

2024 National Ambient Air Monitoring Conference

Update from EPA's Office of Research and Development



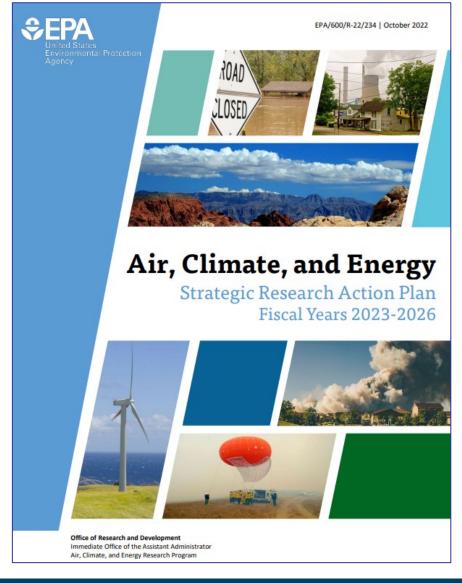
Gayle Hagler, Associate Director (with contributions by many!)
Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling
Office of Research and Development

## To cover today

- Air research at EPA
- Current in-house research portfolio related to air measurements, including:
  - FRM/FEM: Methods designation; development and evaluation
  - Sensors and data use
  - Air toxics and emerging contaminants: EtO, PFAS, 6PPD-q
  - Air monitoring platforms and remote sensing
- Grantee research

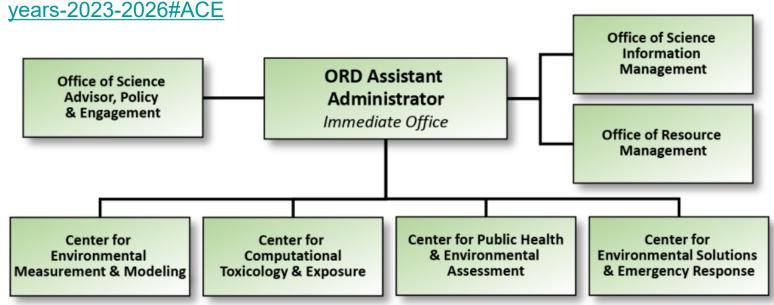
Look for this type of box for related EPA NAAMC presentations

#### **ORD's air research focus**



Research planned and continually coordinated to meet key stakeholder needs: "ACE will continue to engage with EPA and external partners to identify specific deliverables and, through this collaborative approach, we will ensure that the innovative work of our scientists and engineers informs the needs of the Agency, states, and Tribes." (from the Executive Summary)

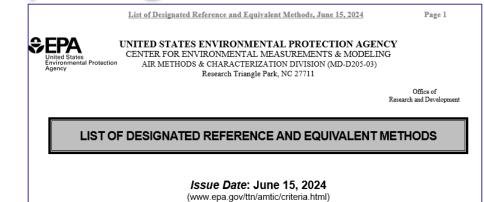
Link: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/research/strategic-research-action-plans-fiscal-veers">https://www.epa.gov/research/strategic-research-action-plans-fiscal-veers</a>



# ORD continues to lead Federal Refence Method (FRM) and Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) designation

- Title 40, Part 53 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR Part 53)
  - Includes "General requirements" for reference and equivalent methods.
  - Specifies EPA ORD as the receiver of FRM/FEM candidate technology applications, lays out application requirements, and gives details of the designation process.
- FRM / FEM new designations and modifications to existing designations are posted to the Air Monitoring Technology Information Center

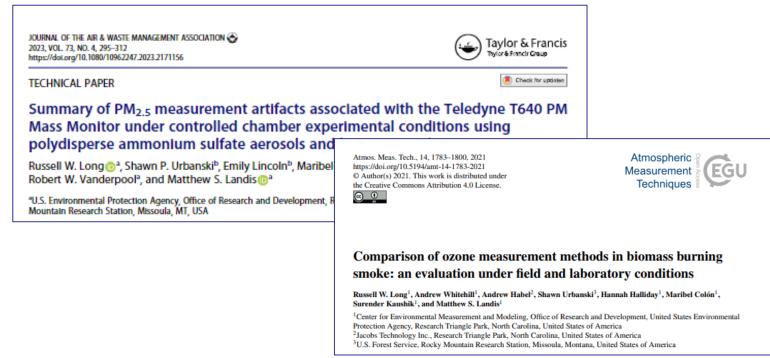
Related: Tues presentation by Tim Hanley (PM session)



