matter using ICP-MS techniques. A complete description of the preparation and analytical procedures are



presented in the SOPs for quartz and glass fiber (8x10") filter prep (ERG-MOR-084) and for Teflon 47mm filter prep (ERG-MOR-085) and analysis by ICP-MS (ERG\_MOR-095) in Appendix D. These procedures were approved as NAAQS Federal Equivalency Methods (FEM) for the analysis of Lead for Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) on quartz and glass fiber filters (EQL-0512-201<sup>(7)</sup>) and for PM<sub>10</sub> on Teflon filters (EQL-0512-202<sup>(8)</sup>). Analysis hold time for metals filters is 180 days.

The ICP-MS consists of an inductively coupled plasma source, ion optics, a quadrupole MS, a recirculator and an autosampler. The MS is mass calibrated and resolution checked before each analysis. Resolution across the mass range is indicated by magnesium isotopes 7Li, 24, 25, and 26Mg, 59Co, 115In, 206, 207, and 208Pb and U238. Instrument stability must be demonstrated by running 10 replicates of a tuning (daily performance check) solution [1 micrograms per liter (µg/L) of barium, bismuth, cerium, cobalt, indium, lead, lithium and uranium, and 15 µg/L of magnesium] with a resulting Relative Standard Deviation (RSD) of absolute signals for all analytes less than 2 or 5 percent, depending on element and instrument acquisition mode. Sample and waste disposal procedures are outlined in ERG-MOR- 033, the *SOP for Hazardous Waste*.

## 10.6 Hexavalent Chromium Analytical System

Hexavalent chromium filter samples are stored in the freezer after they are received from the field prior to analysis. Internal studies have shown that the hexavalent chromium does not degrade for up to 21 days if the samples are stored in the freezer before extraction. Upon receipt from the field, the samples are checked against the COC forms and then logged into LIMS. Due to oxidation/reduction and conversion between the trivalent and hexavalent chromium, the extraction is performed immediately prior to analysis. Therefore, it is important that the IC be equilibrated, calibrated and ready for analysis before filters are extracted. Sample preparation is performed by removing the filter from the filter holder and placing it into a 14 mL polystyrene tube. The filters are extracted in 10 mL of a 20 millimolar (mM) sodium bicarbonate solution. The tubes are shaken for 45 minutes using a wrist action shaker before a 2.5 mL aliquot is removed for analysis on the IC. All analysis is completed within 24 hours of the filter extraction.

The analytical separation for the hexavalent chromium is performed using a Dionex-600 IC or Dionex ICS-5000 with a Dionex LC 20 Chromatography Enclosure with a post-column reagent delivery device and an advanced gradient pump configured with an IonPac AS7 analytical column and an IonPac NG1 guard column. Both of ERG's ICs use the Dionex Chromeleon® data system. For the Dionex-600 IC, samples are injected using a Dionex AS40 autosampler. The samples analyzed with the Dionex ICS-5000 are injected using an AS-DV autosampler. A mobile phase is used to perform the analytical separation at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min, and a post-column reagent flow rate of 0.3 mL/min. The multiwavelength UV detector is set at 530 nm. The samples are prepped and analyzed following ASTM D7614-12<sup>(9)</sup> method and the *SOP for the Preparation and Analysis of Ambient Air for Hexavalent Chromium by Ion Chromatography* (ERG-MOR-063) that is presented in Appendix D. Sample and waste disposal procedures are outlined in ERG-MOR- 033, the *SOP for Hazardous Waste*.

## SECTION 11

### QUALITY CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

This section describes the quality control requirements for each of the major program components (NMOC, SNMOC, VOC, Carbonyls, PAMS, HAPs – SVOC, Metals and Hexavalent Chromium). As there is not a current need for some of the HAPS (SVOC analysis following TO-13A<sup>(10)</sup>/SW 846 Method 8270E<sup>(11)</sup>, PCB/Pesticides<sup>(13)</sup>, inorganic acids<sup>(14)</sup>, etc.), this information is not provided. As soon as these analyses are requested by EPA or States, however, the QAPP will be modified and a new set of MDLs will be completed and presented to EPA. The 2019 MDLs are presented in this section.

#### 11.1 Sample Canister Integrity Studies

Before any SNMOC or VOC samples are collected for a program, all stainless-steel sample canisters are checked for leaks. The canisters are evacuated to less than 25” Hg. The canister vacuum, measured on a Heise gauge, and the barometric pressure is recorded. After 7 days, the canister vacuum and barometric pressure is remeasured. The canisters are considered leak-free if there is less than 1” Hg difference in vacuum (adjusted for differences in the barometric pressure). The canisters are then cleaned using the procedure described in Section 10. For the canister to be used without further cleanup, an analysis must show that it meets the quality objective for cleanliness.

#### 11.2 Standard Traceability

The standards used for all analytes are vendor-supplied National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards or vendor-supplied referenced to a NIST standard. All analytical methods are also certified by comparison to a second source NIST-traceable standard. The ERG-MOR-022 *SOP for the Preparation of Standards in the ERG Laboratory*, provides direction for preparing standards from solid or liquid chemicals. The SOP used to prepare canister standards is *SOP for Standard Preparation Using Dynamic Flow Dilution System*, ERG-MOR-061 (Appendix D).

### **11.3 Accuracy and Acceptance**

As ambient air measurements encompass a range of compounds and elements whose individual concentrations are unknown, defining absolute accuracy is not possible. Instead, accuracy is determined by comparing the analysis of duplicate samples and of standards of known concentration. The criteria for the analysis of duplicate (or collocated) samples and their replicate analyses are found in Section 4. Accuracy of analysis is based on the accuracy of the calibration, including the accuracy of the calibration standards. Each instrument calibration is discussed by method in Section 13 of this QAPP. Accuracy is monitored throughout the program using QC samples. Required QC samples and their criteria and corrective actions are discussed by the methods listed below.

#### **11.3.1 SNMOC Analysis**

Prior to sample analysis for SNMOC, a continuing calibration verification (CCV) standard of hydrocarbons, prepared using either a NIST-traceable Linde or Air Environmental high pressure gas, is analyzed daily to ensure the validity of the current Response Factors (RF). This standard will have an approximate concentration range from 5 ppbC to 400 ppbC. The concentrations are compared to the calculated theoretical concentrations of the CCV. The standard analysis is considered acceptable if the percent recovery is 70-130 percent for 10 selected compounds.

If the CCV does not meet the percent recovery criterion, a second CCV is analyzed. If the second CCV meets the criterion, the analytical system is considered in control. If the second CCV does not meet acceptance criteria, a leak test and system maintenance are performed. Following these maintenance procedures, a third CCV analysis can be performed. If the criterion is met by the third analysis, the analytical system is considered in control. If maintenance causes a change in system response, a new calibration curve is required.

A system blank of cleaned, humidified N<sub>2</sub> is analyzed after the CCV and before the sample analysis. The system is considered in control if the total NMOC concentration for the system blank is less than or equal to 20 ppbC.

CCV requirements are presented in Table 11-1. If both the hydrocarbon and TO-15<sup>(4)</sup> parameters are requested from same sample, the instrument must conform to the standard QC procedures listed in both Tables 11-1 and 11-2 (for VOC QC requirements).

### 11.3.2 VOC Analysis

The tune of the GC/MS is verified using a 4-Bromofluorobenzene (BFB) instrument performance check sample daily. The acceptance criteria for the BFB are presented in Table 11-3. The internal standards for this method are hexane-d<sub>14</sub>, 1,4-difluorobenzene, and chlorobenzene-d<sub>5</sub>. The internal standard responses must be evaluated to ensure instrument stability throughout the day.

Before sample analyses, a standard prepared at approximately 2.5 ppbV from a NIST-traceable Linde or Air Environmental gas cylinder is used for a CCV. The resulting response factor for each compound is compared to the average calibration curve response factors generated from the GC/MS using the Agilent ChemStation® Software. Correspondence within an absolute value of less than or equal to 30 percent difference is considered acceptable for the quantitated compounds. If the first CCV does not meet this criterion, a second CCV will be analyzed. If the second CCV is acceptable, sample analysis can continue. If the second CCV does not meet acceptance criteria, then a leak check and system maintenance are performed. If the system maintenance is completed and a third CCV analysis meets the criterion, then analysis may continue. If the maintenance causes a change in the system response, a new calibration curve must be analyzed before sample analyses can begin.

**Table 11-1**  
**Summary of SNMOC Quality Control Procedures**

QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Multiple point calibration (5 points minimum); propane, hexane, benzene, octane, and decane bracketing the expected sample concentration. Laboratory Control Standard (LCS) (or Initial Calibration Verification (ICV))	Quarterly	Average Response Factor (RF) curve fit with RF RSD within $\pm 20\%$  ICV Recovery for selected hydrocarbons 70-130%	1) Repeat individual sample analysis 2) Prepare new calibration standards and repeat
Continuing calibration verification (CCV) using Certified Standard	Daily, prior to sample analysis	Recovery for 10 selected hydrocarbons spanning the carbon range 70-130 %	1) Repeat analysis 2) Reprepare and reanalyze 3) Repeat calibration curve
Method Blank Analysis	Daily, following calibration check	$\leq 20$ ppbC total	1) Repeat analysis 2) Check system for leaks 3) Reanalyze blank
Canister cleaning certification	One canister analyzed on the Air Toxics system per batch of 12	$\leq 20$ ppbC total	Reclean canisters and reanalyze

**Table 11-2**  
**Summary of Air Toxics Canister VOC Quality Control Procedures**

QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
BFB Instrument Tune Performance Check	Daily <sup>b</sup> , prior to sample analysis	Evaluation criteria presented in Section 16.1.1 of the SOP and Table 11-3 of this QAPP.	1) Retune 2) Clean ion source and/or quadrupole
Initial calibration (ICAL) consisting of at least 5 points bracketing the expected sample concentration.	Following any major change, repair, or maintenance or if daily QC is not acceptable.  Recalibration not to exceed three months.	1) % RSD of Response Factors $\leq 30\%$ RSD (with two exceptions of up to $\pm 40\%$ for non-Tier I compounds only) 2) Internal Standard (IS) response $\pm 40\%$ of mean curve IS response 3) Relative Retention Times (RRTs) for target peaks $\pm 0.06$ units from mean RRT 4) IS RTs within 20 seconds of mean 5) Each calibration standard concentration must be within $\pm 30\%$ of nominal (for Tier I compounds)	1) Repeat individual sample analysis 2) Repeat linearity check 3) Prepare new calibration standards and repeat analysis
LCS ({ICV} Second source calibration verification check)	Following the calibration curve	The response factor $\leq 30\%$ Deviation from calibration curve average response factor	1) Repeat calibration check 2) Repeat calibration curve
Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV) of approximately mid-point of the calibration curve <sup>a</sup> using a Certified Standard	Before sample analysis on the days of sample analysis <sup>b</sup>	The response factor $\leq 30\%$ Deviation from the calibration curve average RRF (Relative Response Factor)	1) Repeat calibration check 2) Repeat calibration curve

<sup>a</sup> The same QA criteria are needed for SNMOC and PAMS analysis.

<sup>b</sup> Every 24 hours frequency.

**Table 11-2**  
**Summary of Air Toxics Canister VOC Quality Control Procedures (Continued)**

<b>QC Check</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Acceptance Criteria</b>	<b>Corrective Action</b>
Method Blank Analysis (Zero Air or N <sub>2</sub> Sample Check)	Daily <sup>b</sup> , following BFB and calibration check; prior to sample analysis	1) <3x MDL or 0.2 ppbV, whichever is lower 2) IS area response $\pm$ 40% and IS RT $\pm$ 0.33 min. of most recent ICAL	1) Repeat analysis with new blank canister 2) Check system for leaks, contamination 3) Reanalyze blank
Duplicate and Replicate Analysis	All duplicate and collocate field samples	<25% RPD for compounds greater than 5 x MDL	1) Repeat sample analysis 2) Flag data in LIMS; Flag in AQS as permitted
Canister Cleaning Certification	One canister analyzed on the Air Toxics system per batch of 12	<3x MDL or 0.2 ppbV, whichever is lower	Reclean canisters and reanalyze
Preconcentrator Leak Check	Each standard and sample canister connected to the preconcentrator/autosampler	$\leq$ 0.2 psi change/minute	1) Retighten and reperform leak check 2) Provide maintenance 2) Re-perform leak check test

<sup>a</sup> The same QA criteria are needed for SNMOC and PAMS analysis.

<sup>b</sup> Every 24 hours frequency.



**Table 11-2**  
**Summary of Air Toxics Canister VOC Quality Control Procedures (Continued)**

<b>QC Check</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Acceptance Criteria</b>	<b>Corrective Action</b>
Sampler Certification - Standard Challenge with a reference can and a Zero Check with a reference can	Annual	Challenge: Within 15% of the concentration in the reference canister.  Zero: up to 0.2 ppbV or 3x MDL (whichever is lower) higher than the reference can	1) Repeat certification of samplers, a requirement for Tier I compounds 2) Notify Program Manager (flagging non-Tier I compound data for sampler may be an option)
Sampling Period	All samples	24 hours $\pm$ 1 hours	1) Notify Program Manager 2) Flag samples 22-23 hours and 25-26 hours in AQS with a “Y” flag 3) Invalidate and re-sample for $> 24 \pm 2$ hours
Retention Time (RT)	All qualitatively identified compounds	RT within $\pm 0.06$ RRT units of most recent initial calibration average RT	Repeat analysis
Samples – Internal Standards	All samples	IS area response within $\pm 40\%$ and IS RT within $\pm 0.33$ min. of most recent calibration average IS response	Repeat analysis

<sup>a</sup> The same QA criteria are needed for SNMOC and PAMS analysis.

<sup>b</sup> Every 24 hours frequency.

**Table 11-3. BFB Key Ion Abundance Criteria**

Target Mass	Rel. To Mass	Lower Limit %	Upper Limit %
50	95	8	40
75	95	30	66
95	95	100	100
96	95	5	9
173	174	0	2
174*	95	50	120
175	174	4	9
176	174	93	101
177	176	5	9

\* alternate base peak

After acceptable analysis of the daily standard has been demonstrated, a system blank consisting of clean, humidified air or N<sub>2</sub> is analyzed. A concentration per compound of < 3x MDL or 0.2 ppbV, whichever is lower (as outlined in Table 11-2) indicates that the system is in control. If a concentration greater than the acceptance criterion is detected, a second system blank is analyzed. If the second system blank fails, system maintenance is performed. Another system blank can be analyzed and if it is in control, ambient air samples are analyzed. All other QC procedure acceptance criteria and corrective actions are presented in Table 11-2.

### 11.3.3 Carbonyl Compounds Analysis

Daily CCVs prepared from NIST traceable stocks are performed to ensure that the analytical procedures are in control. CCVs are performed every 12 hours or less when samples are analyzed. Compound responses in the CCVs must have a percent recovery between 85-115 percent. Compound retention time drifts are also measured from this analysis and tracked to ensure that the HPLC instruments are operating within acceptable parameters.

If one of these CCV does not meet the criterion, analysis of a second injection of the CCV is performed. If the second CCV does not pass or if more than one CCV does not meet the criterion, a new standard is prepared and analyzed. If it fails a third time, a new calibration curve

(at least 5 concentration levels) is analyzed. All samples analyzed with the unacceptable CCV will be reanalyzed.

Crotonaldehyde tautomerizes into two chromatographically separate peaks after it is spiked onto the DNPH cartridge. The best analytical recovery for crotonaldehyde is determined when both the peaks are integrated together for all samples and QC.

Acetaldehyde elutes with its stereoisomer. The best analytical recovery for acetaldehyde is determined when both peaks are integrated together for all samples and QC.

Acetonitrile system blanks (or solvent blanks) bracket each sequence, with one at the beginning of the sequence and one at the end. The system is considered in control if target compound concentrations are less than the current laboratory MDLs. Quality procedures determined for the carbonyl analysis ensure that ambient air samples are collected in the prescribed manner and that compound quantitative analyses are performed with known bias and precision. The quality procedures for carbonyl analysis are presented in Table 11-4.

#### 11.3.4 PAH Analysis

Every 12 hours, the mass spectrometer used for PAH analysis must have an acceptable Decafluorotriphenylphosphine (DFTPP) instrument performance tune check meeting the criteria listed in Table 11-5 when 1 µL or less of the GC/MS tuning standard, depending on instrument sensitivity, is injected through the GC (50 nanogram (ng) on column).

