



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

MAY 24 2016

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Shelley Schneider, Administrator  
Air Quality Division  
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality  
1200 'N' Street, Suite  
P. O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Ms. Schneider:

I am pleased to approve the 2015 Nebraska Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Plan and 5-year Air Monitoring Network Assessment for 2015. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality submitted the plan on January 22, 2016 after posting the plan on its website for 30 days as per 40 CFR Part 58. No comments were received during the comment period.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the plan and the 5-year assessment and found both to be in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Part 58. With this letter, the EPA is taking action to approve the Nebraska Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Plan and the 2015, 5-year Air Monitoring Network Assessment.

As mentioned in our previous network plan approvals, your air monitoring staff is to be commended for its hard work and attention to detail while completing both the annual network plan and the 5-year network assessment. Your actions of managing and maintaining a strong air monitoring program clearly support the EPA's strategic goal of taking action on climate change and improving air quality. I appreciate your commitment and continued dedication to our shared mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Hague".

Mark Hague

Enclosure: ENST 2015 Plan Approval Letter







**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7**

Science and Technology Center  
300 Minnesota Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** ENST Comments/Approval for State of Nebraska 2015 Air Monitoring Network Plan

**FROM:** Leland Grooms   
Leader-Air Monitoring Team  
ENST/MES

**THRU:** Cecilia Tap   
Director  
ENST

**TO:** Michael Jay  
Chief  
AWMD/APDB

ENST/MESB has reviewed the Nebraska 2015 Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan and Five Year Network Assessment, which were received January 22, 2015. MESB has no critical comments pertaining to either document.

ENST/MESB fully supports approval of the Nebraska 2015 Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan (including Five Year Network Assessment Plan and monitoring additions) in accordance with 40 CFR 58.10 and EPA policy. Monitor discontinuation checklists are attached, for each of the monitors proposed in the subject plan to be discontinued.

Attachment(s) - Monitoring discontinuation checklist

**EPA Region 7 Ambient Air Monitoring Network  
Monitor Discontinuation Checklist**

City / Site Name: **Magnolia, Metals** Site Address: **Auburn, NE**  
Monitor to be discontinued: **Pb (Source Oriented)** AQS ID: **31-127-0002**  
Proposed Effective Date: **Immediately** Agency operating monitor: **NDEQ**

In accordance with 40 CFR 58.14, discontinuation of this monitor is approved because one of the following criteria has been met:

- (1) Any PM<sub>2.5</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, Pb, or NO<sub>2</sub> SLAMS monitor which has shown attainment during the previous five years, that has a probability of less than 10 percent of exceeding 80 percent of the applicable NAAQS during the next three years based on the levels, trends, and variability observed in the past, and which is not specifically required by an attainment plan or maintenance plan.  
*Note: In a nonattainment or maintenance area, if the most recent attainment or maintenance plan adopted by the State and approved by EPA contains a contingency measure to be triggered by an air quality concentration and the monitor to be discontinued is the only SLAMS monitor operating in the nonattainment or maintenance area, the monitor may not be discontinued.*
- (2) Any SLAMS monitor for CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, or NO<sub>2</sub> which has consistently measured lower concentrations than another monitor for the same pollutant in the same county (or portion of a county within a distinct attainment area, nonattainment area, or maintenance area, as applicable) during the previous five years, and which is not specifically required by an attainment plan or maintenance plan, if control measures scheduled to be implemented or discontinued during the next five years would apply to the areas around both monitors and have similar effects on measured concentrations, such that the retained monitor would remain the higher reading of the two monitors being compared
- (3) For any pollutant, any SLAMS monitor in a county (or portion of a county within a distinct attainment, nonattainment, or maintenance area, as applicable) provided the monitor has not measured violations of the applicable NAAQS in the previous five years, and the approved SIP provides for a specific, reproducible approach to representing the air quality of the affected county in the absence of actual monitoring data.
- (4) A PM<sub>2.5</sub> SLAMS monitor which EPA has determined cannot be compared to the relevant NAAQS because of the siting of the monitor, in accordance with §58.30.
- (5) A SLAMS monitor that is designed to measure concentrations upwind of an urban area for purposes of characterizing transport into the area and that has not recorded violations of the relevant NAAQS in the previous five years, if discontinuation of the monitor is tied to start-up of another station also characterizing transport.
- (6) This SLAMS monitor is not eligible for removal under any of the criteria in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section, but may be moved to a nearby location with the same scale of representation because logistical problems beyond the State's control make it impossible to continue operation at its current site.