Most Recent Modifications of Existing Designations					
Designation Number	Applicant	Instrument Series	Summary of Modification	Effective Date	
EQOA-0809-187	Acoem Australia	Ecotech Serinus 10 FEM O3 Analyzer	Expanding operating temperature range of the instrument from 20-30 °C to 0-40 °C	February, 2024	
EQPM-1013-209	MetOne	BAM-1022 FEM PM25 Monitor	Modification request to add the BAM-1022-PLUS monitor	February, 2024	
EQOA-0719-253	FPI	AQMS-300 FEM O3 Analyzer	Modification request, Addition of the AQMS-300M to designation description and include voltage range to 110VAC.	May, 2024	
EQSA-0809-188	Acoem Australia	Ecotech Serinus 50 FEM SO <sub>2</sub> Analyzer	Expanding operating temperature range of the instrument from 20-30 °C to 0-40 °C	June, 2024	
RFCA-0509-174	Acoem Australia	Ecotech Serinus 30 FRM CO Analyzer	Expanding the concentration range of the trace version of the analyzer from 0 – 40 ppm to 0 – 50 ppm as well as operating temperature range of the instrument from 20-30 °C to 0-40 °C	June, 2024	
RFPS-0498-116, EQPM-1013-211, RFPS-0315-221, RFPS-0717-245, EQPM-0812-203, EQPM-0202-144,	Multiple manufacturers	PM2.5 FRMs and FEMs	Revised existing PM2.5 designations to include the Tisch TE-PM2.5C cyclone as an approved component of PM2.5 samplers and monitors per recent revisions to 40 CFR Part 50 Appendix L	June 2024	

# FEM / FRM research: understanding wildland fire smoke influence on instruments

- Why is this needed?
  - Smoke from wildfires affects many areas of the United States each year, including areas far from wildfires due to long-distance transport.
  - Measuring in smoke presents unique measurement challenges.
- Monitoring research is in progress, testing ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> instrumentation in laboratory experiments and field locations prone to wildfire smoke events.



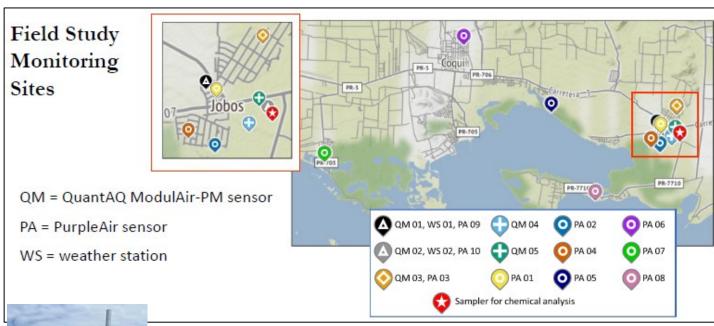
**Example finding**: "The study found that the new ozone NO-chemiluminescence method, designated as an FRM in 2015, did not have operational problems when used in the smoke plumes. However, the ozone UV-photometric method showed varying degrees of smoke interference and did not provide accurate results." -

https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/study-provides-new-insights-impacts-wildland-fires-ozone-monitoring-equipment

## **Puerto Rico Community PM study**

- Field study co-led by EPA Region 2 and ORD to measure the spatiotemporal variation and composition of PM in a community concerned about fugitive dust from coal combustion residuals (CCR).
- Measurements, with siting informed through community engagement:
  - PM<sub>10</sub> filter sampler with mass and composition analysis (black carbon, trace metals)
  - Sensor network using two types of PM sensors, weather station
- April 2023 Mar 2024 study including before/after collocation, with siting support from community members and collocation and sampler operation support from PR Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (PRDNER)
- Monthly newsletters during field study shared with stakeholders, in Spanish and English

Related: Poster presentation by Sarah Pender (EPA R2)







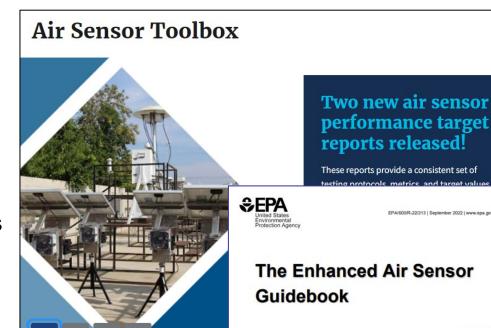
Sensor/sampler post-study collocation on a school building roof photo credits: Sarah Pender (left), Amara Holder (above)