Samples should be received with filters folded and inserted into the glass thimble cartridge with the sorbent media. It will be noted on the COC and extraction bench sheet if a filter is received in a petri dish, instead of a glass thimble. Prior to sample analyses, a daily CCV must be analyzed, usually a standard prepared at approximately the midpoint of the calibration curve from NIST-traceable PAH stock solution. The resulting response factor for each

**Table 11-4**  
**Summary of Carbonyl Quality Control Procedures**

Parameter	QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
HPLC Efficiency	Analyze Second Source QC (SSQC) sample	Once per 12 hours or less	1) Resolution between acetone and propionaldehyde $\geq 1.0$ 2) Column efficiency > 5,000 plate counts	1) Eliminate dead volume 2) Back flush 3) Replace the column repeat analysis
DNPH Peak	All samples	Every chromatogram from an extracted cartridge (field sample, method blank, lot blank, and BS/BSD)	DNPH must be $\geq 50\%$ of the DNPH are in the laboratory QC samples	1) Sample concentration will be flagged with a “DNPH” flag in LIMS and a “DN” flag in AQS
Sampler Certification	Zero Challenge cartridge with a reference cartridge	Annual	Each compound must be $\leq 0.2$ ppbV above the reference cartridge	1) Repeat certification of samplers, a requirement for Tier I compounds 2) Notify Program Manager (flagging non-Tier I compound data for sampler may be an option)
ICAL	Run a 5-point calibration curve	At setup or when calibration check is out of acceptance criteria (at least every 6 months)	1) Correlation coefficient at least 0.999, relative error for each level against calibration curve $\leq 20\%$ 2) The absolute value of the intercept/slope of the calibration curve must be less than the MDL for each compound	1) Check integration 2) Reanalyze 3) Reprepare standards and recalibrate
ICV	Analyze SSQC sample	After calibration in triplicate	85-115% recovery	1) Check integration 2) Recalibrate 3) Reprepare standard

**Table 11-4**  
**Summary of Carbonyl Quality Control Procedures (Continued)**

Parameter	QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Retention Time	Analyze SSQC	Once per 12 hours or less	Each target compound within $\pm 2.5\%$ of the mean calibration standards RT (set in Agilent® software)	1) Check integration, 2) Check for plug in LC 3) Check column temperature in LC
CCV	Analyze SSQC sample	Once per 12 hours or less	85-115% recovery	1) Check integration 2) Reanalyze, reprepare standard, or recalibrate 3) Reanalyze samples not bracketed by acceptable standard
Solvent Blank (aka Continuing calibration blank (CCB), System Blank, or Laboratory Reagent Blank (LRB))	Analyze acetonitrile	Bracket sample batch, 1 at beginning and 1 at end of batch	Measured concentration must be < MDL for each compound	1) Locate contamination and correct 2) Flag associated data
Sampling Period	All samples	All samples	24 hours $\pm$ 1 hours	1) Notify Program Manager 2) Flag samples 22-23 hours and 25-26 hours in AQS with a “Y” flag 3) Invalidate and re-sample for > 24 $\pm$ 2 hours

**Table 11-4**  
**Summary of Carbonyl Quality Control Procedures (Continued)**

Parameter	QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Lot Blank Check	Analyze blank for new lots received	Analyze 1.0 % of total lot or a minimum of 3 cartridges, whichever is greater	Compounds must be less than values listed: Formaldehyde <0.15 µg/cartridge (0.03 µg/mL) Acetaldehyde <0.10 µg/cartridge (0.02 µg/mL) Acetone <0.30 µg/cartridge (0.06 µg/mL) Others <0.10 µg/cartridge (0.02 µg/mL)	1) Reanalyze an additional set of cartridges from the new lot 2) Notify vendor if lot blank continues to fail and acquire new lot if possible 3) Flag data associated with bad lot
Extraction Solvent Method Blank (ESMB)	Aliquot of extraction solvent prepared with samples during extraction	First extraction per month and when acetonitrile lot changes	All target compounds must be < MDL	1) Check integration 2) Reanalyze 3) Locate and resolve contamination in extraction glassware/solvent 4) Flag batch data
Field Blank (FB) Check	Field blank samples collected in the field	Monthly (if provided by site)	Underivatized compound concentrations must be less than values listed: Formaldehyde <0.3 µg/cartridge (0.06 µg/mL) Acetaldehyde <0.4 µg/cartridge (0.08 µg/mL) Acetone <0.75 µg/cartridge (0.15 µg/mL) Others <7.0 µg/cartridge (1.4 µg/mL)	1) If FB fails, notify site coordinator, schedule another FB. Additional FBs are collected until the problem is corrected and data are acceptable 2) Flag samples since the last acceptable FB

**Table 11-4**  
**Summary of Carbonyl Quality Control Procedures (Continued)**

Parameter	QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Duplicate or Collocate Samples	Analysis of duplicate and collocated samples	As collected (10% of sampling schedule)	$\leq 20\%$ RPD for concentrations $\geq 0.5$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{cartridge}$	1) Check integration 2) Check instrument function 3) Reanalyze duplicate samples 4) Flag data in LIMS (and AQS as permitted)
Replicate Analyses	Replicate injections	One per batch. Performed on every duplicate and collocate sample or if none available, on a field sample	$\leq 10\%$ RPD for concentrations $\geq 0.5$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{cartridge}$	1) Check integration 2) Check instrument function 3) Reanalyze sample
MB (BLK)	Analyze MB	One per batch of 20 samples	Underivatized compound concentrations must be less than values listed: Formaldehyde $<0.15$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{cartridge}$ (0.03 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) Acetaldehyde $<0.10$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{cartridge}$ (0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) Acetone $<0.30$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{cartridge}$ (0.06 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) Others $<0.10$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{cartridge}$ (0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ )	1) Reanalyze MB 2) Check extraction procedures 3) Flag batch data

**Table 11-4**  
**Summary of Carbonyl Quality Control Procedures (Continued)**

Parameter	QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Blank Spike/Blank Spike Duplicate, (BS/BSD or LCS/LCSD)	Analyze BS/BSD (or LCS/LCSD)	One BS/BSD (LCS/LCSD) per batch of 20 samples	80-120% recovery for Formaldehyde and Acetaldehyde and 70-130% for all other compounds. BSD (LCSD) precision $\leq$ 20% RPD of BS (LCS)	1) Reanalyze BS/BSD (LCS/LCSD) 2) Check calibration 3) Check extraction procedures

Note: Crotonaldehyde tautomerizes into two chromatographically separate peaks after it is spiked onto the DNPH cartridge. The best analytical recovery is determined when both peaks are integrated together for all samples and QC. Acetaldehyde elutes with its stereoisomer. The best analytical recovery for Acetaldehyde is determined when both peaks are integrated together for all samples and QC. Breakthrough cartridges are not submitted or analyzed as specified by Compendium Method TO-11A.



compound will be compared to the average calibration curve response factors. Correspondence within an absolute value of less than or equal to 30 percent difference is considered acceptable. If the first CCV does not meet this criterion, a second CCV will be analyzed. If the second CCV is acceptable, sample analysis can continue. If the second CCV does not meet acceptance criteria, then a leak check and system maintenance are performed. If the system maintenance is completed and a third CCV analysis meets the criterion, then analysis may continue. If the maintenance causes a change in the system response, a new calibration curve must be analyzed before sample analyses can begin.

EPA Compendium Method TO-13A<sup>(10)</sup> employs and spikes two different types of surrogates. The Field Surrogates, fluoranthene-d<sub>10</sub> and benzo(a)pyrene-d<sub>12</sub>, are spiked onto the PUF media prior to shipment to the field; acceptable recoveries for these field surrogates are in the range of 60 to 120 percent. The laboratory surrogates, fluorene-d<sub>10</sub> and pyrene-d<sub>10</sub>, are spiked into the PUF immediately before extraction; acceptable recoveries for these laboratory surrogates are 60 to 120 percent.

**Table 11-5. DFTPP Key Ions and Ion Abundance Criteria**

Mass	Ion Abundance Criteria
51	10 to 80% of base peak
68	< 2% of mass 69
69	Present
70	< 2% of mass 69
127	10 to 80% of base peak
197	< 2% of mass 198
198	Base peak (100% relative abundance) or >50% of mass 442
199	5 to 9% of mass 198
275	10 to 60% of base peak
365	> 1.0% of mass 198
441	Present but < 24% of mass 442
442	Base peak, or >50% of mass 198
443	15 to 24% of mass 442

Note: All ion abundances must be normalized to the nominal base peak, 198 or 442. This criterion is based on the tune criteria for Method 8270D.

Internal standard responses and retention times must also be evaluated for stability. The SIM procedures of EPA Compendium Method TO-13A<sup>(10)</sup> preclude the use of guidelines for qualitative analysis of mass spectra, since complete mass spectra are not acquired when SIM procedures are used. Quantitative analysis for each compound is performed relative to the assigned internal standard. The following internal standard assignments are suggested for PAH analysis are presented in Table 11-6. All method criteria and MQOs for ERG's PAH analysis are listed in Table 11-7.

**Table 11-6. Internal Standards and Associated PAHs**

Internal Standard	Associated Compound
Naphthalene-d <sub>8</sub>	Naphthalene
Acenaphthelene-d <sub>10</sub>	Acenaphthylene Acenaphthene Fluorene 9-Fluorenone Pyrene Retene Fluoranthene
Phenanthrene-d <sub>10</sub>	Phenanthrene Anthracene
Chrysene-d <sub>12</sub>	Cyclopenta(c,d)pyrene Benz(a)anthracene Benzo(b)fluoranthene Benzo(k)fluoranthene Benzo(e)pyrene Benzo(a)pyrene Chrysene
Perylene-d <sub>12</sub>	Perylene Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene Dibenz(a,h)anthracene Benzo(g,h,i)perylene Coronene

**Table 11-7**  
**Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Analysis of SVOC Samples for PAHs**

Quality Control Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
DFTPP instrument tune check	Daily prior to calibration check and sample analysis; every 12 hours if instrument is operated 24 hours/day	Evaluation criteria presented in Section 11, Table 11-5	1) Re-analyze 2) Prepare new tune check standard; analyze 3) Re-tune instrument; reanalyze 4) Clean ion source; re-tune instrument; reanalyze
Solvent Blank (SB)	Prior to ICAL	All target compounds < MDL	1) Reanalyze 2) Perform maintenance on GC; reanalyze
Five-point (minimum) calibration (ICAL)	Following any major change, repair, or maintenance if daily quality control check is not acceptable. Minimum frequency every six weeks	<p><math>\leq 30\%</math> RSD of the RRFs for each compound; Avg Relative Response Factor (RRF) above or equal to minimum RRF limit for each pollutant; <math>\leq 30\%</math> the nominal concentration required for Tier I compounds</p> <p>RRTs within <math>\pm 0.06</math> RRT units of mean RRT of calibration</p> <p>IS RT within <math>\pm 20.0</math> sec of mean RT of calibration</p>	<p>1) Repeat individual calibration standard analyses 2) Check integrations and calculations 3) Prepare new calibration standards and repeat analysis 4) Perform maintenance on GC, especially leak check and repeat analysis 5) Clean ion source and repeat analysis</p>

**Table 11-7**  
**Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Analysis of SVOC Samples for PAHs (Continued)**

Quality Control Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Retention Time (RT)	All qualitatively identified compounds and internal standard	RRT set in software to be no larger than + 0.25 minutes	Repeat analysis
Secondary Source Calibration Verification (SCV)	Immediately after each ICAL	$\leq 30\%$ Difference for each compound RRF compared to the mean RRF of the calibration curve.	1) Repeat SCV analysis 2) Check calculations 3) Prepare a new SCV standard and repeat analysis 4) Perform maintenance on GC, especially leak check; reanalyze 5) Recalibrate; reanalyze 6) Clean ion source; reanalyze
Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV) Standard	Daily (or every 12 hours)	Above or equal to RRF minimum and $\leq 30\%$ Difference for each compound RRF compared to the mean RRF of the calibration curve.	1) Repeat individual sample analyses 2) Check calculations 3) Prepare a new CCV standard and repeat analysis 4) Perform maintenance on GC, especially leak check; reanalyze 5) Recalibrate; reanalyze 6) Clean ion source; reanalyze
Solvent Method Blank (SMB)	One with every extraction batch of 20 or fewer field-collected samples.	All target compounds < MDL	1) Check integration 2) Reanalyze 3) Flag samples 4) Remove solvent lot from use
Method Blank (MB)	With every extraction batch $\leq 20$ samples	All analytes < 2x MDL	1) Repeat analysis 2) Flag data

**Table 11-7**  
**Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Analysis of SVOC Samples for PAHs (Continued)**

Quality Control Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Blank Spike (BS) or (LCS) BSD (or LCSD)	One BS (or LCS) with every extraction batch $\leq$ 20 samples. BSD (or LCSD) once per quarter.	60-120% recovery of nominal for all compounds $\leq$ 20% RPD compared to BS (or LCS)	1) Repeat analysis 2) Flag data
Surrogate compound recoveries: Laboratory surrogates fluorene-d <sub>10</sub> pyrene-d <sub>10</sub> Field Surrogates fluoranthene-d <sub>10</sub> benzo(a)pyrene-d <sub>12</sub>	Every sample/blank/BS	60-120% Recovery	1) Repeat analysis 2) Check calculation 3) Flag surrogate data 4) Flag sample data if both field or both lab surrogates fail
Internal Standard Response: naphthalene-d <sub>8</sub> acenaphthylene-d <sub>10</sub> chrysene-d <sub>12</sub> perylene-d <sub>12</sub>	Every sample/blank/BS	Within 50% to 200% of the ISs in the most recent initial calibration CAL4	1) Repeat analysis 2) Invalidate or flag data if unable to reanalyze
Cartridge Lot Blank	One cartridge (and filter) for each batch of prepared cartridges for a particular sample date.	All target compounds $\leq$ MDL	1) Repeat analysis 2) Invalidate or flag data if unable to reanalyze prior to cartridge shipment

**Table 11-7**  
**Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Analysis of SVOC Samples for PAHs (Continued)**

Quality Control Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Field Blank	Monthly (or as provided by site)	Target compounds $\leq$ 5 times the MDL	1) If FB fails, notify site coordinator, schedule another FB. Additional FBs are collected until the problem is corrected and data are acceptable 2) Flag samples since the last acceptable FB when input in AQS
Replicate Analysis	Replicate sample, on each collocate or at a minimum one per sequence	$\leq$ 10% RPD for concentration $\geq$ 0.5 ng/ $\mu$ L or lowest cal point, whichever is less.	1) Check integration 2) Check instrument function 3) Flag replicate samples
Collocate Samples	Collocated samples, 10% of field samples, or as collected	$\leq$ 20% RPD for concentration $\geq$ 0.5 ng/ $\mu$ L or lowest ICAL level, whichever is less	1) Check integration 2) Check instrument function 3) Reanalyze 4) Flag collocated samples
Sampling Period	All samples	24 hours $\pm$ 1 hours	1) Notify Program Manager 2) Flag samples 22-23 hours and 25-26 hours in AQS with a “Y” flag 3) Invalidate and re-sample for $> 24 \pm 2$ hours

NOTE: Matrix Spikes are not performed as required by Compendium Method TO-13A. Matrix spikes are not required by ASTM D2609.

### 11.3.5 Metals Analysis

The mass spectrometer used for metals analysis must meet the daily performance check criteria using the tuning solution before each analysis. Daily performance checks are acquired in standard and kinetic energy discrimination (KED) mode to verify instrument performance depending on the analysis type. Performance specifications, optimized for each of the two models of ICP-MS instruments, are presented in Table 11-8. Analysis of the metals will be performed by ICP-MS for antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, total chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, and selenium. The internal standards for this method are lithium, scandium, germanium, yttrium, indium, terbium, holmium, and bismuth. Internal standard responses must be evaluated for stability. Gold is added to each of the standards and samples to stabilize mercury in solution and prevent its loss on labware and sample introduction components of the ICP-MS.

Daily calibration, using a calibration blank and at least 5 non-zero standards prepared from NIST-traceable stock solutions, is performed to ensure that the analytical procedures are in control. To be considered acceptable, the calibration curve must have a correlation coefficient  $\geq 0.998$ . Replicate analysis of the calibration standards must have an intensity (cps) RSD  $\leq 10$  percent, except for the second calibration standard (CAL2). This standard uses the same concentrations as the Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) standard, which are near or less than that of the MDL, therefore an RSD  $> 10$  percent is acceptable. After calibration, an Initial Calibration Verification (ICV), Initial Calibration Blank (ICB), High Standard Verification (HSV), Interference Check Standard A (ICSA), and Interference Check Standard B (ICSAB) are analyzed to ensure quality before the analysis of the samples.

If the ICV does not meet performance criteria, the ICV is reanalyzed a second time. If the rerun does not pass, or if one or more of the daily QC checks do not meet criteria, the QC standard may be reprepared and reanalyzed. If the reprepared QC standard fails, a new calibration curve is prepared and analyzed. All samples analyzed with an unacceptable QC check will be reanalyzed or flagged appropriately when necessary. During the analysis of the samples,

the Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV) and Continuing Calibration Blank (CCB) are analyzed immediately before the analysis of samples, every 10 samples, and at the end of every analysis batch. The ICSA and ICSAB are analyzed before the analysis of samples, every eight hours and at the end of every analysis sequence. Quality procedures for metals analysis are shown in Table 11-9.

**Table 11-8 Instrument Mass Calibration & Performance Specifications**

Parameter	Peak Width	Sensitivity/Criteria*	RSD
<b>iCAP-Q Criteria</b>			
<b>Standard Mode</b>			
Bkg4.5	NA	< 1.0 cps	N/A
7Li	0.65–0.85	> 50,000 cps	< 2% RSD
24Mg	0.65–0.85	> 500,000 cps	< 2% RSD
25Mg	0.65–0.85	> 70,000 cps	< 2% RSD
26Mg	0.65–0.85	> 80,000 cps	< 2% RSD
59Co	0.65–0.85	> 100,000 cps	< 2% RSD
115In	0.65–0.85	> 220,000 cps	< 2% RSD
206Pb	0.65–0.85	> 70,000 cps	< 2% RSD
207Pb	0.65–0.85	> 60,000 cps	< 2% RSD
208Pb	0.65–0.85	> 100,000 cps	< 2% RSD
238U	0.65–0.85	> 300,000 cps	< 2% RSD
140Ce16O/140Ce	NA	< 0.02	N/A
137Ba++/137Ba+	NA	< 0.03	N/A
Bkg220.7	NA	< 2.0 cps	N/A
Analyzer Pressure	NA	< 10 <sup>-6</sup> mbar	NA
<b>KED Mode†</b>			
Bkg4.5	NA	< 0.5 cps	N/A
24Mg	0.65–0.85	> 3,000 cps	< 5% RSD
25Mg	0.65–0.85	> 500 cps	< 5% RSD
26Mg	0.65–0.85	> 600 cps	< 5% RSD
59Co	0.65–0.85	> 30,000 cps	< 2% RSD
115In	0.65–0.85	> 30,000 cps	< 2% RSD
206Pb	0.65–0.85	> 60,000 cps	< 2% RSD
207Pb	0.65–0.85	> 50,000 cps	< 2% RSD
208Pb	0.65–0.85	> 80,000 cps	< 2% RSD
238U	0.65–0.85	> 80,000 cps	< 2% RSD
140Ce16O/140Ce	NA	< 0.01	N/A
59Co/35Cl16O	NA	> 18.0	N/A
Bkg220.7	NA	< 2.0 cps	N/A

\*cps – Counts per second

† – There are no vacuum requirements for KED mode



**Table 11-8 Instrument Mass Calibration & Performance Specifications (Continued)**

Parameter	Peak Width	Sensitivity/Criteria*	RSD
<b>iCAP-RQ Criteria</b>			
<b>Standard Mode</b>			
Bkg4.5	NA	< 1.0 cps	N/A
7Li	0.65–0.85	> 55,000 cps	< 2% RSD
24Mg	0.65–0.85	> 500,000 cps	< 2% RSD
25Mg	0.65–0.85	> 80,000 cps	< 2% RSD
26Mg	0.65–0.85	> 100,000 cps	< 2% RSD
59Co	0.65–0.85	> 100,000 cps	< 2% RSD
115In	0.65–0.85	> 240,000 cps	< 2% RSD
206Pb	0.65–0.85	> 80,000 cps	< 2% RSD
207Pb	0.65–0.85	> 70,000 cps	< 2% RSD
208Pb	0.65–0.85	> 160,000 cps	< 2% RSD
238U	0.65–0.85	> 330,000 cps	< 2% RSD
140Ce16O/140Ce	NA	< 0.02	N/A
137Ba++/137Ba+	NA	< 0.03	N/A
Bkg220.7	NA	< 2.0 cps	N/A
Analyzer Pressure	NA	< 10 <sup>-6</sup> mbar	NA
<b>KED Mode†</b>			
Bkg4.5	NA	< 0.5 cps	N/A
24Mg	0.65–0.85	> 10,000 cps	< 5% RSD
25Mg	0.65–0.85	> 2,000 cps	< 5% RSD
26Mg	0.65–0.85	> 3,000 cps	< 5% RSD
59Co	0.65–0.85	> 30,000 cps	< 2% RSD
115In	0.65–0.85	> 35,000 cps	< 2% RSD
206Pb	0.65–0.85	> 100,000 cps	< 2% RSD
207Pb	0.65–0.85	> 90,000 cps	< 2% RSD
208Pb	0.65–0.85	> 200,000 cps	< 2% RSD
238U	0.65–0.85	> 85,000 cps	< 2% RSD
140Ce16O/140Ce	NA	< 0.01	N/A
59Co/35Cl16O	NA	> 18.0	N/A
Bkg220.7	NA	< 2.0 cps	N/A

