

# TCEQ Interoffice Memorandum

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**To:** Jaime Garza, Regional Director

**From:** Sabine Lange, Ph.D. *SL*  
Toxicology Division, Office of the Executive Director

**Date:** August 22, 2016

**Subject:** Toxicological Review of 2015 Ambient Air Network Monitoring Data in Region 15, Harlingen

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## Conclusions

- All 24-hour average and annual average concentrations of 84 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), 16 polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and two metals measured in total suspended particulate matter (TSP) were below their respective Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) air monitoring comparison values (AMCVs) in Region 15, Harlingen in 2015 and would not be expected to cause adverse health effects or vegetation effects.

## Background

Ambient air sampling conducted at two monitoring network sites in Region 15, Harlingen during 2015 was evaluated by the Toxicology Division (TD). TCEQ Region 15 monitoring site information is presented in Table 1, along with a hyperlink to the monitoring site map and detailed information. The TD reviewed air monitoring summary results for VOCs, PAHs, and speciated metals TSP data from 24-hour samples collected every sixth-day. For a complete list of all examined chemicals, please see Lists 1, 2, and 3 in Attachment A.

The TCEQ Monitoring Division reported the data for all chemicals evaluated in this memorandum. All data collected [84 VOCs, 16 PAHs, and 2 metals (TSP)] from the Brownsville and Mission monitoring sites met the data completeness objective of 75 percent data return. Because short-term or peak concentrations are not necessarily captured by 24-hour samples, daily concentrations have limited use in evaluating the potential for acute health effects. Rather, 24-hour air samples collected every-sixth day for a year are intended to provide representative long-term average concentrations. Therefore, the TD evaluated the reported annual average concentrations from 24-hour samples for each target analyte for potential chronic health and vegetation concerns by comparing measured chemical concentrations to long-term AMCVs. In order to be able to evaluate 24-hour monitoring data more fully, TCEQ has also developed 24-hour acute AMCVs for specific chemicals. As such, 24-hour samples were compared to the available TCEQ 24-hour AMCVs for 1,3-butadiene, benzene, and ethylene dichloride. More information about AMCVs is available online at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/toxicology/AirToxics.html>.

Table 1. Monitoring Sites Located in TCEQ Region 15

City and Site Location	County	EPA Site ID	Monitored Compounds
<a href="#">Brownsville, 344 Porter Drive</a>	Cameron	48-061-0006	VOCs, PAHs, and Metals (TSP)
<a href="#">Mission, 2300 North Glasscock</a>	Hidalgo	48-215-0043	VOCs and PAHs

## Evaluation

### VOCs

Of the 84 target VOCs at the Brownsville and Mission sites, all were either not detected or were below their respective long-term AMCVs; additionally, 1,3-butadiene, benzene and ethylene dichloride were below their 24-hour AMCVs. Therefore, exposure to the measured concentrations would not be expected to cause chronic adverse health or vegetation effects.

### Metals (TSP)

Neither lead nor arsenic were detected in any 24-hour TSP metals samples collected at the Brownsville monitor during 2015.

### PAHs

Of the 16 reported PAHs at the Brownsville and Mission monitoring sites in 2015, all were either not detected or were below their respective long-term AMCVs, and exposure to the measured concentrations would not be expected to cause chronic adverse health effects.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this review, please do not hesitate to contact Sabine Lange via email at [sabine.lange@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:sabine.lange@tceq.texas.gov) or by phone at (512) 239-3108.

## Attachment A

### List 1. Target VOC Analytes in Canister Samples

1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Acetylene	Trichloroethylene
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Benzene	Trichlorofluoromethane
1,1-Dichloroethane	Bromomethane	Vinyl Chloride
1,1-Dichloroethylene	Carbon Tetrachloride	cis-1,3-Dichloropropene
1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene	Chlorobenzene	cis-2-Butene
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Chloroform	cis-2-Hexene
1,2-Dichloropropane	Chloromethane	cis-2-Pentene
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Cyclohexane	m-Diethylbenzene
1,3-Butadiene	Cyclopentane	m-Ethyltoluene
1-Butene	Cyclopentene	m/p Xylene
1-Hexene & 2-Methyl-1-Pentene	Dichlorodifluoromethane	n-Butane
1-Pentene	Dichloromethane	n-Decane
2,2,4-Trimethylpentane	Ethane	n-Heptane
2,2-Dimethylbutane	Ethylbenzene	n-Hexane
2,3,4-Trimethylpentane	Ethylene	n-Nonane
2,3-Dimethylbutane	Ethylene Dibromide	n-Octane
2,3-Dimethylpentane	Ethylene Dichloride	n-Pentane
2,4-Dimethylpentane	Isobutane	n-Propylbenzene
2-Chloropentane	Isopentane	n-Undecane
2-Methyl-2-Butene	Isoprene	o-Ethyltoluene
2-Methylheptane	Isopropylbenzene	o-Xylene
2-Methylhexane	Methyl Chloroform	p-Diethylbenzene
2-Methylpentane	Methylcyclohexane	p-Ethyltoluene
3-Methyl-1-Butene	Methylcyclopentane	trans-1,3-Dichloropropene
3-Methylheptane	Propane	trans-2-Butene
3-Methylhexane	Propylene	trans-2-Hexene
3-Methylpentane	Styrene	trans-2-Pentene
4-Methyl-1-Pentene	Tetrachloroethylene	
	Toluene	

### List 2. Target Metal Analytes

Arsenic (TSP) | Lead (TSP)

### List 3. Target PAH Analytes

Acenaphthene	Benzo (a) anthracene	Benzo (g,h,i) perylene
Acenaphthylene	Benzo (a) pyrene	Benzo (k) fluoranthene
Anthracene	Benzo (b) fluoranthene	Chrysene

Dibenzo (a,h) anthracene  
Fluoranthene  
Fluorene

Indeno (1,2,3-cd) pyrene  
Naphthalene  
Phenanthrene

Pyrene