#### **R&D** on air sensors

- United States, and worldwide, has seen significant technological and use growth for air sensors used for non-regulatory supplemental and informational monitoring (NSIM) purposes.
- EPA research has included:
  - Testing sensors in field and laboratory settings
  - Loans and direct use of sensor technology in field studies
  - Development of strategies to quality assure and correct large networks of public sensor data
  - Developing <u>performance targets and test protocols</u> for sensors used in NSIM applications
  - Significant engagement with sensor developers and practitioners
  - Development of tools and materials:
    - Enhanced Air Sensor Guidebook
    - Python package for air sensor data analysis (<u>Sensortoolkit</u>)
    - Coming soon: Air Sensor Network Analysis Tools



https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox



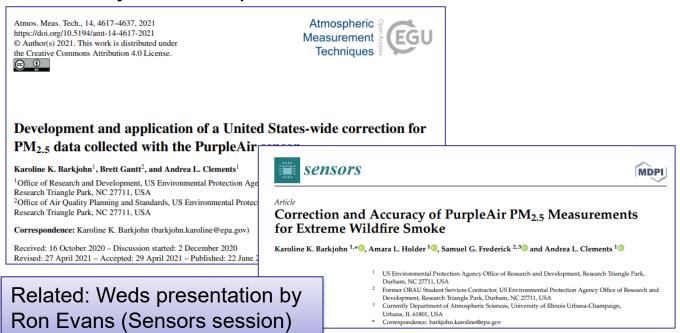
Related: Poster presentation by Ryan Brown (EPA Region 4)

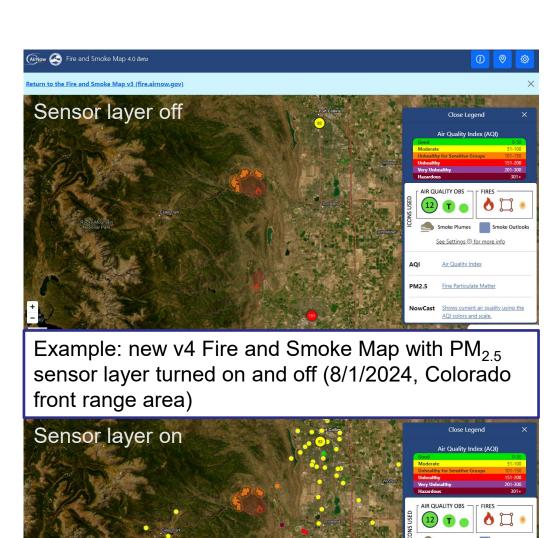


#### **R&D** on air sensors

The AirNow Fire and Smoke Map (fire.airnow.gov) integrates the official monitoring sites, temporary smoke monitors, and sensor data.

ORD research continues to inform sensor data inclusion, quality checks and corrections applied to sensor data in the widely used map.





## R&D on methods to support wildfire smoke response

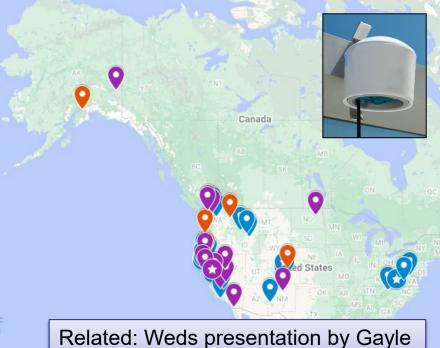
#### Wildfire Smoke Air Monitoring Response Technology (WSMART)

- WSMART initiated in 2021
  to support White House
  and EPA Administrator
  goals; continuing as an Air,
  Climate and Energy (ACE)
  Product
- Air monitor loan program to supplement existing State, Local, Tribal, and Air Resource Advisor (ARA) capabilities:
  - Stationary sensors (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, volatile organic compounds + CO sensors)
  - Vehicle Add-on Mobile Monitoring (VAMMS)