\*cps – Counts per second

† – There are no vacuum requirements for KED mode

**Table 11-9. Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Metals Analysis**

Quality Control Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Daily Performance Check (DPR) STD Mode	Before each analysis	See Table 24-7	1) Repeat analysis of DPR 2) Re-optimize instrument tuning parameters 3) Reprepare DPR standard 4) Perform instrument maintenance
Daily Performance Check (DPR) KED Mode	Before each analysis	See Table 24-7	1) Repeat analysis of DPR 2) Re-optimize instrument tuning parameters 3) Reprepare DPR standard 4) Perform instrument maintenance
Initial Calibration Standards (IC)	At least 5 non-zero calibration points and a blank before each analysis	Correlation coefficient of (R) $\geq 0.995$ & %RSD $\leq 10$ . RSDs $> 10$ are acceptable for target elements in the CAL2 (at LOQ concentration) standard.	1) Repeat analysis of calibration standards 2) Reprepare calibration standards and reanalyze
Initial Calibration Verification (ICV)	Immediately after calibration	Recovery 90-110%	1) Repeat analysis of ICV 2) Reprepare ICV standard 3) Recalibrate and reanalyze
Initial Calibration Blank (ICB)	Immediately after ICV	Absolute value must be $< \text{MDL}$	1) Locate and resolve contamination problems before continuing 2) Reanalyze or recalibrate failing elements for the entire analysis when appropriate
High standard verification (HSV)	After ICB and before ICS	Recovery from 95-105%	1) Repeat analysis of HSV 2) Reprepare HSV
Interference Check Standard (ICSA/IFA)	Following the HSV, every 8 hours and at the end	Within determined DQO criteria (See Section 16.8.2 and Appendices I & II)	1) Repeat analysis of ICSA 2) Reprepare ICSA and analyze 3) Recalibrate or flag failing elements as necessary
Interference Check Standard (ICSAB/IFB)	Following each ICSA, every 8 hours and at the end	Recovery 80-120% of true value plus standard background contamination when present	1) Repeat analysis of ICSAB 2) Reprepare ICSAB and analyze 3) Recalibrate or flag failing elements as necessary
Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV)	Analyze before samples, after every 10 samples, and at the end of each run	Recovery 90-110%	1) Reanalyze CCV 2) Reprepare CCV 3) Recalibrate and reanalyze samples since last acceptable CCV
Low Calibration Verification (LCV)	At the beginning and end of each analysis, between the CCV and CCB	Recovery 70-130% for Pb only	1) Reanalyze LCV 2) Reprepare LCV 3) Recalibrate and reanalyze samples since last acceptable LCV
Continuing Calibration Blanks (CCB)	Analyzed after each CCV	Absolute value must be $< \text{MDL}$	1) Reanalyze CCB 2) Reanalyze samples since last acceptable CCB
Laboratory Reagent Blank (LRB/BLK1)	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Absolute value must be $< \text{MDL}$	1) Reanalyze for verification 2) If $> 5 \times \text{MDL}$ , failing elements for all batch QC and samples must be flagged 3) When enough sample filter remains, a reextraction and analysis of the batch should be considered
Method Blank (MB/BLK2)	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Absolute value $< \text{MDL}$	Flag the failing elements in the MB. Note: This QC sample is not required by the IO-3.5 method and there is no further corrective action

**Table 11-9 Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Metals Analysis (continued)**

Quality Control Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Standard Reference Material (SRM)	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Recovery 80-120% for Pb only	1) Reanalyze 2) Flag sample data 3) Re-extract batch
Laboratory Control Sample (LCS/BS/BSD)	1 BS per batch of $\leq 20$ Quartz/Glass Fiber samples, a minimum of 1 per batch  1 BS/BSD per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Recovery 80-120%.	1) Reanalyze 2) Flag data 3) Re-prepare sample batch if recovery for most elements fail criteria.
Duplicate (DUP1) (Laboratory Duplicate)	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	$\leq 20\%$ RPD for quartz/glass fiber sample, $\leq 10\%$ RPD for Teflon samples, and duplicate values $\geq 5x$ MDL (see Section 16.4.3 for details)	1) Check for matrix interference 2) Repeat duplicate analysis if necessary 3) Flag data, "D-F" (see Section 16.4.3 for procedure)
Replicate Analysis (Analytical Duplicate)	On a minimum one sample per batch, ensuring 6 per site per year	$\leq 10\%$ RPD for sample and duplicate values $\geq 5x$ MDL (see Section 16.4.5 for details)	1) Repeat replicate analysis if necessary 2) Flag data, "R-F" (see Section 16.4.5 for procedure)
Collocated Samples (C1/C2)	10% of samples annually (for sites that conduct collocated sampling)	$\leq 20\%$ RPD for sample and collocate values $\geq 5x$ MDL (see Section 16.4.4 and 16.4.3 for details)	1) Repeat C1 and/or C2 analyses if necessary. 2) Flag C1 and C2 data if necessary, "D-F" (see Section 16.4.3 for procedure)
Matrix Spike (MS) and Matrix Spike Duplicate (MSD) for 8x10" Quartz and glass filters only	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Quartz/Glass Fiber Recovery 80-120% when the parent sample concentration is less than 4 times the spike concentration.  Not applicable to Teflon method	1) Flag data if recovery for only one or two elements fail criteria, or when a matrix interference is confirmed by SRD and/or PS results. 2) Reanalyze 3) Reprepare sample batch if recovery for most elements fail criteria or contamination is evident. 4) Sb failures must be flagged on MS/MSD and all samples, "SL"
MS/MSD RPD for 8 x 10" Quartz and glass filters only	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	RPD $\leq 20\%$  Not applicable to Teflon method	1) Check for 4x spike concentration and non-homogenous matrix, flag as necessary 2) Reanalyze for verification
Post Digestion Spike (PS)	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Recovery 75%-125%	1) Flag failed elements for parent sample and PS 2) Reprepare PS if preparation issue is suspected reason for failure.
Serial Dilution (SRD)	1 per batch of $\leq 20$ samples	$\pm 10\%$ RPD of undiluted sample if the element concentration is $\geq 25x$ MDL	1) Re-prepare dilution if preparation issue is suspected reason for failure. 2) Flag failed analytes
Field Blank	As received	$< 5x$ MDL in ng/m3	1) Flag failed elements in FB
Internal Standards (ISTD)	Every Calibration, QC and Field Sample	Recovery 60-125% of the measured intensity of the calibration blank	1) If drift suspected, stop analysis and determine cause, recalibrate if necessary 2) Reanalyze sample 3) If recovery $> 125\%$ due to inherent ISTD, dilute sample and reanalyze

#### 11.3.6 Hexavalent Chromium Analysis

CCVs prepared from NIST-traceable stocks are performed each analysis day to ensure that the analytical procedures are in control. During the analysis of the samples, the ICV and ICB are analyzed immediately before the analysis of samples, a CCV and CCB after every ten injections, and at the end of every analysis batch. The acceptance criteria are between 90-110 percent recovery for the ICVs and CCVs and less than MDL for the ICBs and CCBs.

If these daily CCVs (and/or CCBs) do not meet the criterion, a second analysis of the same standard is performed. If the second CCV does not pass or if more than one daily CCV does not meet the criterion, a new standard is prepared and analyzed. If it fails a third time, a new calibration curve (with at least 5 concentration levels) is analyzed. All samples analyzed with the unacceptable CCV will be reanalyzed. The quality procedures for hexavalent chromium analysis are presented in Table 11-10.

**Table 11-10**  
**Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Hexavalent Chromium**

QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Initial 6-point calibration standards	Before every sequence	Correlation coefficient $\geq 0.995$ ; Relative Error (RE) $< 20\%$	1) Repeat analysis of calibration standards 2) Reprepare calibration standards and reanalyze
ICV	Before every sequence, following the initial calibration	Recovery 90-110%	1) Repeat analysis of initial calibration verification standard 2) Repeat analysis of calibration standards 3) Reprepare calibration standards and reanalyze
ICB	One per batch, following the ICV	Analyte must be $< \text{MDL}$	1) Reanalyze 2) Reprepare blank and reanalyze 3) Correct contamination and reanalyze blank 4) Flag data of all samples in the batch
CCV	Every 10 injections and at the end of the sequence	Recovery 90-110%	1) Repeat analysis of CCV 2) Reprepare CCV 3) Flag data bracketed by unacceptable CCV
Laboratory Control Sample (LCS/LCSD)	Two per sample batch of $\leq 20$ samples	Recovery 90-110%	1) Reanalyze 2) Reprepare standard and reanalyze 3) Flag data of all samples since the last acceptable LCS
MB	One per batch	Analyte must be $\leq \text{MDL}$	1) Reanalyze 2) Flag data for all samples in the batch
Replicate Analysis	Duplicate, Collocate, BS/BSD and/or replicate samples only	RPD $\leq 20\%$ for concentrations greater than 5 x the MDL	1) Check integration 2) Check instrument function 3) Flag samples
CCB	After every CCV and at the end of the sequence	Analyte must be $< \text{MDL}$	1) Reanalyze 2) Reprepare blank and reanalyze 3) Correct contamination and reanalyze blank 4) Flag data of all samples in the batch

**Table 11-10**  
**Summary of Quality Control Procedures for Hexavalent Chromium (Continued)**

QC Check	Frequency	Acceptance Criteria	Corrective Action
Retention Time (RT)	For identification of analyte	RT must be within 5% window of the average RT of initial calibration standards	1) Check integration/identification 2) Reanalyze
Sampling Duration	All samples	24 hours $\pm$ 1 hours	1) Notify Program Manager 2) Flag samples 22-23 hours and 25-26 hours in AQS with a “Y” flag 3) Invalidate and re-sample for > 24 $\pm$ 2 hours

## 11.4 Precision

Analytical precision is estimated by repeated analysis of approximately 10 percent of the samples. The second analysis is performed in the same analytical batch as the first analysis. Duplicate and collocated samples are reanalyzed once each to determine overall precision, including sampling and analysis variability.

Precision estimates are calculated in terms of absolute percent difference. Because the true concentration of the ambient air sample is unknown, these calculations are relative to the average sample concentration.

Precision is determined as the RPD using the following calculation:

$$\text{RPD} = \frac{|X_1 - X_2|}{\bar{X}} \times 100$$

Where:

- $X_1$  is the ambient air concentration of a given compound measured in one sample;
- $X_2$  is the concentration of the same compound measured during duplicate/collocate/replicate analysis; and
- $\bar{X}$  is the arithmetic mean of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ .

## 11.5 Completeness

Completeness, a quality measure, is calculated at the end of each year. Percent completeness is calculated as the ratio of the number of valid samples received to the number of scheduled samples (beginning with the first valid field sample received through the last field sample received). This quality measure is presented in the final report. The completeness criteria for all parameters were previously presented in Table 4-1.

Completeness is determined using the following calculation:

$$\text{Completeness} = \frac{\text{Number of valid samples}}{\text{Total expected number of samples}} \times 100$$

## 11.6 Representativeness

Representativeness measures how well the reported results reflect the actual ambient air concentrations. This measure of quality can be enhanced by ensuring that a representative sampling design is employed. This design includes proper integration over the desired sampling period and following siting criteria established for each task. The experimental design for sample collection should ensure samples are collected at proper times and intervals for their designated purpose per the data quality objectives. For example, SNMOC samples are collected to gain information about PAMS volatile hydrocarbons. Therefore, collection of 3-hour samples from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. each weekday is appropriate. Quality measures for duplicate sample collection and replicate analyses are included. ERG is not responsible for the sampling design; therefore, representativeness is beyond the scope of this QAPP. The state and local areas should designate the representativeness following EPA guidelines, however a copy of the 2019 EPA sampling schedule is presented in Appendix B.

## 11.7 Sensitivity (Method Detection Limits)

Based on changing EPA guidance on MDL determination procedures, the NATTS program has adopted two MDL procedures, a modified Method Update Rule (MUR) for 40 CFR Part 136, Appendix B<sup>(19)</sup> and the Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) Single Laboratory Procedure (v2.4)<sup>(20)</sup>. In the modified MUR, the MDLs are determined using spiked sample and blank sample data, using the larger value for the new MDL. The MDLs determined from spiked samples are verified by analyzing standards at one to four times the newly determined limits. For the FAC, the historic blank sample data is used to determine the MDL and spiked samples are used if the blank data does not meet requirements.



The MDL for NMOC has not been determined in 2019. If this method is needed, a detection limit study will be performed before analysis begins. The MDLs for the SNMOC are listed in Table 11-11, for VOCs in Table 11-12, and carbonyl compounds (based on a sample volume of 1000 L) in Table 11-13. The PAH MDLs, based on a sampling volume of 300 m<sup>3</sup>, are presented in Table 11-14.

**Table 11-11. 2019 SNMOC Method Detection Limits**

Target Compound	MDL (ppbC)	SQL (ppbC)	Target Compound	MDL (ppbC)	SQL (ppbC)
1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene*	0.872	2.77	Cyclohexane*	0.120	0.381
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene*	0.313	1.00	Cyclopentane*	0.0796	0.253
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene*	0.241	0.766	Cyclopentene	0.318	1.01
1,3-Butadiene*	0.197	0.626	Ethane*	1.45	4.62
1-Butene*	0.370	1.18	Ethylbenzene*	0.165	0.525
1-Decene	0.390	1.24	Ethylene*	0.302	0.962
1-Dodecene	0.706	2.24	Isobutane*	0.0856	0.272
1-Heptene	0.129	0.411	Isobutene	0.103	0.326
1-Hexene*	0.136	0.431	Isopentane*	0.122	0.387
1-Nonene	0.744	2.37	Isoprene*	0.0883	0.281
1-Octene	0.248	0.787	Isopropylbenzene*	0.181	0.577
1-Pentene*	0.0870	0.277	m-Diethylbenzene*	0.183	0.582
1-Tridecene	0.217	0.690	Methylcyclohexane*	0.153	0.486
1-Undecene	0.458	1.46	Methylcyclopentane*	0.107	0.339
2,2,3-Trimethylpentane	0.157	0.500	m-Ethyltoluene*	0.588	1.87

\* PAMS compounds

NOTE: MDL's reported are from Instrument 1. New MDLs will be reported for Instrument 4 if required.

**Table 11-11. 2019 SNMOC Method Detection Limits**

Target Compound	MDL (ppbC)	SQL (ppbC)	Target Compound	MDL (ppbC)	SQL (ppbC)
2,2,4-Trimethylpentane*	0.298	0.949	m-Xylene/p-Xylene*	0.227	0.722
2,2-Dimethylbutane*	0.135	0.430	n-Butane*	0.143	0.454
2,3,4-Trimethylpentane*	0.131	0.415	n-Decane*	0.264	0.839
2,3-Dimethylbutane*	0.0931	0.296	n-Dodecane*	0.390	1.24
2,3-Dimethylpentane*	0.533	1.69	n-Heptane*	0.118	0.375
2,4-Dimethylpentane*	0.127	0.405	n-Hexane*	0.126	0.402
2-Ethyl-1-butene	0.225	0.715	n-Nonane*	0.617	1.96
2-Methyl-1-butene	0.136	0.433	n-Octane*	0.175	0.555
2-Methyl-1-pentene	0.113	0.360	n-Pentane*	0.0887	0.282
2-Methyl-2-butene	0.134	0.426	n-Propylbenzene*	0.217	0.690
2-Methylheptane*	0.128	0.407	n-Tridecane	0.295	0.937
2-Methylhexane*	0.308	0.978	n-Undecane*	0.320	1.02
2-Methylpentane*	0.261	0.831	o-Ethyltoluene*	0.160	0.510
3-Methyl-1-butene	0.258	0.819	o-Xylene*	0.148	0.470
3-Methylheptane*	0.161	0.511	p-Diethylbenzene*	1.30	4.12
3-Methylhexane*	0.234	0.746	p-Ethyltoluene*	0.192	0.611
3-Methylpentane*	0.122	0.388	Propane*	0.156	0.496
4-Methyl-1-pentene	0.124	0.395	Propylene*	0.108	0.344
Acetylene*	0.0691	0.220	Propyne	0.0476	0.151
$\alpha$ -Pinene*	0.269	0.854	Styrene*	0.701	2.23
Benzene*	0.139	0.443	Toluene*	0.140	0.445
$\beta$ -Pinene*	0.970	3.09	trans-2-Butene*	0.0835	0.266
cis-2-Butene*	0.0694	0.221	trans-2-Hexene	0.114	0.362
cis-2-Hexene	0.102	0.326	trans-2-Pentene*	0.0860	0.273
cis-2-Pentene*	0.0577	0.183			

\* PAMS compounds

NOTE: MDL's reported are from Instrument 1. New MDLs will be reported for Instrument 4 if required.

**Table 11-12. 2019 Air Toxics Method Detection Limits**

Target Compounds	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	SQL µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Target Compounds	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	SQL µg/m <sup>3</sup>
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.0817	0.260	cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.0395	0.126
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	0.0954	0.303	Dibromochloromethane	0.0802	0.255
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.0621	0.198	Dichlorodifluoromethane	0.184	0.585
1,1-Dichloroethane	0.0299	0.0951	Dichloromethane	0.143	0.454
1,1-Dichloroethene	0.0491	0.156	Dichlorotetrafluoroethane	0.0722	0.230
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.687	2.19	Ethyl Acrylate	0.0668	0.212
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	0.0750	0.239	Ethyl tert-Butyl Ether	0.0310	0.0987
1,2-Dibromoethane	0.102	0.324	Ethylbenzene	0.0671	0.213
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.0348	0.111	Hexachloro-1,3-butadiene	0.375	1.19
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.0516	0.164	m,p-Xylene	0.102	0.325
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	0.0510	0.162	m-Dichlorobenzene	0.164	0.521
1,3-Butadiene *	0.0244	0.0775	Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	0.0418	0.133
Acetonitrile	0.0788	0.251	Methyl Methacrylate	0.213	0.679
Acetylene	0.0503	0.160	Methyl tert-Butyl Ether	0.0375	0.119
Acrolein *	0.276	0.877	n-Octane	0.109	0.346
Acrylonitrile	0.0475	0.151	o-Dichlorobenzene	0.186	0.593
Benzene *	0.0312	0.0993	o-Xylene	0.0675	0.215
Bromochloromethane	0.0503	0.160	p-Dichlorobenzene	0.199	0.632
Bromodichloromethane	0.0748	0.238	Propylene	0.0684	0.218
Bromoform	0.0966	0.307	Styrene	0.0644	0.205
Bromomethane	0.0385	0.122	tert-Amyl Methyl Ether	0.0424	0.135
Carbon Disulfide	0.131	0.418	Tetrachloroethylene *	0.0597	0.190
Carbon Tetrachloride *	0.0687	0.218	Toluene	0.0687	0.219
Chlorobenzene	0.0430	0.137	trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.0462	0.147
Chloroethane	0.0426	0.135	trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	0.0629	0.200
Chloroform *	0.0406	0.129	Trichloroethylene *	0.0665	0.212
Chloromethane	0.0511	0.163	Trichlorofluoromethane	0.0339	0.108
Chloroprene	0.0311	0.0990	Trichlorotrifluoroethane	0.0754	0.240
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.153	0.487	Vinyl chloride *	0.0261	0.0829

\*NATTS Tier I compounds

**Table 11-13. 2019 Carbonyl Method Detection Limits  
(Underivatized Concentration)**

<b>Compound</b>	<b>MDL (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</b>	<b>SQL (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>)</b>
2-Butanone (Methyl Ethyl Ketone)	0.334	1.06
Acetaldehyde *	0.0363	0.115
Acetone	0.535	1.70
Benzaldehyde	0.00828	0.0263
Butyraldehyde	0.0576	0.183
Crotonaldehyde	0.0107	0.0339
Formaldehyde *	0.0566	0.180
Hexaldehyde	0.0132	0.0420
Propionaldehyde	0.0730	0.232
Valeraldehyde	0.0127	0.0405

NOTE: Assumes 1000 L sample volume.