Or, a case-by-case basis, I have determined that:

- Discontinuation of this monitor is approved because discontinuance does not compromise data collection needed for implementation of a NAAQS and the requirements of 40 CFR Part 58 appendix D, if any, continue to be met.
- OR this is a special purpose monitor; approval from EPA is not required for discontinuation.

Determination by: **Leland P. Grooms**

  
Date: **04/07/2016**



**EPA Region 7 Ambient Air Monitoring Network  
Monitor Discontinuation Checklist**

City / Site Name: **Gothenburg, NE** Site Address: **409 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
Monitor to be discontinued: **PM<sub>10</sub> (Source Oriented)** AQS ID: **31-047-0003**  
Proposed Effective Date: **Immediately** Agency operating monitor: **NDEQ**

In accordance with 40 CFR 58.14, discontinuation of this monitor is approved because one of the following criteria has been met:

- (1) Any PM<sub>2.5</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, Pb, or NO<sub>2</sub> SLAMS monitor which has shown attainment during the previous five years, that has a probability of less than 10 percent of exceeding 80 percent of the applicable NAAQS during the next three years based on the levels, trends, and variability observed in the past, and which is not specifically required by an attainment plan or maintenance plan.  
*Note: In a nonattainment or maintenance area, if the most recent attainment or maintenance plan adopted by the State and approved by EPA contains a contingency measure to be triggered by an air quality concentration and the monitor to be discontinued is the only SLAMS monitor operating in the nonattainment or maintenance area, the monitor may not be discontinued.*
- (2) Any SLAMS monitor for CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, or NO<sub>2</sub> which has consistently measured lower concentrations than another monitor for the same pollutant in the same county (or portion of a county within a distinct attainment area, nonattainment area, or maintenance area, as applicable) during the previous five years, and which is not specifically required by an attainment plan or maintenance plan, if control measures scheduled to be implemented or discontinued during the next five years would apply to the areas around both monitors and have similar effects on measured concentrations, such that the retained monitor would remain the higher reading of the two monitors being compared
- (3) For any pollutant, any SLAMS monitor in a county (or portion of a county within a distinct attainment, nonattainment, or maintenance area, as applicable) provided the monitor has not measured violations of the applicable NAAQS in the previous five years, and the approved SIP provides for a specific, reproducible approach to representing the air quality of the affected county in the absence of actual monitoring data.
- (4) A PM<sub>2.5</sub> SLAMS monitor which EPA has determined cannot be compared to the relevant NAAQS because of the siting of the monitor, in accordance with §58.30.
- (5) A SLAMS monitor that is designed to measure concentrations upwind of an urban area for purposes of characterizing transport into the area and that has not recorded violations of the relevant NAAQS in the previous five years, if discontinuation of the monitor is tied to start-up of another station also characterizing transport.
- (6) This SLAMS monitor is not eligible for removal under any of the criteria in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section, but may be moved to a nearby location with the same scale of representation because logistical problems beyond the State's control make it impossible to continue operation at its current site.

Or, a case-by-case basis, I have determined that:

- Discontinuation of this monitor is approved because discontinuance does not compromise data collection needed for implementation of a NAAQS and the requirements of 40 CFR Part 58 appendix D, if any, continue to be met.
- OR this is a special purpose monitor; approval from EPA is not required for discontinuation.

Determination by: **Leland P. Grooms**

*LP G*  
Date: **04/07/2016**