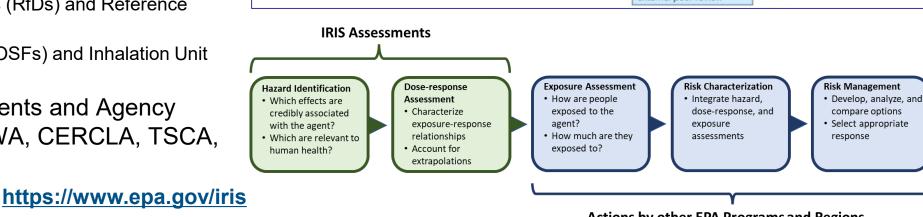
60+ loan recipients since 2021, including **Tribal**, **State/Local** agencies and **Air Resource Advisors** 



#### R&D related to air toxics - Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)

- Program within ORD's Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA)
- Database of assessments on hundreds of environmental pollutants; comprised of *Hazard Identification* and *Dose-Response Assessment* steps of Risk Assessment
- Top tier human health toxicity assessment for subchronic and chronic exposure to environmental substances
- Derives toxicity values for oral and inhalation exposures
  - Noncancer: Reference Doses (RfDs) and Reference Concentrations (RfCs).
  - Cancer: Oral Slope Factors (OSFs) and Inhalation Unit Risks (IURs).
- Contribute to risk assessments and Agency decisions under CAA, SDWA, CERCLA, TSCA, etc



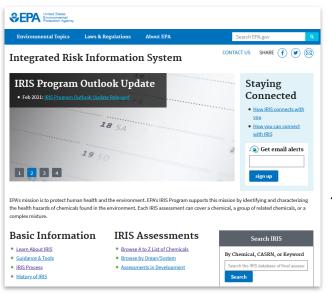


Actions by other EPA Programs and Regions

#### R&D related to air toxics - Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS)

<b>A</b>	Chemical Name	CASRN	IRIS Progress Step
<b>1</b>	Arsenic, Inorganic (iA)	7440-38-2	Step 4
<b>0</b> 2	Chloroform	67-66-3	Step 3
<b>3</b>	Chromium VI (CrVI)	18540-29-9	Step 6
<b>4</b>	Cobalt and Cobalt Compounds	1307-96-6	Step 1
<b>•</b> 5	<u>Ethylbenzene</u>	100-41-4	Step 1
<b>6</b>	Formaldehyde (Inhalation)	50-00-0	Step 6
<b>•</b> 7	Mercury Salts, Inorganic	Various	Step 1
<b>8</b>	Methylmercury (MeHg)	22967-92-6	Step 1
<b>9</b>	<u>Naphthalene</u>	91-20-3	Step 1
<b>1</b> 0	<u>Nitrate</u>	14797-55-8	Step 1
<b>1</b> 1	<u>Nitrite</u>	14797-65-0	Step 1
<b>1</b> 2	Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA)	335-76-2	Step 6
<b>1</b> 3	Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	355-46-4	Step 4
<b>1</b> 4	Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA)	375-95-1	Step 4
<b>1</b> 5	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)	1336-36-3	Step 1
<b>1</b> 6	<u>Uranium, natural</u>	7440-61-1	Step 1
<b>1</b> 7	Vanadium and Compounds (Oral)	Various	Step 1
<b>1</b> 8	Vanadium and Compounds (Inhalation)	Various	Step 1

- 18 ongoing assessments
- Recent release of final assessment for PFDA (#12 in table)
- Upcoming releases of final assessments for hexavalent chromium (#3 in table) and formaldehyde (#6 in table)
- Agency-wide input solicited every two years regarding which chemicals are priorities for future IRIS assessment



- Keep up with IRIS assessments by going to EPA's webpages at www.epa.gov/iris; and by checking the IRIS Program Outlook which lists assessments in development and projected public milestone dates
- The Outlook is updated at least 3 times per year (Feb, June, Oct) and can be found at

https://www.epa.gov/iris/irisprogram-outlook

#### R&D on air toxics: EtO

Ethylene oxide (EtO) measurement is an area of active research, including:

Multiple environments: Ambient monitoring, near-source and fenceline-monitoring

Multiple measurement approaches

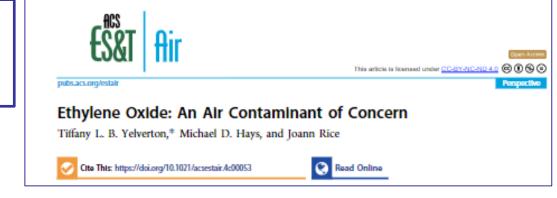




Fast, real-time EtO
measurements for fugitive
emissions detection and
fenceline monitoring