\*NATTS Tier I compounds

**Table 11-14. 2019 PAH Method Detection Limits**

<b>Compounds</b>	<b>MDL (ng/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>SQL (ng/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
Acenaphthene	0.132	0.420
Acenaphthylene	0.00867	0.0276
Anthracene	0.0346	0.110
Benzo(a)anthracene	0.00929	0.0296
Benzo(a)pyrene *	0.0143	0.0456
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.00834	0.0265
Benzo(e)pyrene	0.00550	0.0175
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.00583	0.0185
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.00419	0.0133
Chrysene	0.00682	0.0217
Coronene	0.00300	0.00954
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	0.0130	0.0413
Fluoranthene	0.0357	0.114
Fluorene	0.135	0.428
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	0.0142	0.0450
Naphthalene *	1.15	3.65
Perylene	0.00906	0.0288
Phenanthrene	0.223	0.709
Pyrene	0.0303	0.0963

NOTE: Assumes a 300 m<sup>3</sup> sample volume.

\*NATTS Tier I compounds

Two MDLs are determined for the metals analysis. One is determined for quartz filters, and the other for Teflon filters. The detection limits for metals the determined by the FAC<sup>(20)</sup> method using compiled method blank data. If the resulting MDL for any element does not meet criteria, then seven to 10 replicate blank filter strips should be spiked at a concentration of two to five times the estimated MDL, digested, and analyzed to determine the MDL values using the modified MUR method. Both procedures should be prepared following the entire analytical method procedure. The metals MDLs are shown in Table 11-15 and are based on a sampling volume of 2000 m<sup>3</sup> for the quartz filters and 24.04 m<sup>3</sup> for the Teflon filters. For 2019, the FAC

procedure was used to determine the MDLs for the quartz and Teflon filters. The hexavalent chromium MDL is also included in Table 11-15 and is based on a sampling volume of 21.6 m<sup>3</sup>.

The Sample Quantitation Limit (SQL) is also reported in Table 11-13 through Table 11-15. The SQL is defined as the lowest concentration an analyte can be reliably measured within specified limits of precision and bias during routine laboratory operating conditions. The SQL is defined by EPA as a multiplier (3.18) of the MDL and is considered the lowest concentration that can be accurately measured, as opposed to just detected. ERG submits this data into AQS using flags to show where the data is in respect to the detection level.

The NATTS Program requires sampling and analysis for 18 target air toxic analytes. Hexavalent chromium is no longer required by the NATTS program, but was given a target MDL in the latest NATTS TAD<sup>(18)</sup> and the NATTS Work Plan Template<sup>(21)</sup>. The NATTS program uses sensitivity to assess quantification from a monitoring site with the appropriate level of certainty. In order to meet this objective, target MDLs have been established for the NATTS Program and are compared to the current 2019 ERG MDLs in Table 11-16.

**Table 11-15. 2019 Metals Method Detection Limit**

Element	47 mm Teflon		8x10" Quartz	
	MDL (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	SQL (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	MDL (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )	SQL (ng/m <sup>3</sup> )
Antimony *	0.135	0.295	0.0433	0.0944
Arsenic *	0.0350	0.0764	0.00862	0.0188
Beryllium *	0.00291	0.00635	0.00154	0.00336
Cadmium *	0.0330	0.0720	0.00563	0.0123
Chromium *	6.95	15.1	1.15	2.50
Cobalt *	0.0771	0.168	0.0127	0.0277
Lead *	0.108	0.236	0.378	0.824
Manganese *	0.771	1.68	1.41	3.08
Mercury	0.0148	0.0322	0.00375	0.00818
Nickel *	1.18	2.57	0.776	1.69
Selenium *	0.0621	0.135	0.0105	0.0230
<b>Hexavalent Chromium MDL (47mm Cellulose)</b>				
Hexavalent Chromium	0.00386	0.00842		

NOTE: For total metals: Assumes total volume of 24.04 m<sup>3</sup> for Teflon filters and 2000 m<sup>3</sup> for Quartz filters.

For hexavalent chromium: Assumes total volume of 21.6 m<sup>3</sup>.

\*NATTS Tier I Compounds

**Table 11-16. Target MDLs for the NATTS Program**

Pollutant	NATTS Target MDL (µg/m³)	ERG 2019 MDL (µg/m³)	Is ERG MDL < Target MDL?		
NATTS Tier I VOC HAPs					
Acrolein	0.09	0.276	NO		
Benzene	0.13	0.0312	YES		
1,3-Butadiene	0.10	0.0244	YES		
Carbon Tetrachloride	0.17	0.0687	YES		
Chloroform	0.50	0.0406	YES		
Tetrachloroethylene	0.17	0.0597	YES		
Trichloroethylene	0.20	0.0665	YES		
Vinyl Chloride	0.11	0.0261	YES		
NATTS Tier I Carbonyl HAPs					
Acetaldehyde	0.45	0.0363	YES		
Formaldehyde	0.080	0.0566	YES		
Pollutant	NATTS Target MDL (ng/m³)	ERG 2019 MDL (ng/m³)	Is ERG MDL < Target MDL?		
NATTS Tier I PAH HAPs					
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.91	0.0143	YES		
Naphthalene	29	1.15	YES		
NATTS Tier I Metal HAPs					
		(Low Vol PM <sub>10</sub> )		(High Vol PM <sub>10</sub> )	
Arsenic (PM <sub>10</sub> )	0.23	0.0350	YES	0.00862	YES
Beryllium (PM <sub>10</sub> )	0.42	0.00291	YES	0.00154	YES
Cadmium (PM <sub>10</sub> )	0.56	0.0330	YES	0.00563	YES
Lead (PM <sub>10</sub> )	15.0	0.108	YES	0.378	YES
Manganese (PM <sub>10</sub> )	5.0	0.771	YES	1.41	YES
Nickel (PM <sub>10</sub> )	2.1	1.18	YES	0.776	YES

NOTE: Target MDL's were obtained from the NATTS Work Plan Template (March 2015), Section 3.1 and the NATTS TAD, Revision 3<sup>(18)</sup>



## SECTION 12

### INSTRUMENT/EQUIPMENT TESTING, INSPECTION, AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the quality of the sampling and analytical equipment, ERG conducts performance checks for all equipment used in each of the programs. ERG checks the sampling systems annually, and makes repairs as needed. ERG tracks the performance of the analytical instrumentation to ensure proper operation. ERG also maintains a spare parts inventory to shorten equipment downtime. Table 12-1 details the maintenance items, how frequently they will be performed, and who is responsible for performing the maintenance. All checks, testing, inspections, and maintenance done on each instrument are recorded in the appropriate Maintenance Logbook or LIMS Instrument Maintenance Logs for each instrument.

**Table 12-1**  
**Preventive Maintenance in ERG Laboratories**

Item	Maintenance Frequency	Responsible Party
<b>For Analytical Systems</b>		
Replace GC/LC/IC Column	As necessary (i.e., observe peaks tailing, retention time shifts, increased baseline noise, etc.)	Analyst
Detector Maintenance	As necessary	Analyst
Computer Backup	Biweekly, Daily preferred	Analyst
<b>Accelerated Solvent Extractor</b>		
Piston Rinse Seal	Quarterly, or as needed	Analyst
Standard Rinse Seal	Quarterly, or as needed	Analyst

**Table 12-1**  
**Preventive Maintenance in ERG Laboratories (Continued)**

Item	Maintenance Frequency	Responsible Party
<b>High Performance Liquid Chromatography</b>		
In-line filter	As necessary (when pressure increases above 2500 psi)	Analyst
Inspect Delivery System Motor	Annually	Service Technician
Replace Teflon Delivery Tubing	Annually	Service Technician
<b>Ion Chromatography</b>		
Rinse Post Column Reagent lines with methanol	As necessary	Analyst
Rinse Eluent Lines with Deionized water	After every sequence	Analyst
Sonicate Inlet and Outlet Check Valves	As necessary	Analyst
Rinse Autosampler Injector	As necessary	Analyst
<b>Inorganic Laboratory</b>		
Flush system for 5 minutes with the plasma on with a rinse blank	After every sequence	Analyst
Cleaning cones, torch, injector, spray chamber	Quarterly, or as needed for analysis quality	Analyst
Change Roughing Pump Oil	Annually	Service Engineer
Replace Air Filters	Annually	Service Engineer
<b>For Sampling Field Equipment (UATMP, Carbonyl, NMOC/SNMOC, and Hexavalent Chromium)</b>		
Inspect/Replace vacuum pump diaphragms and flapper valves	At each system certification effort	ERG
Inspect Sampler (overall)	At each system certification effort and prior to each scheduled collection event	ERG/Field Operator
Inspect/Replace Cartridge Connectors	Prior to each collection event, replace as needed	ERG/Field Operator
Replace Ozone Scrubber	At each system certification effort	ERG
MFM Check or Flow check	At each system certification effort	ERG
Inspect/Replace Fans	At each system certification effort	ERG

## **12.1 SNMOC, VOC, and PAMS**

The GC/FID/MS systems are maintained under a service agreement. ERG personnel perform minor maintenance, such as filament changes, carrier gas filter replacements, column maintenance, and source cleaning. The following spare parts should be kept in the lab: traps, filament, column, and split for the column. All procedures, checks, and scheduled maintenance checks for VOC GC/FID/MS analysis are provided in ERG's SOP (ERG-MOR-005) presented in Appendix D.

## **12.2 Carbonyls**

The carbonyl HPLC analytical systems are maintained under a service agreement. ERG personnel perform minor maintenance, such as column and detector maintenance, on an as-needed basis. The following spare parts should be kept in the lab: solvent frit, column, in-line filter and guard column. All procedures, checks, and scheduled maintenance checks are provided for carbonyl HPLC analysis in ERG's SOP (ERG-MOR-024) presented in Appendix D.

## **12.3 HAPs**

The GC/MS systems for PAH and VOC analysis are maintained under the same service agreement. ERG personnel perform minor maintenance as needed. The following spare parts should be kept in the lab: injector sleeve, filament, and column.

For the HAPs sample analyses performed on the ICP-MS and IC, routine preventive maintenance is performed by the Analyst or Task Lead. ERG personnel perform minor maintenance, such as column and detector maintenance, on an as-needed basis. Contracted service agreements are in place for non-routine maintenance. Spare peristaltic pump tubing, sample and skimmer cones, nebulizers, torches, injectors and o-rings should be kept in the lab for the ICP-MS. A spare guard and analytical column, piston seals, reaction coil, and reservoir frits

should be kept in the lab for the IC. More procedures, checks, and scheduled maintenance checks are provided in ERG's SOP

(ERG-MOR-049) for PAH analysis by GC/MS, ERG-MOR-095 for metals analysis by ICP-MS, and ERG-MOR-063 for hexavalent chromium by IC presented in Appendix D.

## **SECTION 13**

### **INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION AND FREQUENCY**

The programs are discussed separately in this section because the requirements for analytical system calibrations differ. Analytical instruments and equipment are calibrated when the analysis is set up, when the laboratory takes corrective action, following major instrument maintenance, or if the continuing calibration acceptance criteria have not been met. Appropriate standards are prepared by serial dilutions of pure substances or accurately prepared concentrated solutions. Many analytical instruments have high sensitivity, so calibration standards must be extremely dilute solutions. In preparing stock solutions of calibration standards, great care is exercised in measuring weights and volumes, since analyses following the calibration are based on the accuracy of the calibration.

Each calibration analysis is stored, electronically and hardcopy, with traceability for the samples analyzed using that calibration. Each of the analytical systems is calibrated for all reported target analytes, except for the NMOC and SNMOC calibrations. The NMOC calibration is based on propane and the SNMOC calibration is based on propane, hexane, benzene, octane, and decane average response factors. NMOC calibration will be discussed in more detail when the analysis is requested by a State.

#### **13.1 SNMOC Calibration**

For the SNMOC method, average carbon response factors are obtained quarterly (at a minimum) based on the analysis of humidified calibration standards prepared in canisters. The Dynamic Flow Dilution System (SOP Number ERG-MOR-061, Appendix D) is used to dilute certified Linde or equivalent alkanes into clean, evacuated SUMMA<sup>®</sup>-treated canisters. The gas standards are traceable via the gravimetric preparation using NIST-traceable weights. These gas standards are recertified annually. HPLC grade water is used to humidify the standard to approximately 50 percent. The standard is diluted with scientific-grade air to achieve the desired concentrations for the calibration. The response factors generated from the calibration are used to

determine concentrations of detected compounds, on the assumption that FID response is linear with respect to the number of carbon atoms present in the compound.

At least five calibration standards are prepared in ranges from 5 to 400 ppbC concentrations. The average response factors for propane, hexane, benzene, octane, and decane are determined using the response correlated to concentration. Individual concentrations for the C<sub>2</sub> through C<sub>13</sub> compounds detected on the FID are calculated using one of the five response factors, with a similar Carbon number. The calibration is considered representative if the average RF RSD for the curve is within  $\pm 20$  percent. Daily, before sample analysis, a CCV standard (such as Air Environmental gas standard), is analyzed to ensure the validity of the current response factors. Ten selected hydrocarbons, ranging from C<sub>2</sub> through C<sub>10</sub>, from the QC standard are compared to the calculated theoretical concentrations. A percent recovery of 70-130 percent is considered acceptable showing the analytical system is in control.

A blank of cleaned, humidified air or N<sub>2</sub> is analyzed after the CCV and before sample analyses. The system is considered in control if the total NMOC concentration for the blank is less than or equal to 20 ppbC.

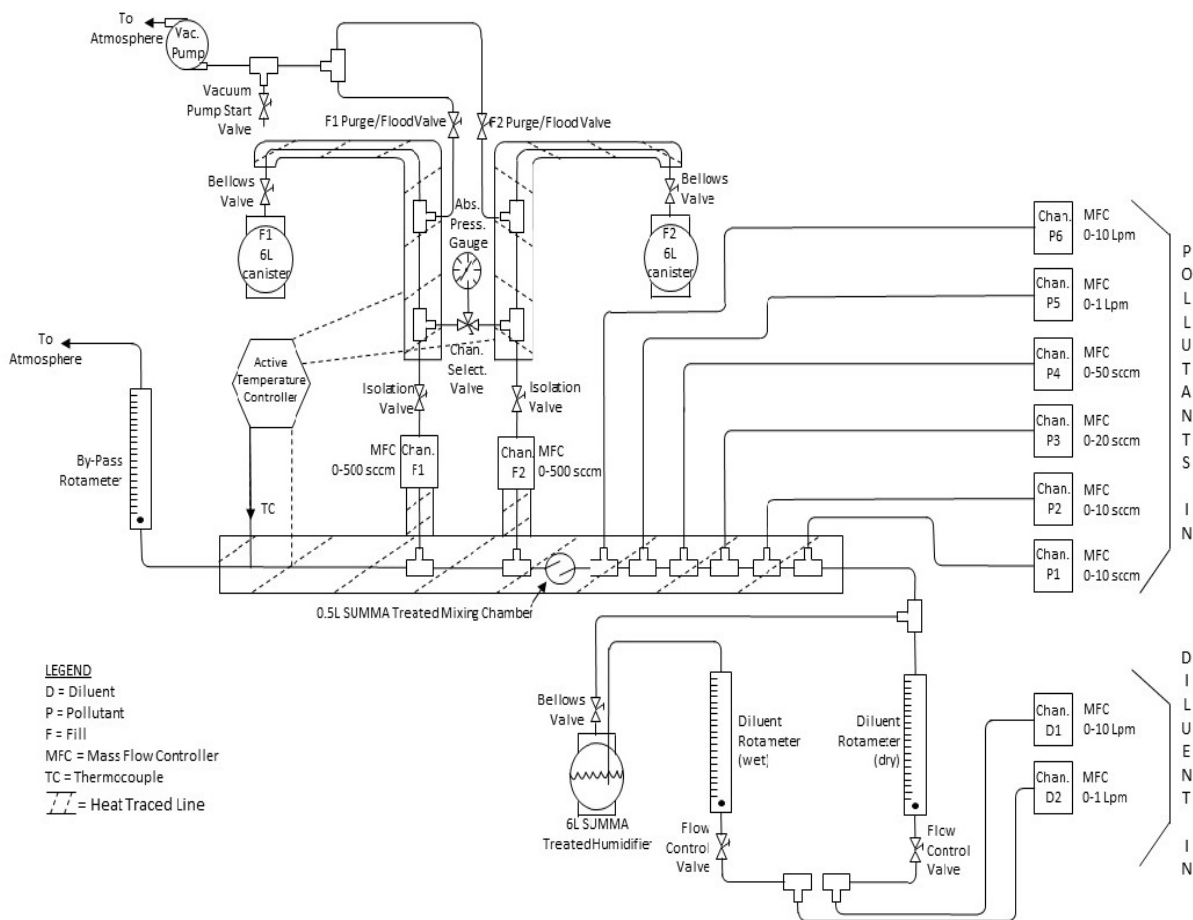
## **13.2 VOC Calibration**

Calibration of the GC/FID/MS is accomplished quarterly (at a minimum) by analyzing humidified calibration standards prepared in canisters generated from NIST-traceable Linde or Air Environmental (or equivalent) gas standards. The certified standards contain the VOC target compounds at approximately 500 ppbV. Although the MS is the primary quantitation tool, responses on the FID are recorded to detect and quantify hydrocarbon peaks and can be used for SNMOC or PAMS results. The calibration for these hydrocarbon peaks should be accomplished as explained in Section 13.1.

Calibration standards are prepared with a dynamic flow dilution apparatus (Figure 13-1, see Standard Operating Procedure ERG-MOR-061, Appendix D). The gases are mixed in a SUMMA<sup>®</sup>-treated mixing sphere and bled into evacuated canisters. One dilution air stream is humidified by routing it through a SUMMA<sup>®</sup>-treated bubbler containing HPLC-grade water; the other stream is not humidified. The dilution air streams are then brought together for mixing with the streams from the certified cylinders. Flow rates from all streams are gauged and controlled by mass flow controllers. The split air dilution streams are metered by “wet” and “dry” rotameters (~50 percent relative humidity) from the humidified and unhumidified dilution air streams, respectively.

The system is evacuated with a vacuum pump while the closed canister is connected. The lines leading to the canister and to the mixing sphere are flushed for at least 20 minutes with standard gas before being connected to the canister for filling. A precision pressure gauge measures the canister pressure before and after filling.

