

February 27, 2006

Raymond E. DuBose
Director, Energy Services
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
730 Airport Road
Campus Box 1855
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-1855

Re: Off-Season Linearity Check Results to Quality Assure Ozone Season Data for Unit ES002 at the University of North Carolina (Facility ID (ORISPL) 054276)

Dear Mr. DuBose:

This is in response to your October 21, 2005 petition in which the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) requested to: (1) use the April, 2005 linearity checks of the gas monitors on Unit ES002 to meet the 2nd quarter, 2005 “inside-the-ozone-season” linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii); and (2) report quality-assured NO_x emission data for certain hours in the 3rd quarter of 2005, instead of using missing data substitution.

Unit ES002 is subject to the NO_x Budget Program. Therefore, UNC is required to monitor and report NO_x mass emissions for this unit, in accordance with Subpart H of 40 CFR Part 75. The monitoring plan for this unit indicates that UNC has elected to report NO_x mass emissions only during the ozone season, i.e., from May 1 through September 30. According to §75.74(c), when the ozone season-only reporting option is selected, certain quality-assurance (QA) tests of the NO_x monitoring system are required prior to the ozone season, and certain other QA tests are required during (“inside”) the ozone season.

The October 21, 2005 petition states that the NO_x monitoring system installed on Unit ES002 did not meet all of the quality-assurance test requirements for the 2005 ozone season. In particular, the requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) to perform a 2nd quarter linearity check of the monitoring system inside the ozone season (i.e., in May or June) was not met. Failure to meet this QA test requirement causes data from the NO_x monitoring system to be invalidated, beginning on July 1st and continuing until a linearity check is performed and passed. The use of missing data substitution is required during this period.

The QA requirements in §§75.74(c)(2) and (c)(3) for ozone season-only reporters have apparently been misunderstood by the owners and operators of several affected facilities, including UNC. These owners and operators have conducted the pre-ozone season linearity checks required by §75.74(c)(2)(i) in April (i.e., in the 2nd quarter), but have not understood that §75.74(c)(3)(ii) requires an additional 2nd quarter linearity check in May or June, inside the ozone season.

EPA's Determination

EPA conditionally approves UNC's request to use the April 2005 linearity checks of the gas monitors installed on Unit ES002 to meet the 2nd quarter, 2005 "inside-the-ozone-season" linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii). EPA is granting this one-time exception to the requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii), for the following reasons. First, the pre-season linearity checks (which could have been performed any time from October 1, 2004 through April 30, 2005) were actually performed within the 2nd quarter of 2005 (April), and the monitors were operated and quality-assured by means of daily calibration error checks for the remainder of the quarter. This provides reasonable assurance of the quality of the 2nd quarter data generated by the gas monitors. Second, for sources that report emissions data year-round, Part 75 requires only one linearity check per quarter, under normal circumstances (e.g., in the absence of monitor replacements under §75.20(b)), to provide assurance that the monitors are generating accurate data. Therefore, EPA believes that it is reasonable to treat the emissions data for Unit ES002 as quality-assured in the time period extending from July 1, 2005 to the completion of the 3rd quarter, 2005 linearity checks, and the Agency waives the requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) to perform missing data substitution in that time period. The conditions of this approval are as follows:

- (1) If, as a result of the missed 2nd quarter "inside-the-ozone-season" linearity checks, UNC used missing data substitution in the 3rd quarter, 2005 electronic data report (EDR) for Unit ES002, UNC may resubmit the 3rd quarter, 2005 EDR within 7 days of the date of receipt of this letter, replacing the substitute data with the actual emissions data recorded by the gas monitors; and
- (2) In the resubmitted 3rd quarter, 2005 report, UNC shall include a note in EDR record type 910, indicating that EPA approved the use of the April, 2005 linearity checks to satisfy both the pre-ozone season linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(2)(i) and the 2nd quarter "inside-the-ozone-season" linearity check requirement of §75.74(c)(3)(ii).

Please be advised that this is a one-time waiver of the QA requirements of §75.74(c)(3)(ii) and applies only to the 2005 ozone season. In 2006 and beyond, EPA expects the QA test requirements for ozone season-only reporters to be fully met. Otherwise, missing data substitution will be required. If you have any questions about this determination, please contact Manuel J. Oliva at (202) 343-9009. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Sam Napolitano, Director
Clean Air Markets Division

cc: David McNeal, EPA Region IV
Richard R. Simpson, NCDENR
Manuel J. Oliva, CAMD