Sensitive EtO methods (<10 pptv) for ambient air monitoring; TO-15A







#### R&D on air toxics: EtO - TO-15A

- Research challenge: develop optimized analytical method to measure EtO at ultra-trace concentrations (target: EtO MDLs below 10 pptv) in ambient air, building on Method TO-15A
- Research conducted:
  - Analytical method development
  - Canisters
    - Canister validation
    - Cleaning evaluation ongoing research
- Coming soon:
  - ORD-developed Guidance Document provided to EPA OAQPS, who will facilitate external review and posting.

Related: Weds presentation by Tamira Cousett (EtO session)



Photos from research team: Tamira Cousett (EPA), Karen Oliver (EPA), Carlton Witherspoon (Jacobs), Andrew Whitehill (EPA)

#### R&D on air toxics: EtO – recent field studies

Region 5 ROAR (Blaine, MN): background and near-airport, stationary monitoring (2023)

Harcros chemical facility (Kansas City, KS): community downwind of Harcros chemical facility (2021; 2023 – ROAR project)

Verona EtO Project: multiple sites near BCP Ingredients Inc. Facility, stationary monitoring (Phase 1: 2022-2023; Phase 2: 2023-present)

Related: Weds presentation by Ingrid George (EtO session)



Justice: mobile monitoring study; tech transfer from ORD to NEIC (2022)

Region 6 / NEIC Journey to

Dow Chemical postexplosion study: mobile monitoring (2023)

Field Ambient Method Evaluation (FAME): nearroad, stationary monitoring (2021-2022)

Laboratory performance

tests: 2020-2021

Region 2 ROAR (Fajardo, PR): Mobile and stationary monitoring study near facility (2024 – present)

ROAR: Region-ORD Applied Research program NEIC: National Enforcement Investigations Center

# ORD research studying per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – wet deposition

- Bigger picture:
  - ORD has a large research program studying PFAS
  - EPA recently issued a drinking water standards and is proposing two regulations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (see <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pfas">https://www.epa.gov/pfas</a>)
  - Research measuring PFAS presence in wet deposition informs the fate and transport of PFAS in the environment
- Wet deposition research approach:
  - Samples collected as an extension of National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) National Trends Network (NTN) sampling protocols
  - Targeted PFAS analysis by Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene using modified ISO 21675 non-potable water method
  - Two peer-reviewed journal articles summarizing wet deposition research results are anticipated to be published in late 2024 and early 2025.



#### EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap: Second Annual Progress Report

December 2023

#### RESEARCH

Investing in research, development, and innovation to increase understanding of PFAS methods, human health and environmental risks, and technologies.



Related: Poster presentation by David Gay (WSLH, NADP coordinator)

## ORD research studying per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) – chemical ionization mass spectrometry

- Recent publication describing a short-term outdoor field study testing the use of chemical ionization mass spectrometry for time-resolved measurement of PFAS in air. (Mattila and Offenberg, 2024, https://doi.org/10.1080/10962247.2024.2366491)
- From the abstract: "The CIMS was calibrated for C2–C6 perfluorinated carboxylic acids, and 4:2 and 6:2 fluorotelomer alcohols. Of these, only trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) was detected in ambient air above instrumental detection limits."
- CIMS is being applied in ORD air emissions studies to measure PFAS
  - see Mattila et al., 2024, https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acs.est.3c09255

ial of the Air & Waste Management Association 🙈



NOTEBOOK PAPER





Measuring short-chain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in Central New Jersey air using chemical ionization mass spectrometry

James M. Mattila (1) and John H. Offenberg

"Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Durham, NC, USA; bOffice of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Durham, NC, USA; 'Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Durham, NC, USA