Initial calibration standards are prepared at nominal concentrations of 0.25, 0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, and 10 ppbV for each of the target compounds (a minimum of 5 levels are required). All standards and samples are analyzed with the following internal standards: *n*-hexane-d<sub>14</sub>, 1,4-difluorobenzene, and chlorobenzene-d<sub>5</sub>. The calibration requires average response factors, based on the internal standard, of  $\pm 30$  percent RSD, however per Compendium Method TO-15<sup>(4)</sup> acceptance criteria, up to two compounds can have  $\pm 40$  percent RSD (non-Tier I compounds). The CCV is made from a second source certified gas at an average concentration of 2.5 ppbV. The CCV must have RRFs within  $\pm 30\%$  of the mean initial calibration RRFs.



**Figure 13-1. Dynamic Flow Dilution Apparatus**

### 13.3 Carbonyl Calibration

For the carbonyl analyses, the HPLC instrument is calibrated using an acetonitrile solution containing the derivatized targeted compounds. The calibration curve consists of six concentration levels ranging from 0.01 to 3.0 microgram per milliliter ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) (underivatized concentration), and each is analyzed in triplicate. The standard linear regression analysis performed on the data for each analyte must have a correlation coefficient greater than or equal to 0.999. The Relative Error (RE) for each compound at each level against the calibration curve must be  $\leq 20$  percent. As a QC procedure to verify the calibration and check HPLC column efficiency, a SSQC sample solution containing target carbonyl compounds at a known concentration is analyzed in triplicate after every calibration curve, with an 85-115 percent recovery criterion.



In each sequence, a CCV (a second source standard) is analyzed every 12 hours or less while samples are analyzed (meeting the 85-115 percent recovery criterion). A system blank brackets the analytical batch, by analyzing one blank at the beginning and one at the end of each sequence.

### 13.4 HAPs Calibration

The GC/MS system in SIM mode is calibrated for PAH analysis at a minimum every six weeks. The average calibration RRF must be greater than or equal to the minimum RRF presented in Table 13-1. For the other HAPs sample analyses, calibration is performed on the ICP-MS and IC. Calibration requirements for the HAPs analytical methods are in Tables 11-7, 11-9 and 11-10.

**Table 13-1.**  
**Relative Response Factor Criteria for Initial Calibration of Common Semivolatile Compounds**

Semivolatile Compounds	Minimum RRF	Maximum %RSD	Maximum % Difference
Naphthalene	0.700	30	30
Acenaphthylene	1.300	30	30
Acenaphthene	0.800	30	30
Fluorene	0.900	30	30
Phenanthrene	0.700	30	30
Anthracene	0.700	30	30
Fluoranthene	0.600	30	30
Pyrene	0.600	30	30
Benz(a)anthracene	0.800	30	30
Chrysene	0.700	30	30
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	0.700	30	30

Note – The ASTM method includes no minimum RRF criteria, therefore none are listed here for the ASTM<sup>(12)</sup> compounds.

**Table 13-1.**  
**Relative Response Factor Criteria for Initial Calibration of Common Semivolatile Compounds (Continued)**

<b>Semivolatile Compounds</b>	<b>Minimum RRF</b>	<b>Maximum %RSD</b>	<b>Maximum % Difference</b>
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.700	30	30
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.700	30	30
Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene	0.500	30	30
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	0.400	30	30
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.500	30	30
Perylene	0.500	30	30
Coronene	0.700	30	30
Benzo(e)pyrene	--	30	30
Cyclopenta(c,d)pyrene	--	30	30
Retene	--	30	30
9-Fluorenone	--	30	30

Note – The ASTM method includes no minimum RRF criteria, therefore none are listed here for the ASTM<sup>(12)</sup> compounds.

### **13.5 Laboratory Support Equipment Calibration**

Analytical balances are serviced and calibrated annually with NIST traceable weights by a vendor service technician. The certificate of Weight Verification (ISO9001) is kept on file by the QA Coordinator. The balance calibrations are checked daily on days of use with Class 1 weights and recorded. The data loggers used for temperature/humidity/pressure have calibration checks annually performed by the vendor. The infrared (IR) thermometers are annually vendor calibrated with NIST-traceable standards. Thermometers, requiring a calibration check, will be checked against a thermometer with an annual NIST traceable vendor calibration. The pressure gauges used for measuring sample canister pressure at receipt are calibrated annually by a certified vendor. Other pressure gauges, used in canister cleaning or canister sample dilution, are checked against a “transfer standard” gauge that is calibrated annually by a certified vendor. MFCs used in the canister dynamic dilution standard system are calibrated annually and the calibrations are checked quarterly.

Pipette calibrations are checked and recorded quarterly. If a pipette fails a calibration check they are rechecked. If it continues to fail, it is sent back to the manufacturer for recalibration. If recalibration is not possible it will be repaired or replaced with a new pipette. Syringe calibrations are checked and recorded annually. If a syringe fails the calibration check, it will be replaced with a new one. Class A volumetric glassware is used throughout the laboratory for bringing sample extracts up to final volume.

## **SECTION 14**

### **INSPECTION/ACCEPTANCE FOR SUPPLIES AND CONSUMABLES**

#### **14.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this element is to establish and document a system for inspecting and accepting all supplies and consumables that may directly or indirectly affect the quality of the NMP. By having documented inspection and acceptance criteria, consistency of the supplies can be assured. This section details the supplies/consumables, their acceptance criteria, and the required documentation for tracing this process.

#### **14.2 Critical Supplies and Consumables**

Table 14-1 details the various components for the field and laboratory operations.

#### **14.3 Acceptance Criteria**

Acceptance criteria for supplies/consumables must be consistent with overall project technical and quality criteria. As requirements change, so do the acceptance criteria. Knowledge of laboratory equipment and experience are the best guides to acceptance criteria. It is the laboratory analyst's responsibility to update the criteria for acceptance of consumables. Other acceptance criteria such as observation of damage due to shipping can only be performed once the equipment has arrived on site.

All supplies and consumables are inspected and accepted or rejected upon receipt in the laboratory. The ERG employee who ordered the supply is responsible for verifying that the order is acceptably delivered, stored and dispersed upon receipt in the laboratory. The recipient's signature on the packing slip indicates the received goods were received and are acceptable. Some supplies or consumables listed in Table 14-1 must be deemed acceptable through testing or blanking, such as with the carbonyl DNPH cartridges. Any changes in standards and sample

media must meet the acceptance criteria outlined in Section 11 for that particular method. Such testing and blanking data is stored with the sample data. Staff should not use supplies or consumables of different model numbers or grades without first discussing it with the Program Manager and specific Task Leader and testing the supply or consumable. Staff should keep any certificate of analysis or documentation pertaining to cleanliness that arrives with the supply/consumable on file. For specific information on reagents and standards used, see applicable method SOP.

**Table 14-1. Critical Supplies and Consumables**

Area	Item	Description	Vendor	Model Number
<b>Field Supplies and Consumables (Fabrication Lab)</b>				
All Samplers	Various Swagelok® fittings	All Samplers	Swagelok	Various
NMOC Sampler	Pump	Metal Bellows	KNF Newberger	UN 05-SV.91
VOC Sampler	Vacuum Pump	VOC System	Thomas	2107VA20
	Canisters	VOC Canisters	Entech	6-liter Silonite® Canisters
Carbonyl Sampler	DNPH Cartridges	DNPH coated plastic cartridges	Waters	WAT 037500
Hexavalent Chromium Sampler	Pump	High Vacuum	Thomas	VA-2110
<b>Laboratory Supplies and Consumables (Laboratories listed below)</b>				
All Laboratories	Powder Free Gloves	Polyethylene	VWR	32915-246
All Laboratories	Gloves	Nitrile	Expotech, ThermoFisher, VWR	1461558 (Expotech)
Liquid Chromatography	Guard column	Zorbax ODS	Agilent	820950-902
Liquid Chromatography	Chromatographic Column	Zorbax ODS	Agilent	880952-702
Liquid Chromatography	UV Lamp	For 2489 detector	Waters	WA 5081142
GC/MS – VOC	Chromatographic Column	0.32 x 1 µ - 60 m column	Restek	Rxi-lms
GC/MS – SVOC	Chromatographic Column	0.25 x 0.25 µ - 30 m column	Restek	Rxi®-5Sil MS
GC/MS – SVOC	Inject seal	Injection port seal	Expotech	2264837

**Table 14-1. Critical Supplies and Consumables (Continued)**

Area	Item	Description	Vendor	Model Number
GC/MS – SVOC	Liner	Injection port liner	Expotech	2377232
GC/MS & Liquid Chromatography	Helium	Carrier Gas	Air Gas	UHP
GC/MS	Hydrogen Gas	FID Gas	Air Gas	UHP
GC/MS	Liquid Nitrogen	Coolant Gas	Air Gas	Bulk
GC/MS	Liquid Argon	Coolant Gas	Air Gas	Bulk
GC/MS	Air	FID Gas	Air Gas	Zero
GC/MS	Traps	Glass bead/Tenax Trap	Entech	01-04-11340
GC/MS	Trap Heater	Sample Trap Heater	Entech	01-09-13010
GC/MS	Cryogenic Valve	Cryogenic Valve	Entech	01-01-71760
ICP-MS	Liquid Argon	Coolant Gas	Air Gas	Bulk
ICP-MS	Acid	High Purity Nitric	Fisher/SCP Science	A200-212/Plasma Pure Plus
ICP-MS	Acid	Hydrochloric Acid	Fisher/SCP Science	A466-1/Plasma Pure Plus
ICP-MS	Hydrogen Peroxide	Hydrogen Peroxide, 30%	SCP Science	Plasma Pure Plus
ICP-MS	Whatman 8"x11" Quartz/Glass Fiber Filters  MTL 47mm Teflon™ Filters	Filters	GE Healthcare Life Sciences & MTL	1851-8531 1882-8532  PT47-EP
IC	Reaction Coil	Knitted Reaction Coil	ThermoFisher	042631
IC	Guard Column	Dionex Ion Pac NG1	ThermoFisher	039567
IC	Analytical Column	Dionex Ion Pac AS7	ThermoFisher	035393
IC	Methanol	Solvent	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	HPLC grade
IC	Sample vials 14 mL, polystyrene with caps	Sample containers	ThermoFisher	352057
IC	Whatman Filters	Filters—47mm ashless cellulose	Expotech, Fisher	09-850H
Prep	Water Filter	Ultrapure Ion Exchange Cartridge	Expotech	1425973
Prep	Water Filter	Cartridge submicron	Expotech	1425977
Prep	Water Filter	Pretreatment Cartridge	Expotech	1426051
Prep	Whatman Filters	Filters—110mm GFA	Expotech	1422153

**Table 14-1. Critical Supplies and Consumables (Continued)**

Area	Item	Description	Vendor	Model Number
Prep	PUF	Pre-cleaned PUF	Cen-Med, Expotech	824-20038, 2256468
Prep	XAD®	XAD®	Expotech	2255045
Prep	Petri Dish	Filter container	Expotech	1426833
Prep	Tweezers	Tweezers	VWR	100499-866
Prep	Acetonitrile	Solvent	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	HPLC grade
Prep	Methylene Chloride	Solvent	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	Optima grade
Prep	Methanol	Solvent	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	Optima grade
Prep	Hexane	Solvent	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	95% (Optima grade)
Prep	Toluene	Solvent	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	Optima grade
Prep	Nitrogen	Evaporation gas	Air Gas	UHP (or Bulk)
Prep	Amber glass bottles 250 mL	Sample containers	Expotech	2373176
Prep	110mm Whatman paper filters	Sample filters	Expotech	1422153
Prep	30mm glass fiber filters	Extraction filters	Expotech	2262135
Prep	Extraction cells	Sample containers	Thermo Electron	068077
Prep	Ottawa sand	Extraction filler	Expotech	2262138
Prep	Seals	ASE Vespel Seals	Fisher	056776
Prep	O-rings	Extraction cell o-rings	Expotech	2374568
Prep	Disposable pipets	Disposable pipets	Expotech	1405717
Prep	2 mL amber sample vials	Sample containers	Sigma-Aldrich	27000
Prep	4 mL amber sample vials	Sample containers	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	66030-734 (VWR)
Prep	4 mL sample Teflon lined caps	Sample containers	Expotech, Fisher, VWR	66030-771 (VWR)
Prep	Autosampler snap-it vials	Sample containers	Waters	WAT 094220
Prep	Autosampler snap-it caps	Sample containers	Waters	18000303

Consumables and supplies with special handling and storage needs must be handled and stored as suggested by the manufacturer. Consumables with expiration dates, such as solvents and standards, must be labeled with a receipt date, date opened, and the initials of the person that opened the consumable and standard expiration dates must be entered into the standards section of LIMS. To decrease waste, the oldest supplies or consumables should be used first.



## SECTION 15

### DATA MANAGEMENT

#### 15.1 Data Recording

Data management for sample data is presented in Figure 15-1. The sample data path is shown from sample origination to data reporting and storage. The LIMS allows the laboratory to manage and track samples, instrument workflow, and reporting. The LIMS stores the raw instrument data and performs the conversion calculations to put the data into final reporting units. These calculations are reviewed and documented annually by the QA coordinator and kept in the QA files in Room 102. The main procedures are described in the *SOP for the Laboratory Information Management System* (ERG-MOR-099). The main functions of the LIMS system include, but are not limited to:

- Sample login;
- Sample scheduling, and tracking;
- Sample processing and quality control; and
- Sample reporting and data storage.

All LIMS users must be authorized by the LIMS Administrator and permitted specified privileges. The following privilege levels are defined:

- Data Entry Privilege – The individual may see and modify only data within the LIMS that he or she has personally entered.
- Reporting Privilege – Without additional privileges.
- Data Administration Privilege – Data Administrators for the database are allowed to change data as a result of QA screening and related reasons. Data Administrators are responsible for performing the following tasks on a regular basis:
  - Merging/correcting the duplicate data entry files;
  - Running verification/validation routines, correcting data as necessary.

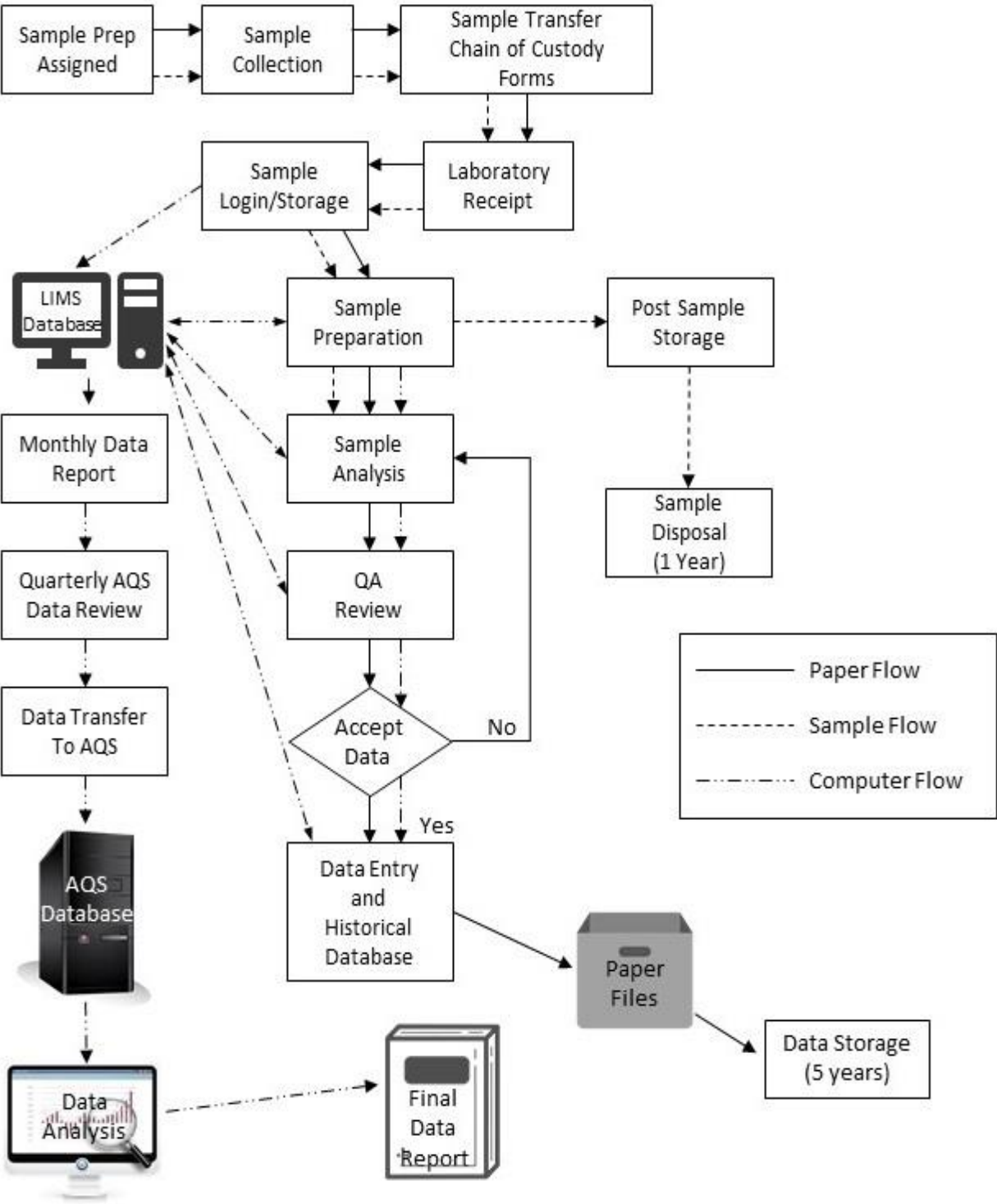


Figure 15-1. Data Management and Sample Flow Diagram

## 15.2 Data Validation

Data validation is a combination of checking that data processing operations have been carried out correctly and of monitoring the quality of the field operations. Data validation is confirmed by examination of objective evidence that the requirements for a specific intended use are fulfilled as presented in Section 4. This data validation is performed prior to the annual final report. The data reported monthly are considered preliminary until the data is validated, entered into the AQS database, and reported in the annual final report. Data validation is discussed in more detail in Section 18.5.

## 15.3 Data Reduction and Transformation

Data generated on an instrument is reduced by the analyst via instrument chromatographic software. Any manual integration to chromatographic data follows SOP ERG-MOR-097, the *SOP for Manual Integration of Chromatographic Peaks*. Specific equations used by the instrument chromatographic software to calculate concentration are documented in the individual analytical SOPs found in Appendix D. The equations for transforming raw data are set up to automatically calculate to final concentrations in the LIMS system. The initial and final reporting units for SNMOC are ppbC. All other analyses are reported in units different from their raw data. The initial units for the Carbonyl Compounds analysis are microgram per milliliter ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), while the final reporting units are in either ppbV or microgram per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ ), per site request, however the NATTS sites are to be reported in  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$  per the NATTS TAD<sup>(18)</sup>. The initial units for VOC are ppbV and the LIMS data reports are in ppbV and  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ . The PAH initial units are  $\text{ng}/\mu\text{L}$  with final reporting units of nanogram per cubic meter ( $\text{ng/m}^3$ ). The initial units for metals are  $\text{ng/L}$  with final reporting units of  $\text{ng/m}^3$ . The initial units for the hexavalent chromium analysis are  $\text{ng/mL}$  with final reporting units of  $\text{ng/m}^3$ . The associated MDLs are reported in final reporting units with the final concentrations. MDLs are adjusted for dilution and actual prep volumes, and sample collection volume where applicable, before reporting.