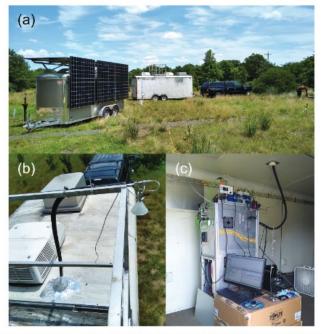


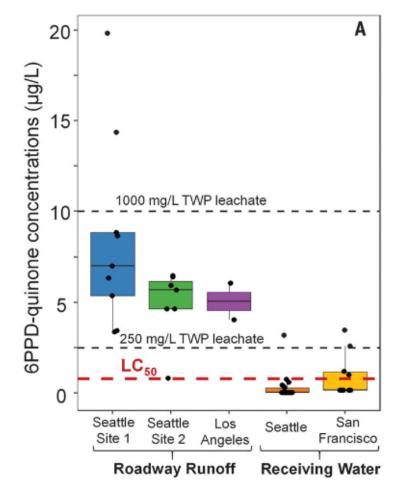
Figure 1. Photos from the field site. (a) The instrument trailer located on a grassy field at the EPA/ORD/CESER facility in Edison, NJ. (b) A view of the air sampling inlet extending from the ceiling of the trailer. (c) A view of the inlet delivering sampled ambient air to the



#### **Emerging contaminant: 6PPD-quinone**

- Researchers discovered that 6PPDquinone in stormwater was lethal to coho salmon (Tian et al., 2021) and may also impact other fish species (Brinkman et al., 2022)
- 6PPD has been widely used in vehicle tires to protect against breakdown; oxidizes to form 6PPDquinone.
- EPA has initiated a number of research and programmatic activities to understand and address 6PPDquinone; with publications and activities shared here:

https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/6ppd-quinone



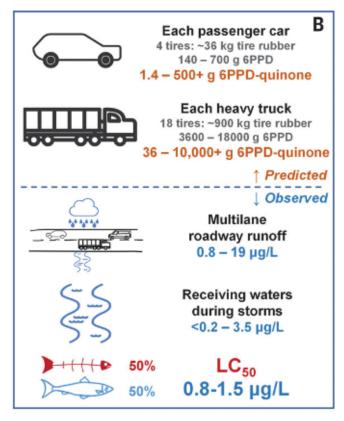


Figure 4 in Zhenyu Tian et al., A ubiquitous tire rubber-derived chemical induces acute mortality in coho salmon. Science 371,185-189(2021). DOI:10.1126/science.abd6951

#### ORD air research: 6PPD-quinone

- Ongoing analytical chemistry research at EPA's Research Triangle Park lab to detect and quantify 6PPD and 6PPD-quinone in airborne particulate.
  - Extraction via thermal desorption, GC/MS
- Collaborating with DC DOEE and VDEQ to measure roadside PM concentrations of 6PPD and 6PPDquinone.
  - High-volume sampling of TSP, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> particle sizes
  - Characterization of multiple pollutant concentrations including 6PPD/6PPD-quinone, microplastics, PAHs, and metals
- Research will be valuable to provide insights into roadway emissions of PM-phase 6PPD and 6PPDquinone, and fate and transport in the environment.



DC DOEE Anacostia and River Terrace sites



DC DOEE Anacostia site



VDEQ Springfield, VA site

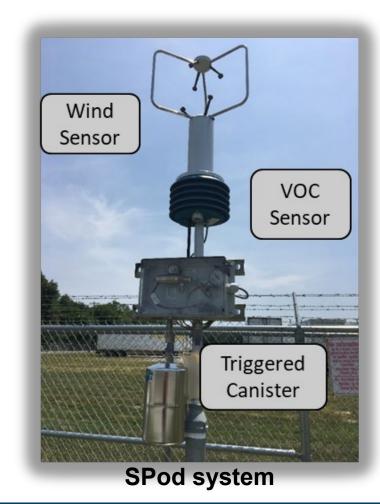
## R&D related to air monitoring platforms

...and, related data visualization and analytics

Aerial monitoring with ORD's "Kolibri" Sensor/Sampler



Sampling emissions from an oil spill burn on icy waters.