The electronic data file is uploaded onto a network server (which is backed-up daily) and into the LIMS. Once the data is in LIMS, the Task Leader reviews it following the checklists presented in the SOPs using instrument software and the method-specific control limits set up in LIMS. Ten percent of all data is reviewed by the QA Coordinator or designee following the checklist and method specific acceptance criteria in the summary quality control procedure tables outlined in Section 11. After data has successfully completed both reviews and the checklists have been signed, it is available for reporting by the Program Manager.

The *SOP for Project Peer Review* uses manual calculations and visual verification to review all data reported to EPA and State/Local/Tribal agencies following guidelines outlined in SOP ERG-MOR-057 (see Appendix D). *SOP for Developing, Documenting, and Evaluating the Accuracy of Spreadsheet Data*, presented in SOP ERG-MOR-017 (see Appendix D), is consulted in special cases where the calculations are performed via spreadsheets instead of the LIMS system.

Reporting formats are designed to fulfill the program requirements and to provide comprehensive, conventional tables of data. The LIMS data reporting format includes any required data qualifiers, footnotes, detection limits for each analyte, and appropriate units for all measurements. The LIMS can produce Adobe and Excel data reports, which is standard for this program. Each report is reviewed by the Program Manager or designee before it is sent to the client.

#### **15.4 Data Transmittal**

Data transmittal occurs when data are transferred from one person or location to another or when data are copied from one form to another. Some examples of data transmittal are copying raw data from a notebook into a LIMS bench sheet and electronic transfer of raw chromatographic data to a LIMS data entry table. Each individual SOP listed in Appendix D discusses the procedures for determining the calculations of concentrations as well as data entry.

ERG reports ambient air quality data and associated information to AQS as specified by the documentation at the following website <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/manuals>. Such air quality data and information will be fully screened and validated and will be submitted directly to the AQS database via electronic transmission, in the format of the AQS, and in accordance with the annual schedule. The *SOP for the Preparation of Monitoring Data for AQS Upload* is presented in Appendix D (SOP ERG-MOR-098).

## 15.5 Data Summary

ERG implements the data summary and analysis program in the final annual report. The following specific summary statistics will be tracked and reported for the network:

- Single sampler bias or accuracy (based on laboratory audits if available);
- Analytical precision (based on analytical replicates);
- Sampler precision (based on collocated data);
- Network-wide bias and precision; and
- Data completeness.

Equations used for these reports are given in Table 15-1.

**Table 15-1. Report Equations**

Criterion	Equation
Coefficient of Variation (CV)- $p$ and $r$ are concentrations from the primary and duplicate samplers, respectively. This equation is also used for collocated samples and replicate analysis.	$CV = 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{(p-r)}{0.5 \times (p+r)} \right]^2}{2n}}$
Percent Completeness - Where, $N_{\text{valid}}$ is the number of valid samples analyzed in the sampling year and $N_{\text{theoretical}}$ is the number of valid samples that should be taken within that same sampling year.	$\text{Completeness} = \frac{N_{\text{valid}}}{N_{\text{theoretical}}} * 100$

## **15.6 Data Tracking**

The ERG LIMS database contains the necessary input functions and reports appropriate to track and account for the status of specific samples and their data during processing operations. The following input locations are used to track sample and sample data status:

- Sample Control
  - Sample collection information (by Work Order);
  - Sample receipt/custody information;
  - Unique sample number (LIMS ID);
  - Storage location;
  - Required analyses;
- Laboratory
  - Batch/bench assignment;
  - Sequence assignment (if needed);
  - Data entry/review;
  - Query/update analysis status;
  - Standards/calibration information.

## **15.7 Data Storage and Retrieval**

Data archival policies for hardcopy records are shown in Table 15-2.

All data are stored on the ERG LIMS server. This system has the following specifications:

- Operating System: Windows 2008 Server
- Memory: 6G RAM
- Hard Drives: Three drives of 450G each configured as RAID 5;
- Network card: Gigabit card (10/100/1000)

- Tape Drives for Backup: Two tape drives are daisy chained (HP StorageWorks, 1/8 G2 Tape Autoloader). Symantec Backup Exec Software ver. 12.5
- Security: Network login password protection on all workstations; Additional password protection applied by application software.

Security of the data in the database is ensured by the following controls:

- Password protection on the data base that defines three levels of access to the data;
- Logging of all incoming communication sessions, including the originating telephone number, the user's ID, and connect times; and
- Storage of media, including backup tapes, in an alternate location that is at a locked, restricted access area.

**Table 15-2. Data Archive Policies**

<b>Data Type</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Retention Time</b>	<b>Final Disposition</b>
Laboratory notebooks	Hardcopy	Laboratory	5 years after close of contract	N/A
LIMS Database	Electronic (on-line)	Laboratory	Backup media after 5 years	Backup tapes retained indefinitely

## **ASSESSMENT/OVERSIGHT**

### **SECTION 16**

#### **ASSESSMENTS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS**

An assessment is defined as an evaluation process used to measure the performance or effectiveness of the quality system or the establishment of the monitoring network and sites and various measurement phases of the data operation.

The results of QA assessments indicate whether the control efforts are adequate or need to be improved. Documentation of all QA and QC efforts implemented during the data collection, analysis, and reporting phases are important to data users, who can then consider the impact of these control efforts on the data quality. Both qualitative and quantitative assessments of the effectiveness of these control efforts will identify those areas most likely to impact the data quality. ERG will perform the following assessments to ensure the adequate performance of the quality system.

#### **16.1 Assessment Activities and Project Planning**

##### **16.1.1 External Technical Systems and Data Quality Audits**

A TSA is a thorough and systematic on-site qualitative audit, where facilities, equipment, personnel, training, procedures, subcontractor systems, and record keeping are examined for conformance to the QAPP. The TSAs will be performed by EPA or its designee at the ERG Laboratory. The TSAs for the contract are conducted approximately every 3 years. The EPA QA Office will implement the TSA either as a team or as an individual auditor. ERG will participate in any data quality audits by EPA or designee at the discretion of the EPA QA Coordinator.

The EPA audit team will prepare a brief written summary of findings for the Program Manager and Program QA Coordinator. Problems with specific areas will be discussed and an attempt made to rank them in order of their potential impact on data quality. ERG will work with



EPA to solve required corrective actions. As part of corrective action and follow-up, an audit finding response letter will be generated by the Program Manager and Program QA Coordinator. The audit finding response letter will address what actions are being implemented to correct the finding(s) of the TSA. This summary from EPA and the following response from ERG are filed in the QA/QC file in Room 102. The findings and the follow-up corrective actions are discussed in the annual QA Management Systems Review.

As part of ongoing National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) certification, TSAs are performed at ERG through the Florida Department of Health by an auditing contractor every two years. A summary of findings is sent to ERG, specifically the QA Coordinator. The QA Coordinator sends its response of corrective actions which is either accepted or denied by Florida Department of Health. This documentation is stored in the QA/QC file in Room 102. The findings and the follow-up corrective actions are discussed in the annual QA Management Systems Review.

#### 16.1.2 Internal Technical Systems Audits

An internal TSA is performed examining facilities, equipment, personnel, training, procedures, and record keeping for conformance to the individual SOPs and this QAPP. The TSAs will be performed by the Program QA Coordinator and will be conducted at least once per year. The checklists for the internal TSAs are based on the NATTS TSA or National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) checklists with additional areas addressing the individual SOPs and this QAPP. The content of the checklists vary episode to episode to ensure comprehensive in-depth coverage of procedures over time. Such elements will be included in the checklists:

- Criteria listed in Section 11 of this QAPP
- SOP specifications
- Method specifications
- Supporting equipment specifications
- Other laboratory wide QA systems in place (ex. Satellite SOP notebooks)

The Program QA Coordinator will report internal audit findings to the Program Manager within 30 days of completion of the internal audit in the form of a report. The EPA Delivery Order Manager will be informed if issues from the internal audit impact the quality of this program. The report is filed in the QA/QC file in Room 102. All corrective actions are addressed and implemented as soon as they are determined. The findings and the follow-up corrective actions are discussed in the annual QA Management Systems Review to assess effectiveness of the corrective actions.

#### 16.1.3 Proficiency Testing

The PT is an assessment tool for the laboratory operations. ‘Blind’ samples are sent to the laboratory, where they follow the normal handling routines that any other sample follows. The results are sent to the Program Manager and Program QA Coordinator for final review and reporting to the auditing agency. The auditing agency prepares a PT report and sends a copy of the results to the Program Manager, Program QA Coordinator, and the EPA QA Office(s). Any results outside the acceptance criteria are noted in the PT report. Repeated analyte failures are investigated to determine the root cause and documented on a CAR. The PT reports are filed in the QA/QC file in Room 102. The performance on these audits is discussed in the annual QA Management Systems Review.

Currently, there is one PT audit program supported by this contract. This is provided through the NATTS program for carbonyl, metals, VOC, and PAH audits. These PT audits are provided to ERG from EPA (or an EPA contractor) throughout the year. The acceptable limits are provided on the annual reports presented to the participating States and EPA.

ERG participates in round robin studies, such as Regional EPA round robin studies, when available for VOC, metals, carbonyls, and SNMOC. In these studies, each participating laboratory result is compared against the calculated average. Reports from these studies are kept in the QA/QC file in Room 102. The performance on these studies is discussed in the annual QA Management Systems Review.

#### 16.1.4 Data Assessment for Final Report

A data quality assessment is the statistical analysis of environmental data to determine whether the quality of data is of adequate quality, based on the MQOs. The data assessment in the final report is presented to EPA and State agencies and includes the following:

- Review of the MQOs of the program, which includes completeness, precision and accuracy.
- Present the results of the data quality assessment using summary statistics, plots and graphs while looking for and discussing any patterns, relationships, or anomalies.
- Qualify the data that does not meet the MQO for completeness for each monitoring site and for site-specific summary statistics.

### 16.2 **Documentation of Assessments**

#### 16.2.1 TSA, Data Quality Audit, and PT Documentation

All reports from EPA or designated contractors regarding ERG's performance on TSAs, Data Quality Audits, and PTs are filed in the QA/QC file in Room 102. PT reports are dispersed and discussed with contributing staff.

Reports from internal TSAs are prepared and discussed with the contributing staff and Program Manager and filed in the QA/QC file in Room 102.

#### 16.2.2 Internal Data Review Documentation

Internal data review is performed on 100 percent of the data by the Task Leader and 10 percent of the data by the Program QA Coordinator or designee against the criteria in the individual SOPs and this QAPP prior to being reported each month. The assessment is documented on the data review checklist, which is returned to the Task Leader for minor

correction action and inclusion in the data package. The checklists used for analyses are shown in their respective SOPs (Appendix D) as follows:

- **VOC** – ERG-MOR-005, *SOP for the Concurrent GC/FID/MS Analysis of Canister Air Toxic Samples using EPA Compendium Method TO-15 and EPA Ozone Precursor Method.*
- **Carbonyl** – ERG-MOR-024, *SOP for Preparing, Extracting, and Analyzing DNPH Carbonyl Cartridges by Method TO-11A.*
- **SVOC/PAH** – ERG-MOR-049, *SOP for Analysis of Semivolatile Organic Compounds (Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons) Using EPA Compendium Method TO-13A & ASTM D6209.*
- **Metals** – ERG-MOR-095, *SOP for the Analysis of High Volume Quartz, Glass Fiber Filters, and 47 mm Filters for Metals by ICP-MS using Method IO 3.5 and FEM Method EQL-0512-201 and FEM Method EQL-0512-202.*
- **Hexavalent chromium** – ERG-MOR-063, *SOP for the Preparation and Analysis of Ambient Air for Hexavalent Chromium by Ion Chromatography.*
- **SNMOC** – ERG-MOR-005, *SOP for the Concurrent GC/FID/MS Analysis of Canister Air Toxic Samples using EPA Compendium Method TO-15 and EPA Ozone Precursor Method.*

During the internal data review, major QC problems identified are brought to the attention of the Program Manager and are documented on a CAR. The final project report also addresses QA considerations for the whole project.

### 16.3 Corrective Action

The Response/Corrective Action Report (CAR) will be filed whenever a problem is found such as an operational problem, or a failure to comply with procedures that affects the quality of the data. A CAR is an important ongoing report to management because it documents primary QA activities and provides valuable records of QA actions. A CAR can be originated by anyone on the project but must be sent to the Program QA Coordinator and Program Manager. Any problem that affects the quality of the overall program will be discussed with EPA.

On the numbered CAR, the description of the problem, the cause of the problem, the corrective action, and the follow-up are documented. CARS will be handled in a timely manner, with follow-up within 45 days. The follow-up assists the QA coordinator in determining if the corrective action was successful and if it was handled in a timely manner. The CAR is recorded on a form, the original copy goes into the QA file (Room 102), and as necessary, a copy goes into the data package. An example of the ERG CAR Form is shown in Figure 16-1.

Each recommendation addresses a specific problem or deficiency and requires a written response from the responsible party. The Program QA Coordinator will verify that the corrective action has been implemented. A summary of the past years' CARs are discussed during the annual QA Management Systems Review.

The following actions are taken by the laboratory QA Coordinator and Program Manager when any aspect of the testing work, or the results of this work, does not conform to the requirements of the quality system or testing methods:

- Identify nonconforming work and take actions such as halting of work or withholding test reports;
- Evaluate the impact of nonconforming work on quality and operations;
- Take remedial action and make decision about the acceptability of the nonconforming work (resample, use as is with qualification, or unable to use);
- Notify the client, and if necessary, recall the work; and
- Authorize the continuation of work.

ERG and its subcontractors are responsible for implementing the analytical phase of this program and are not responsible for the overall DQOs. Therefore, this QAPP tries to ensure that analytical results are of known and adequate quality to ensure the achievement of the various program DQOs.

CAR Number: 2018-



## Corrective Action Report

CAR Initiator: \_\_\_\_\_ Initiation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Area/Procedure Affected: Click or tap here to enter text.  
 Is Immediate Stop of Work Required? Choose an item.

### Non-Conformance

Date of Discovery: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Description of Non-Conformance: What happened? How is this a non-conforming event?  
 Click or tap here to enter text.  
 Investigation of Non-Conformance: How was the non-conformance discovered?  
 Click or tap here to enter text.  
 Impact Assessment: What is affected by the nonconformance?  
 Click or tap here to enter text.  
 Root Cause Analysis: What caused the nonconformance?  
 Click or tap here to enter text.  
 Further Analysis: Could this nonconformance be evident in other areas?  
 Click or tap here to enter text.

### Corrective Action

Due Date for Remedial Action Completion: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Immediate and/or Long-Term Remedial Corrective Actions Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment of Corrective Action Effectiveness: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Click or tap here to enter text.

### Signatures

	Signature & Date	Comments
QA Officer:	_____	Click or tap here to enter text.
Project Manager:	_____	Click or tap here to enter text.
Initiator:	_____	Click or tap here to enter text.

### Follow-up

Reference or attach documentation that demonstrates the return to conformance, or describe below.  
 Click or tap here to enter text.  
 Follow-up Auditor: Click or tap here to enter text. Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were corrective action procedures effective?  
 Click or tap here to enter text.

**Figure 16-1. ERG Response/Corrective Action Report Form**

## **SECTION 17**

### **REPORTS TO MANAGEMENT**

This section describes the quality-related reports and communications to management necessary to support monitoring network operations and the associated data acquisition, validation, assessment, and reporting. Important benefits of regular monthly reports to EPA provide the opportunity to alert of data quality problems, to propose viable solutions to problems, and to procure necessary additional resources.

Effective communication among all personnel is an integral part of a quality system. Regular, planned quality reporting provides a means for tracking the following:

- Adherence to scheduled delivery of data and reports;
- Documentation of deviations from approved QA and test plans, and the impact of these deviations on data quality; and
- Analysis of the potential uncertainties in decisions based on the data.

#### **17.1 Frequency, Content, and Distribution of Reports**

Frequency, content, and distribution of reports for monitoring are shown below.

##### **17.1.1 Monthly and Annual Reports**

Analytical data reports prepared by the Program or Deputy Program Manager are sent to EPA, State, Local and Tribal agencies monthly. These reports include the analytical data for each sample collected monthly including sample results, MDLs, sample information (canister ID, sample volume, etc.) and a QA report (could include duplicates, MB, CCB, CCV, MS/MSD, etc., depending on the analysis). Quarterly QA reports are distributed which include a summary of analyte specific quality control charts (ICV, ICB, CCB, CCV, BLK, BS/BSD, etc.). An annual data report, containing a summary of the monthly reported data and a yearly assessment of the air toxics data, is reported to EPA and State agencies by the Program Manager. This report

documents the statistical analysis and quality assessment for the measurement data and how the objectives for the program were met.

The annual report includes the quality information for each toxic monitoring network in each state. Each report includes:

- Program overview and update;
- Quality objectives for measurement data;
- Data quality assessment;
- Collocated and duplicate sampling estimates for precision and bias; and
- PTs that were performed during the study, if applicable.

#### 17.1.2 Internal Technical System Audit Reports

The Program QA Coordinator or designee performs an internal technical system audit at least once a year for the monitoring network for EPA, State, and NATTS contracts. The findings are listed in reports which are presented to the Program Manager and filed in the QA/QC storage file cabinet located in Room 102. These reports are available to EPA personnel during their TSA. More detail on internal TSAs is provided in Section 16.



## **DATA VALIDATION AND USABILITY**

### **SECTION 18**

#### **DATA REVIEW AND VERIFICATION**

Data verification is a two-stage process to determine if the sampling and analytical data collection process is complete, consistent with the DQOs discussed in this QAPP and associated SOPs, and meets the program requirements. First the data is reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and acceptability. Then the data is verified to meet the quality requirements of the program.

#### **18.1 Data Review Design**

Information used to verify air toxics data, includes:

- Sample COCs, holding times, preservation methods.
- Multi-point calibrations – the multipoint calibrations are used to establish proper initial calibration and can be used to show changes in instrument response.
- Standards – certifications, identification, expiration dates.
- Instrument logs – all activities and samples analyzed are entered into the LIMS logs (batches, sequences, etc.) to track the samples throughout the measurements procedures.
- Supporting equipment – identification, certifications, calibration, if needed.
- Blank, CCVs, replicate and spike results – these QC indicators can be used to ascertain whether sample handling or analysis is causing bias in the data set.
- Review Checklists – these record data quality review performed on all data by Task Leader and on 10 percent of the data by the QA Coordinator or designee. The checklists used to review data is presented in the SOPs.
- Summary Reports – monthly summary data reports present the preliminary data to EPA and respective State/Local/Tribal representatives including data qualifiers.

The reliability and acceptability of environmental analytical information depends on the rigorous completion of all the requirements outlined in the QA/QC protocol. During data analysis and validation, data are filtered and accepted or rejected based on the set of QC criteria listed in the individual SOPs included in Appendix D.

The data are critically reviewed to locate and isolate spurious values. A spurious value, when located, is not immediately rejected. All questionable data, whether rejected or not, are maintained along with rejection criteria and any possible explanation. Such a detailed approach can be time-consuming but can also be helpful in identifying sources of error and, in the long run, save time by reducing the number of outliers.

## **18.2 Data Verification**

Data verification by examination confirms that specified method requirements have been fulfilled. The specific requirements are QC checks, acceptable data entry limits, etc. as presented in Section 11. The analytical procedures performed during the monitoring program will be checked against those described in the QAPP and the SOPs for the UATMP, PAMS, and NMOC support included in Appendix D. Deviations from the QAPP will be classified as acceptable or unacceptable, and critical or noncritical. During review and assessment, qualifiers will be applied to the data as needed; data found to have critical flaws (such as low spike for surrogate recoveries, contaminated blanks, etc.) will be invalidated and a CAR filled out and implemented, if needed. All data management guidelines followed for this contract are presented in Section 15.

## **18.3 Data Review**

The COC forms are checked to ensure accurate transcription. The data are scrutinized daily to eliminate the collection of invalid data. The analyst records any unusual circumstances during analysis (e.g., power loss or fluctuations, temporary leaks or adjustments, operator error) on the LIMS bench sheet and notifies the analytical Task Leader.

QC samples and procedures performed during the monitoring program will be checked against those described in Section 11 of the QAPP. If QC is found unacceptable, corrective actions are implemented (as described in the same section). Prior to reporting, 100 percent of the data is reviewed by the Task Leader(s). To verify accuracy, at least 10 percent of the data is checked by the QA Coordinator or designated reviewer. Items checked can include required QC, original raw data, COCs, checks of all calculations (from calibration to sample analysis), and data transfers. As the data are checked, corrections are made to the database as errors or omissions are encountered. If major errors are found, a greater percent of the data is checked to verify data quality. The Program Manager reviews all data before it is reported to EPA or the State/Local/Tribal agencies.

#### **18.4 Data Reduction and Reporting**

Monthly site-specific data summaries for the NMP are distributed to the participating EPA technical staff, administrators, and to the administrators of the State/Local/Tribal agencies involved in the study. NATTS, CSATAM, and UATMP data consists of any toxics including VOC, SNMOC, carbonyl, or other HAPs (metals, semivolatiles, etc.) requested by the program participants. Each report is prepared after 45 days from the end of the sampling month. Cumulative listings are periodically generated upon request. This timely turnaround of data assists in planning, preliminary modeling, and program development for the participating State/Local/Tribal agencies. Any changes made in the preliminary data because of subsequent data validation processes performed by EPA and/or State/Local/Tribal agencies are noted in the cumulative project data summaries for each specific sampling site. The data summaries include:

- Site code;
- Sample identifications;
- Sample dates;
- Target compound list;
- Concentrations (ppbv, ppbC, ng/m<sup>3</sup> and/or µg/m<sup>3</sup>); and
- Method detection limits.

Preliminary monthly data summaries are emailed to the program participants. These data summaries are considered preliminary until the data is validated and entered into the AQS database, as detailed in Section 18.6.

The Program Manager reviews all data before they are reported to EPA and/or the State/Local/Tribal agencies. ERG prepares a final report containing all aspects of the individual programs including data summaries, QA, QC, and data analysis results for EPA, and distributes site-specific summaries of the final data to designated personnel.

## **18.5 Data Validation**

Data validation is confirmed by examination of objective evidence that the requirements for a specific intended use are fulfilled as presented in Section 4. Intended use deals with data of acceptable quality to permit making decisions at the correct level of confidence. Ongoing data review and adherence to the data quality objectives keeps the data quality consistent, followed by data validation ensures the data quality. This data validation is performed prior to the annual final report. The data reported monthly are considered preliminary until the data is validated, entered into the AQS database, and reported in the annual final report.

The Precision from analysis of replicate samples in CV is determined by site, by compound, and as an average for the method. These precisions are based on analytical analyses only. Precision from the analysis and collection of duplicate/collocate samples in CV is determined by site, by compound, and as an average for the method. These precisions are based on analytical precision and sampling precision. The method average precision also includes collocated samples which can increase precision results. This measure the complete data set is compared against the data quality objective for the NATTS program, even though the other programs are not as stringent. This is accomplished prior to the preparation of the annual final report.

Representativeness can be assessed with site location information and is based on potential sources and select weather station information. This is accomplished while preparing the annual final report. Comparability is based on method measure of the level of confidence with which one data set can be compared to another. Ongoing data review and adherence to the data quality objectives keeps the data quality consistent and therefore comparable over the project. This is an ongoing data quality review followed by a data assessment prior to the preparation of the annual final report.

Completeness is measured by the amount of valid sample data obtained compared to what was expected. This is determined by counting the number of valid samples based on the sampling schedule for a that site. Eighty-five percent is considered complete for all the programs. This is an ongoing assessment used to facilitate make-up sampling in the same quarter when possible.

To ensure that the data is reliable in the ranges of concern, the minimum detection limit targets are those specified for the NATTS program, even though the other programs are less stringent. This is an ongoing assessment since detection limits are determined annually.

## **18.6 Air Quality System**

ERG submits data collected for the NMOC, UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and other air toxics programs to the AQS database.

Prior to ERG's submittal of data to AQS, the State/Local/Tribal agency submits, at a minimum, Basic Site Information transactions (Type AA) for each sampling site, and transaction Types AB through AE, if necessary. ERG then submits monitor transactions (Types MA through MX, as applicable) to prepare the AQS database for data upload. Data that are uploaded into AQS include Raw Data transactions (Type RD), QA transactions (Type Duplicate, Replicate, and Pb Analysis Audit) and Blank transactions (Type RB). ERG follows the NATTS<sup>(18)</sup> and PAMS<sup>(2)</sup> TADs to code data for the AQS database.

The submittal process involves the following steps:

- The raw data are formatted into pipe-delimited ( | ) coding that is accepted by AQS. Raw data, data generated by single sample episodes, by the primary sample (D1) of a duplicate episode, or by collocates (C1 and C2), are submitted using RD transactions. Precision data, data generated by Duplicate and Replicate samples (R1, D2, and/or R2), are submitted using QA transactions, specifically Duplicate and Replicate transactions. Accuracy data, generated for lead-FEM audit results, are also submitted using QA transactions.
- The RD QA (specifically duplicate, replicate and Pb Analysis Audit), and RB coding is generated and reviewed following guidelines specified in the *SOP for the Preparation of Monitoring Data for AQS Upload (ERG-MOR-098)* to ensure that the proper monitor ID (including state, county, site, parameter, and Parameter Occurrence Code (POC) codes), sampling interval, units, method, sample date, start time, and sample values are correct. The transactions are stored as text files for upload into the AQS database.
- Transaction files are primarily loaded under the Monitoring and Quality Assurance screening group.
- Transactions are edited to correct any errors found by AQS and then resubmitted. This step is repeated until the transactions are free of errors.
- AQS performs a statistical check on the data submitted to validate the data and determines if there are any outliers based on past data.
- Raw data (RD) transactions are then posted into the AQS database.

#### 18.6.1 AQS Flagging and Reporting

Air toxics data submittals may be submitted with flags to indicate additional information related to the sample. There are two qualifier flag types that may be applied: Null codes and Qualifier codes.

- **Null Code** — assigned when a scheduled sample is not usable (e.g., canister leaked, canister damaged in shipment, etc.).
- **Qualifier Code** — used to note a procedural or quality assurance issue that could possibly affect the concentration of the value or the uncertainty of the result. These flags can also be applied to indicate atypical field conditions (e.g., nearby fires, construction in the area).

Qualifier Codes can be used in combination, with up to 10 possible codes applied. If a Null code is used, no other flag should be used since no results are reported. Table 18-1 presents the Qualifier codes and Table 18-2 presents the Null codes available to AQS users, however more flags are listed on the AQS website. These flags are applicable to the various steps of sample collection and analysis such as field operations, chain of custody, and laboratory operations.

Blank issue flags are qualifier flags used if reported blank values are above the limits set by the method SOPs or QAPP. If high blank values are associated with samples, the sample values are reported but appropriately flagged as described in the NATTS TAD<sup>(18)</sup>. Samples will not be invalidated due to high blank values. Blank issue flags are included in Table 18-1.

**Table 18-1. Qualifier Codes**

Qualifier Code	Qualifier Description
1	Deviation from a CFR/Critical Criteria Requirement
1V	Data reviewed and validated
2	Operational Deviation
3	Field Issue
4	Lab Issue
5	Outlier
6	QAPP Issue
7	Below Lowest Calibration Level
9	Negative value detected - zero reported
CB	Values have been Blank Corrected
CC	Clean Canister Residue
CL	Surrogate Recoveries Outside Control Limits
DI	Sample was diluted for analysis
DN	DNPH peak less than NATTS TAD requirement, reported value should be considered an estimate
EH	Estimated; Exceeds Upper Range
FB	Field Blank Value Above Acceptable Limit
FX	Filter Integrity Issue
HT	Sample pick-up hold time exceeded
IA	African Dust
IB	Asian Dust
IC	Chemical Spills & Industrial Accidents
ID	Cleanup After a Major Disaster
IE	Demolition
IF	Fire – Canadian
IG	Fire - Mexico/Central America

**Table 18-1. Qualifier Codes, Continued**

Qualifier Code	Qualifier Description
IH	Fireworks
II	High Pollen Count
IJ	High Winds
IK	Infrequent Large Gatherings
IL	Other
IM	Prescribed Fire
IN	Seismic Activity
IO	Stratospheric Ozone Intrusion
IP	Structural Fire
IQ	Terrorist Act
IR	Unique Traffic Disruption
IS	Volcanic Eruptions
IT	Wildfire-U. S.
J	Construction
LB	Lab blank value above acceptable limit
LJ	Identification of Analyte Is Acceptable; Reported Value Is an Estimate
LK	Analyte Identified; Reported Value May Be Biased High
LL	Analyte Identified; Reported Value May Be Biased Low
MD	Value less than MDL
MS	Value reported is ½ MDL substituted
MX	Matrix Effect
ND	No Value Detected, Zero Reported
NS	Influenced by nearby source
QP	Pressure Sensor Questionable
QT	Temperature Sensor Questionable
QX	Analyte does not meet QC criteria
SQ	Values Between SQL and MDL
SS	Value substituted from secondary monitor
SX	Does Not Meet Siting Criteria
TB	Trip Blank Value Above Acceptable Limit
TT	Transport Temperature is Out of Specs
V	Validated Value
VB	Value below normal; no reason to invalidate
W	Flow Rate Average out of Spec.
X	Filter Temperature Difference out of Spec.
Y	Elapsed Sample Time out of Spec.



**Table 18-2. Null Codes**

Null Code	Qualifier Description
AA	Sample Pressure out of Limits
AB	Technician Unavailable
AC	Construction/Repairs in Area
AD	Shelter Storm Damage
AE	Shelter Temperature Outside Limits
AF	Scheduled but not Collected
AG	Sample Time out of Limits
AH	Sample Flow Rate out of Limits
AI	Insufficient Data (cannot calculate)
AJ	Filter Damage
AK	Filter Leak
AL	Voided by Operator
AM	Miscellaneous Void
AN	Machine Malfunction
AO	Bad Weather
AP	Vandalism
AQ	Collection Error
AR	Lab Error
AS	Poor Quality Assurance Results
AT	Calibration
AU	Monitoring Waived
AV	Power Failure
AW	Wildlife Damage
AX	Precision Check
AY	Q C Control Points (zero/span)
AZ	Q C Audit
BA	Maintenance/Routine Repairs
BB	Unable to Reach Site
BC	Multi-point Calibration
BD	Auto Calibration
BE	Building/Site Repair
BF	Precision/Zero/Span
BG	Missing ozone data not likely to exceed level of standard
BH	Interference/co-elution/misidentification
BI	Lost or damaged in transit
BJ	Operator Error
BK	Site computer/data logger down
BL	QA Audit
BM	Accuracy check
BN	Sample Value Exceeds Media Limit
BR	Sample Value Below Acceptable Range
CS	Laboratory Calibration Standard
DA	Aberrant Data (Corrupt Files, Aberrant Chromatography, Spikes, Shifts)

**Table 18-2. Null Codes (Continued)**

Null Code	Qualifier Description
DL	Detection Limit Analyses
EC	Exceeds Critical Criteria
FI	Filter Inspection Flag
MB	Method Blank (Analytical)
MC	Module End Cap Missing
QV	Quality Control Multi-point Verification
SA	Storm Approaching
SC	Sampler Contamination
ST	Calibration Verification Standard
SV	Sample Volume out of Limits
TC	Component Check & Retention Time Standard
TS	Holding Time or Transport Temperature Is Out Of Specs.
XX	Experimental Data

ERG submits data to AQS using qualifier flags to show where the data are with respect to the detection level. A variety of terms and acronyms are used for defining the lowest level that can be detected for each analytical method. These terms and applications are derived from EPA's TAD for the NATTS program and are presented below:

- **Quantitation Limits (QL)** — the lowest level at which the entire analytical system must provide a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point for the analyte.
- **Detection Limits (DL)** — the minimum concentration of an analyte that can be measured above instrument background.
- **MDL** — the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99 percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in each matrix containing the analyte (Part 136, App. B).
- **SQL** — the lowest concentration of an analyte reliably measured within specified limits of precision and accuracy during routine laboratory operating conditions. Normally, the SQL is determined as a multiplier of the method detection limit (e.g., 3.18 times) and is considered the lowest concentration that can be accurately measured, as opposed to just detected.

The qualifier flags associated with quantitation and detection limits are also included in Table 18-1, while Table 18-3 summarizes how they are applied to the data.

**Table 18-3**  
**Summary of Quantitation and Detection Limit Flags and Applications**

<b>If Concentration is:</b>	<b>Value to Report</b>	<b>Flag Applied</b>
> SQL	Value	None
≥ MDL and ≤ SQL	Value	SQ
< MDL	Value	MD
Not Detected	0	ND

## **SECTION 19**

### **DATA VALIDATION, VERIFICATION METHODS**

Many of the processes for verifying and validating the measurement phases of the data collection operation have previously been discussed in Section 18. If these processes are followed, and the sites are representative of the boundary conditions for which they were selected, one would expect to achieve the DQOs. However, exceptional field events may occur, and field and laboratory activities may negatively affect the integrity of samples. In addition, it is expected that some of the QC checks will fail to meet the acceptance criteria. This section will outline how ERG will take the data to a higher level of quality analysis by performing software tests, plotting, and other methods of analysis.

#### **19.1 Process for Validating and Verifying Data**

##### **19.1.1 Verification of Data**

For the analytical data, the entries are reviewed to reduce the possibility of entry and transcription errors. Once the data are transferred to the ERG LIMS database, the data will be reviewed for routine data outliers and data outside acceptance criteria. These data will be flagged appropriately. Prior to reporting, 100 percent of the data is reviewed by the TL(s) and 10 percent of the database is checked by the QA Coordinator or designated reviewer. The PM also reviews the data prior to the preliminary report. After a preliminary reporting batch is completed, a review of 10 percent of the data will be conducted for completeness and manual and electronic data entry accuracy by the Annual Report/AQS TL.

##### **19.1.2 Validation of Data**

Data validation is performed by examination of objective evidence that the requirements for a specific intended use are fulfilled as presented in Section 4. Data is examined for representativeness, completeness, precision, and bias. This data validation, some of it performed

with summary statistical analysis, is performed prior to the annual final report. Data validation is discussed in more detail in Section 18.5.

## 19.2 Data Analysis

Data analysis refers to the process of interpreting the data that are collected. Although there are a large number of parameters to analyze, many of these parameters present similar characteristics, (i.e., VOC, SVOC, and particulate metals, grouped according to their physical and chemical properties).

ERG will employ software programs, described below, to help analyze the data.

**Spreadsheet** – Select ERG employees perform analysis on the data sets using Excel<sup>®</sup> spreadsheets (analysts, Task Leaders, and QA reviewers) and Access<sup>®</sup> databases (AQS data entry). Spreadsheets and databases allow the user to input data and statistically analyze, graph linear data. This type of analysis will allow the user to see if there are any variations in the data sets. In addition, various statistical tests such as tests for linearity, slope, intercept, or correlation coefficient can be generated between two strings of data. Time series plots and control charts can help identify the following trends:

- Large jumps or dips in concentrations;
- Periodicity of peaks within a month or quarter; and
- Expected or unexpected relationships among species.

## **SECTION 20**

### **RECONCILIATION WITH DATA QUALITY OBJECTIVES**

The project management team, QA Coordinator, and sampling and analytical team members are responsible for ensuring that all measurement procedures are followed as specified and that measurements data meet the prescribed acceptance criteria. Prompt action is taken to correct any problem that may arise.

#### **20.1 Conduct Preliminary Data Review**

A preliminary data review will be performed as discussed in Sections 16 and 18 to uncover potential limitations to using the data, to reveal outliers, and generally to explore the basic structure of the data. The next step is to calculate basic summary statistics, generate graphical presentations of the data, and review these summary statistics and graphs to determine if the program requirements in Section 4, representativeness, comparability, completeness, precision, bias, and sensitivity, were met. These steps are discussed in more detail in Section 18.5. Representativeness can be assessed with site location information and is based on potential sources and select weather station information. Comparability is based on method measure of the level of confidence with which one data set can be compared to another. Completeness is measured by the amount of valid sample data obtained compared to what was expected. Precision is determined from replicate analyses for a given method. Laboratory bias is demonstrated through PT samples and second source standards. Sensitivity is demonstrated through minimum detection limits.

#### **20.2 Draw Conclusions from the Data**

If the sampling design and statistical tests conducted during the final reporting process show results that meet acceptance criteria, it can be assumed that the network design and the uncertainty of the data are acceptable. This conclusion can then be reported to EPA and the

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States/Local/Tribal agencies, who then decide whether to perform risk assessments and analyze the data to determine whether these data can be used to address health effects.

## SECTION 21

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## **Appendix A**

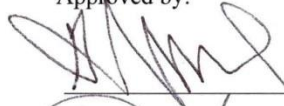
### **ERG Exemptions from the NATTS TAD, Revision 3**

**2017 Quality Assurance Project Plan, Category 1  
UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support  
(Contract No. EP-D-14-030)**

The proposed **ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3**, listed in Appendix A of the QAPP have been deemed acceptable as noted by the signatures below.