Solar-powered, wireless sensor systems



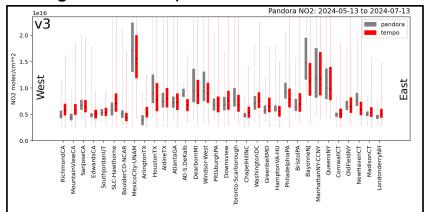
Mobile monitoring platform with real-time instruments

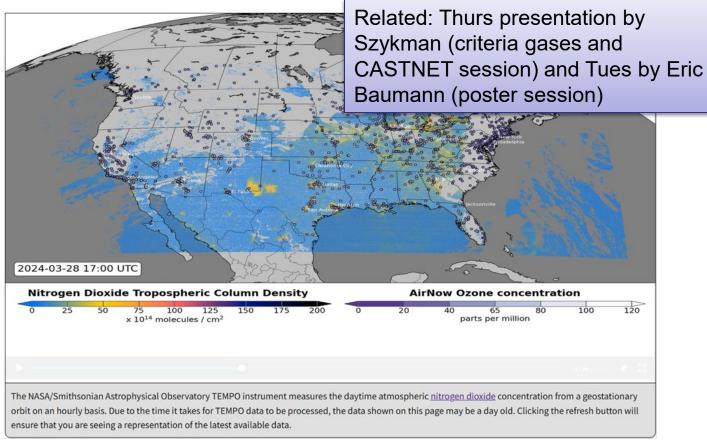
## Remote sensing R&D (satellite and ground-based)

ORD research collaborations with State and Local Agencies, NASA, and European Space Agency on the Pandora Ground-Based Spectrometers through the Pandonia Global Network is providing for routine and systematic validation of the TEMPO data products and guide data quality decisions.



Bias assessment of TEMPO NO<sub>2</sub> data using Pandora Spectrometers





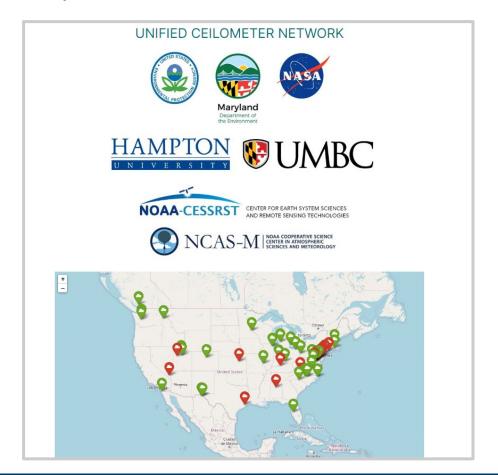
ORD research is working to increase user access to TEMPO data through the Remote Sensing Information Gateway and adding daily visualizations.

## Remote sensing R&D (satellite and ground-based)

ORD research collaborations with HBCU Hampton University, NASA, NOAA, the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Station Program and other academic institutions are helping to develop the Unified Ceilometer Network. The UCN will be the first operational ceilometer profiling network for aerosol profiles and characterization of the Planetary Boundary Layer with a focus on data products for model evaluation.

ORD research continues to inform Boundary Layer Research through the use of profile measurements, including ceilometers.

1847 OCTOBER 2020 CAICEDO ET AL. An Automated Common Algorithm for Planetary Boundary Layer Retrievals Using Aerosol Lidars in Support of the U.S. EPA Photochemical Assessment **Monitoring Stations Program** Vanessa Caicedo, <sup>a,b</sup> Ruben Delgado, <sup>a,b</sup> Ricardo Sakai, <sup>c</sup> Travis Knepp, <sup>d,e</sup> David Williams, <sup>f</sup> Kevin Cavender, <sup>g</sup> Barry Lefer, <sup>h</sup> and James Szykman <sup>e,f</sup> <sup>a</sup> Joint Center of Earth Systems Technology, Baltimore, Maryland; <sup>b</sup> University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland: c Howard University, Washington, D.C.; d Science Systems and Applications, Inc., Hampton, Virginia; c National Aeronautics and Space Administration Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia; <sup>f</sup> Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; <sup>8</sup> Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina; h National Aeronautics and Space Administration Headquarters, Washington, D.C. (Manuscript received 10 April 2020, in final form 4 August 2020) etrieval algorithm is proposed as a common cross-Related: Weds presentation by for implementation under the redesigned U.S. oring Stations program. This algorithm addresses Jim Szykman (PAMS session) before the implementation of the retrieval method



## Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Program

**Recent Funding Opportunity** 

Air Quality Information: Making Sense of Air Pollution

Data to Inform Decisions in Underserved Communities

Overburdened by Air Pollution Exposures

Overarching goal: Provide underserved communities science-based information, tools and approaches to utilize air and related environmental data to engage with decision-makers and take actions to address community-identified air pollution concerns

#### **Research Areas:**

- Methods and tools for data integration and analysis to characterize community exposures to air pollution in underserved communities
- Effective communication of air quality information to communities and decision makers to support actions to address air pollution concerns in underserved communities



# Supporting partnerships with minority serving institutions (MSIs):

EPA intends to use up to 50% of the total funding amount available under this announcement for institutions that include MSI partnerships as part of the application.

#### **STAR** program

Measurement and
Monitoring Methods for Air
Toxics and Contaminants of
Emerging Concern in the
Atmosphere Grants



#### Recent awardees:

- Open-source reference method for open-path optical remote sensing (OP-ORS) of air toxics
   PI: Jochen Stutz, University of California Los Angeles
- Methods for real-time measurements of air toxics using an array of lower-cost sensors
   PI: Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz, Virginia Tech
- Portable GC/MS system for air toxics
   PI: Tony Wexler, University of California Davis
- Mapping urban emissions of sub-10 nm particles using a mobile platform
   PI: Markus Petters, University of California Riverside
- High-resolution chemical ionization mass spectrometry methods for real-time measurement of PFAS
   PI: Jason Surratt, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- Analysis of aerosol-phase plastic additives in a coastal environment

PI: Nate Slade, University of California San Diego

https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/measurement-and-monitoring-methods-air-toxics-and-contaminants-emerging-concern-2

# Air monitoring and other research at EPA: ways to stay informed

https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series

#### 2024 Schedule

Date	Topic and Presenter(s)		
April 17, 2024	Tire Crumb Research Kent Thomas, Jose Zambrana, and Annette Guiseppi-Elie, EPA ORD		
May 15, 2024	Wildfires Bob McKane, EPA ORD		
June 5, 2024	RETIGO Data Visualization Tool  Andrea Clements, EPA ORD		
July 17, 2024	Temperature, Precipitation, and Beyond: Introducing Datasets Suitable for Comprehensive Analysis of Local Climate Change Impacts  Megan Mallard, Jeff Willison, and Tanya Spero, EPA ORD		
August 21, 2024	New Approach Methods (NAMs)  Alison Harrill, EPA ORD		
September 18, 2024	Assessing Community Vulnerabilities to Potential Contaminant Releases from Extreme Events  Meridith Fry and Lauren Oliver, EPA ORD		
October 16, 2024	Participatory Science Heather Drumm and Julie Vastine, EPA ORD		
November 20, 2024	Fifth National Climate Assessment: Resources and Interactive Atlas Rebecca Dodder, EPA ORD		
December 11, 2024	PFAS Susan Burden and Tom Speth, EPA ORD		

https://www.epa.gov/air-research/air-climateenergy-research-webinar-series

Air, Climate, & Energy Research Webinar Series

Tuesday, August 20th from 3-4 PM EST
Health Impacts of Air Pollutants
Beyond Cardiovascular or Respiratory
Effects

https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters

# Science Matters Science Matters Science Matters Science Matters is an EPA newsletter with articles on Agency research. The newsletter also includes profiles on EPA scientists. Subscribe to Science Matters



## Thank you!

Thanks to many EPA contributors for slide content and images shown here:

FEM/FRM: Robert Vanderpool, Cortina Johnson, Russell Long, Matt Landis

Puerto Rico study: Sarah Pender, Gavin Lau, Amara Holder, Matt Landis, Maribel Colón, Farnaz Nojvan

Sensors: Karoline Barkjohn, Amara Holder, Andrea Clements, Rachelle Duvall

WSMART: Amara Holder, Ashley Bittner, Lara Phelps, Bill Mitchell, Andrea Clements (RETIGO)

IRIS: Samantha Jones, Elizabeth Chan

EtO: Ingrid George, Karen Oliver, Tamira Cousett, Andrew Whitehill, Ali Gitipour, Tiffany Yelverton,

Michael Hays, Eben Thoma

6PPD-q: Joe Martin, Rich Baldauf

PFAS wet deposition / ambient air: John Offenberg, James Mattila

Measurement platforms: Brian Gullett, Johanna Aurell, Amara Holder, Megan McDonald, Eben Thoma,

Ingrid George, Ali Gitipour, Rachelle Duvall

Remote Sensing: Jim Szykman, Lukas Valin

STAR: Serena Chung

#### Contact: hagler.gayle@epa.gov

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