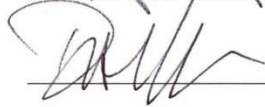
Approved by:

U.S. EPA QA Manager:



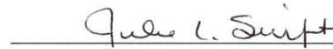
Date: 9/22/17

U.S. EPA Delivery Order Manager:



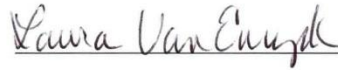
Date: 9/22/17

ERG Program Manager:



Date: 9/22/17

ERG Deputy Program Manager:



Date: 9/22/17

ERG Program QA Officer:



Date: 9/22/17

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
VOCs	4.2.2, pg 66	Both sample results must be qualified when entered into AQS for instances in which collocated or duplicate samples fail precision specifications.	The precision tables do not allow flags. Flags will be uploaded into AQS as permitted.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
VOCs	4.2.4.1.1.1, pg 74	Canisters with leak rates > 0.1 psi/day must be removed from service and repaired.	ERG evacuates the canisters to ~25" Hg and measured again in seven days. Our acceptance criteria is <1" Hg (QAPP section 11.1). This more accurately mimics the vacuum of the canisters shipped to the field when there is greater potential of major leak affecting the sample concentration.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
VOCs	4.2.4.2.4, pg 77 Table 4.2-3, pg 93	States on canister per batch cleaned in Section 4.2.4.2.4. but in Table 4.2-3 it states that the canister chosen must represent no more than 10 total canisters.	ERG heated canister cleaning systems are 12-port systems. We propose to continue verifying cleanliness on one canister for each batch of 12. Historical data can be provided if needed.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
VOCs	4.2.6, pg 80	The recommended tolerance is a pressure change of $\leq 0.5$ psia.	Because of the wide variety of sites, gauges, operators, ERG has created a spreadsheet to track the pressure differences between field and laboratory. If these values differ by historical differences > 3", the samples are invalidated	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

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Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
VOCs	4.2.8.5.2.2, pg 87 Table 4.2-3, pg 93	Analysis of swept carrier gas through the Preconcentrator to demonstrate the instrument is sufficiently clean to begin analysis (IB).	This is listed as a recommendation in Section 4.2.8.5.2.2 but as a requirement in Table 4.2-3. Because the samples are checked with the analysis of blank samples, ERG will analyze the IB only for trouble shooting purposes.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
Carbonyls	4.3.2, pg 97	The sample must be kept cold during shipment such that the temperature remains $\leq 4^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the temperature of the shipment must be determined upon receipt at the laboratory.	This requirement will be extremely difficult to achieve during summer months and is not required in Method TO-11A. The vendor does not ship the cartridges to the laboratory in coolers but the samples are shipped overnight with receipt in the laboratory Tuesday through Friday. ERG will conduct a summer study to determine the necessity of this requirement and present it to the EPA in 2017.	Study presented to the EPA on August 25, 2017 validating ERG's exemption. The exemption was approved at this meeting.
Carbonyls	4.3.9.4, pg 115 Table 4.3-4, pg 121	EMSB - For batch sizes of more than 20 field-collected cartridges, n such QC samples of each type must be added to the batch, where $n = \text{batch size} / 20$ , and where n is rounded to the next highest integer.	ERG has previously only performed this type of extraction to see if there were problems in a new lot of solvents. Our procedure will perform this extraction once a month, in the first batch of samples prepared each month.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)

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ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
Carbonyls	4.3.9.5.2, pg 117	For positive identification, the RT of a derivatized carbonyl must be within three standard deviations (3s) or $\pm 2\%$ , whichever is smaller, of its mean RT from the ICAL	ERG's Carbonyl software (Agilent®) allows a $\pm 2.5\%$ window, not $\pm 2.0\%$ , but will automatically check if compounds are outside of this window. ERG believes the automatic function is advantageous and will perform LC maintenance checks if the RT fall outside this RT window.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
Metals	4.4.5, pg 128	Field blank analysis must demonstrate all target elements < MDL.	ERG does not get filters from the same lot that are provided to the field for sampling. Our filters are purchased and we determine the MDLs based on the background in that particular lot. Because of the wide variety of filter lots coming in from the different sites, and until the manufacturers of the filters provide clean enough samples, the majority of the elements could potentially be flagged. ERG proposes to flag only those elements over 5xMDL in order to better accommodate the potential lot differences.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
Metals	4.4.10.5, pg 137	RBS- spiked digestion solution only (no filter strip – ensures proper spike recovery without the filter matrix)	ERG will prepare Standard Reference Material samples (required by NAAQS lead) and perform Post Digestion Spike analysis to ensure proper spike recovery without the filter matrix, instead of preparing and analyzing the RBS.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
Metals	4.4.10.5.2.1, pg 139	Each filter strip must be accordion folded or coiled and placed into separate digestion vessels.	ERG does not use accordion folding for the QFF filters. The digestion procedure is detailed in SOP 084. Historical data for over 10 years show acceptable recoveries using this method. ERG proposes to keep current folding procedures in place.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
Metals	4.4.11.7.1, pg 142	Replicate analyses of the calibration standards must show $\%RSD \leq 10\%$	ERG's lowest calibration point is at the LOQ concentration. Our standard practice is to have all cal points at $\%RSD \leq 10\%$ , but the low cal point at $\%RSD \leq 20\%$ . This standard uses the same concentrations as the Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) standard, which are near or less than that of the MDL, therefore an $RSD \leq 20$ percent is acceptable.	Added text in QAPP Section 11.3.5, "Replicate analysis of the calibration standards must have an $RSD \leq 10$ percent, except for the second calibration standard (CAL2). This standard uses the same concentrations as the Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) standard, which are near or less than that of the MDL, therefore an $RSD \leq 20$ percent is acceptable." Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
Metals	4.4.11.7.3, pg 143 4.4.11.7.6, pg 144 4.4.11.8, pg 145 Table 4.4-3	The ICB is again analyzed following the ICB; all element responses must be less than the laboratory's established MDLsp for MDLs determined via Section 4.1.3.1 or the portion of the MDL represented by s-K for MDLs determined via Section 4.1.3.2. Also for CCB, negative values, BLK1, and RB.	ERG references the MDL for the ICB, CCB, negative values, reagent blanks and method blanks, not the s * K. ERG does not believe there should be 2 different sets of criteria for instrument/batch QC. These are all < MDL.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
Metals	4.4.11.7.4, pg 143 Table 4.4-3, pg 147	ICSA - All target elements < MDLsp (refer to Section 4.1.3.1) or s-K (refer to Section 4.1.3.2) – may be subtracted for ICS A certificate of analysis	ERG's criteria is for the results to be within $\pm 3$ times LOQ from zero or from the stock standard. This allows us to take into account the background in the interference solution when present.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
Metals	4.4.9.5.1, pg 132 4.4.10.5.1, pg 137 Table 4.4-3, pg 148	LCS - Recovery within 80-120% of nominal for all target elements, Sb recovery 75-125%.	ERG does not currently flag Sb if it is over 80-120%. ERG will monitor Sb with control charts for 6 months or gather existing data to allow us to statistically determine reasonable acceptance criteria.	Historical control charts presented and it was decided to flag QC and sample data starting 11/1/17. Discussed at the September 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (September 22, 2017)
Metals	4.4.10.5.1, pg 137 Table 4.4-3, pg 148	MS/MSD - Recovery within 80-120% of the nominal spiked amount for all target elements, Sb recovery 75-125%.	ERG does not currently flag Sb if it is over 80-120%. ERG will monitor Sb with control charts for 6 months or gather existing data to allow us to statistically determine reasonable acceptance criteria.	Historical control charts presented and it was decided to flag QC and sample data starting 11/1/17. Discussed at the September 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (September 22, 2017)



### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
PAH	4.5.3, pg 152 Table 4.5-3	Lot Blank - Regardless of the source of materials or the specific cleaning procedures each agency adopts, the QFF and PUF/XAD-2/PUF present in cartridges must meet the batch blank acceptance criteria of < 10 ng each for all target compounds. One cartridge for each batch of 20 or fewer prepared cartridges	ERG's procedure has been to prepare one filter per preparation shipment day. Background contamination (even when precleaned before preparing cartridges by the laboratory) show targets > 10 ng per target compound. ERG's criteria is to flag only those compounds which have recoveries > 5x MDL. ERG will monitor 6 months of lot blank data to provide to the EPA to justify exemption.	Historical control charts presented and it was decided to allow a new exemption criteria to be less than the MDL starting 11/1/17. Discussed at the September 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (September 22, 2017)
PAH	4.5.3.3, pg 153	Field surrogates are added no sooner than two weeks prior to the scheduled sample collection date.	ERG will be unable to provide sites with an extra sample media on each sampling day (standard practice) if we are not allowed to have cartridges spiked no sooner than two weeks. This practice is not listed in TO-13A or the ASTM 6209. ERG will perform a study or gather existing data to determine how long the spiked surrogates are stable on the cartridges (up to 3 months) and present it to the EPA to justify exemption.	Study presented to the EPA on August 25, 2017 validating ERG's exemption. The exemption was approved at this meeting.

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
PAH	4.5.4.1b, pg 154	Samples which are shipped overnight should be packed with sufficient cold packs or ice to ensure they arrive at the laboratory at $\leq 4^{\circ}\text{C}$ .	This requirement will be extremely difficult to achieve during summer months. ERG will conduct a summer study to determine the necessity of this requirement and present it to the EPA in 2017.	Study presented to the EPA on August 25, 2017 validating ERG's exemption. The exemption was approved at this meeting.
PAH	4.5.5.5.2, pg 160	Tuning the MS. Table 4.5-2	ERG currently uses the version from 8270D Rev5 July 2014 version which is the updated tune table for where the TO-13A method originally lifted their tune criteria. It is our opinion the original table listed (in Table 4.5-2) was created for older machines with less capability. The 2014 revision gives the operator the ability to tune to the heavier masses and get better resolution on the complex compounds. ERG proposes to continue using the 8270D criteria.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
PAH	4.5.5.5.3, pg 161	An SB which is not fortified with IS must be analyzed just prior to calibration to ensure the instrument is sufficiently clean to continue analysis. Analysis of the SB must show all target compounds, IS, and surrogate compounds are not detected	Table 4.5-3 states that the SB must be analyzed before each DFTPP tune, Section 4.5.5.5.3 states before each calibration. ERG will analyze the SB prior to the ICAL which is required in our DQOs not to exceed 6 weeks.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 3 (2017 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
PAH	4.5.5.5.3, pg 162	The RRTs of each surrogate or target compound across the ICAL are then averaged to determine the ICAL RRT. All RRTs must be within $\pm 0.06$ RRT units of RRT.	ERG's VOC software (ChemStation) allows different time deltas for lower and upper time limits. For instance, the window for acenaphthylene is RT - 0.175 and RT + 0.25. The largest delta in the database is RT + 0.25, and it's used for several compounds. These windows for each compound are well within those required using the mean RRT. A table presenting RRTs to ERG's current procedure of tracking RT's is presented in Appendix B.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
All Analytes	VOC Table 7.1, pg 190	The sampling period for all field samples collected should be 1380-1500 minutes (24 $\pm$ 1 hour) starting and ending at midnight.	ERG has reported any sample that was 22-23 hours or 25-26 hours, but flagged them with a "Y" (Elapsed Sample Time out of Spec.). Anything greater than $\pm 2$ hours is invalidated.	Approved at June 2017 EPA/ERG meeting (June 23, 2017)
	Carbonyl, 4.3.8.1.3, pg 110			
	Metals, 4.4.9.4.1 & 4.4.10.4.1, pg 131 & pg 137			
	PAH, 4.5.4.1, pg 154			

### ERG EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NATTS TAD, REVISION 4 (2018 QAPP, Contract EP-D-14-030)

ERG has provided the documentation to demonstrate that ERG meets the standard, in the form of historical data and/or experimental study results. These exemptions from Revision 3 NATTS TAD were approved and will remain in effect throughout the current contract.

Analyte	TAD Reference Location *	QC Parameter	ERG Exception	EPA Approval/Decision Dave Shelow (EPA Delivery Order Manager) & Greg Noah (QA Manager)
VOCs	4.2.3.5.1, pg 71	The zero check is performed by simultaneously providing humidified (50 to 70% RH) hydrocarbon- and oxidant-free zero air (must meet the cleanliness criterion of < 0.2 ppbv or < 3x MDL, whichever is lower) or UHP nitrogen to the sampling unit for collection into a canister and to a separate reference canister connected directly to the supplied HCF zero air gas source.	For the compound acetonitrile, ERG will use the previous criteria from TAD, Rev 2 of <0.2 ppbv.	Approved at July 2018 EPA/ERG meeting (July 27, 2018)

**Appendix B**  
**2019 Sampling Schedule**

## 2019 6-Day Sampling Calendar

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	D	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
FB	28	29	30	31		

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	M	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	FB	27	28		

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
D	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	FB	29	30
31						

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	M	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	FB
28	29	30				

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	D	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	FB	28	29	30	31	

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	M
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	FB	27	28	29
30						

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	D	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	FB	27
28	29	30	31			

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	M	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	FB

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	D	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	FB					

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	M
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	FB	31		

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	D	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	FB	30

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	M	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
FB	30	31				

# Standard Sample Collection

FB Field Blank Collection

D Duplicate Sampling Collection

M Makeup Duplicate Collection  
or normal sample

## **Appendix C**

### **ERG Changes/Comments for 2019 QAPP**

### ERG Changes/Comments for 2019 QAPP

Listed are the major changes to the 2018 QAPP to prepare the 2019 QAPP. The other changes are insignificant and editorial in nature.

SECTION	ERG CHANGES / COMMENTS
Section 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Updated Section 6.4 changing the final report without emphasizing hard copy format. Current reports will be electronic.</li><li>· Provided SOP reference for Maintaining Laboratory Notebooks in Section 6.5.1.</li><li>· Updated Section 6.7 on ERG's current quality document procedures.</li></ul>
Section 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Modified Section 10.4 to include tweezers with the items shipped to the sites.</li><li>· Updated Metals ICP-MS procedures in Section 10.5.</li><li>· In Section 10.5 also updated the SOPs for sample preparation to separate out the 47mm filters from the TSP filters. There used to be one SOP and now there are two.</li></ul>
Section 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Table 11-4 – Updated Carbonyl Summary of QC procedures. Added note that samples will be flagged with a “DNPH” flag in ERG's LIMS, and a “DN” flag in AQS.</li><li>· Table 11-7 – Updated SVOC/PAH Summary of QC procedures. Added “recalibrate, reanalyze” for SCV and CCV failures before the ion sources are cleaned. Removed the procedure to reanalyzing the replicate analysis for the “replicate” analysis QC check sample (redundant). Updated the acceptance criteria to state that all target compounds for the cartridge lot blank should be <math>\leq</math> MDL and not <math>\leq</math> 2xMDL.</li><li>· Updated Metals Analysis summary in Section 11.3.5 and in Table 11-9<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Referenced IFA criteria in the SOP</li><li>· Updated reference and corrective action details for duplicates, replicates, and collocated samples.</li></ul></li><li>· Updated Sensitivity procedures in Section 11.</li><li>· Table 11-11 through Table 11-16, pgs 33-39 – Updated with 2019 MDLs (all will be provided in final QAPP).</li></ul>
Section 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Table 12-1 – Updated with current maintenance procedures. Also removed multipoint calibration of a CCV/ICV from this table. These are not standard maintenance items.</li><li>· Updated spare parts used for the ICP-MS systems.</li></ul>
Section 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Updated procedures on thermometers requiring calibration checks in Section 13.5.</li></ul>
Section 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Added text stating that staff should keep any certificate of analysis or “documentation pertaining to” cleanliness that arrives with a consumable.</li><li>· Table 14-1 – Updated with most current consumable supplies.</li></ul>
Section 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Updated Section 15.4 with the current procedures for data submittal to AQS.</li></ul>
Section 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Updated the Section 18.6 with the latest Air Quality Systems information.</li></ul>
Section 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Updated Sections 19.1.1 and 19.1.2 for the Verification and Validation of Data.</li></ul>
Section 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Updated references used throughout QAPP</li></ul>
Appendix A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Exemptions Table - Replaced with signed approved exemptions from the signed/approved 2018 QAPP</li></ul>
Appendix B	Replaced 2018 calendar with 2019 sampling calendar



## **Appendix D**

### **Relevant ERG Standard Operating Procedures**

The information contained herein is confidential and proprietary  
And may not be used in any manner or form without the express  
Written permission of the Program Manager.

## **Appendix E**

### **Subcontractors**

#### **Quality Assurance Project Plan**

#### **RTI Laboratories**

**Will be provided when work is initiated.**

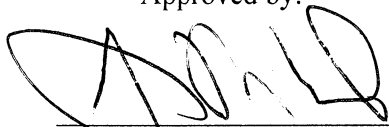
The information contained herein is confidential and proprietary  
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Written permission of the Program Manager.

**2019 Quality Assurance Project Plan, Category 1**  
**Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS,**  
**and NMOC Support) (Contract No. EP-D-14-030)**

The proposed amendments have been deemed acceptable as noted by the signatures below:

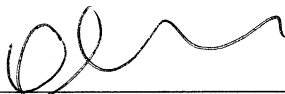
Approved by:

U.S. EPA QA Manager:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Noah

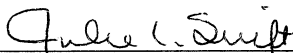
Date: 7/19/19

U.S. EPA Delivery Order Manager:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Xi (Doris) Chen

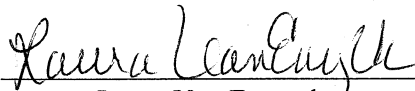
Date: 7/19/19

ERG Program Manager:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Swift

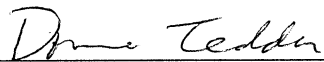
Date: 7/19/19

ERG Deputy Program Manager:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Van Enwyck

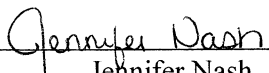
Date: 7/19/19

ERG Program QA Officer:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Tedder

Date: 7/19/19

ERG Deputy Program QA Officer:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Nash

Date: 7/19/19

## **QAPP AMENDMENT FORM**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 2019

**QAPP Title**                      Quality Assurance Project Plan for Support for the EPA National Monitoring Programs (UATMP, NATTS, CSATAM, PAMS, and NMOC Support), March 2019

### **AMENDMENT #1**

This amendment revises the compound target lists for EPA Compendium Methods TO-11A and TO-13A, the detection limit for ethylene oxide (an EPA Compendium Method TO-15 target compound), and the Quality Criteria for the EPA Compendium Method TO-15 sampling unit certification target compound carbon tetrachloride.

1. The compound target list for EPA Compendium Methods TO-11A and TO-13A were revised:
  - a. 2,5-dimethylbenzaldehyde, isovaleraldehyde and tolualdehydes were removed from the EPA Compendium Methods TO-11A compound target list.
  - b. Cyclopenta(c,d)pyrene, retene, and 9-fluorenone were removed from the EPA Compendium Methods TO-13A compound target list.
2. Ethylene oxide was added to the EPA Compendium Methods TO-15 with a detection limit at 0.0614 ppbv (0.111  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).
3. Criteria for evaluating carbon tetrachloride and acrolein in EPA Compendium Methods TO-15 sampling unit certifications is now 30% error.

### **Reason for Amendment:**

The QAPP is being amended because of the following reasons:

1. The removed target compounds are seldom detected, and standards are becoming difficult to acquire for these compounds.
2. Ethylene oxide was added to the compound list following the release of the original QAPP.
3. Sampling unit certifications are a relatively new requirement and criteria was determined based on one lab's past performance with a different compound target list. Continuing issues have been reoccurring for carbon tetrachloride during sampling unit certifications. Julie Swift (ERG Program Manager) received verbal approval from Greg Noah (EPA QA Manager) on a phone call on June 14, 2019 about widening the criteria from 15% error to 30% error for the one target compound.

### **Sections of QAPP Affected:**

1. 2019 Carbonyl Method Detection Limits Table 11-13 and 2019 PAH Method Detection Limits Table 11-14.
2. 2019 Air Toxics Method Detection Limits Table 11-12.
3. Quality Control Requirements Section 11.0 (specifically Table 11-2 Summary of Air Toxics Canister VOC Quality Control Procedures).