



No.3-1987, JULY 6

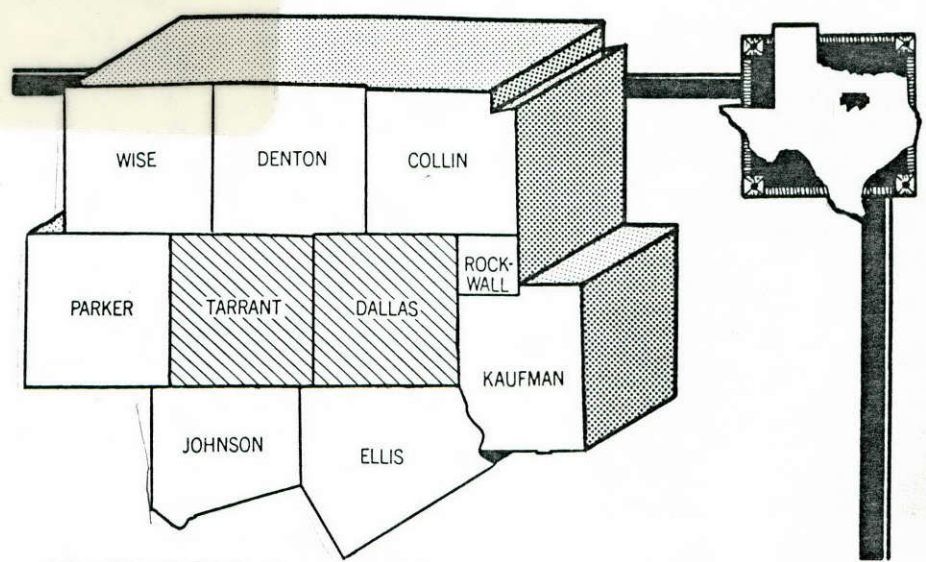
EPA plans construction ban in Dallas, Fort Worth Ozone control plan falls short of federal goal

The Environmental Protection Agency has notified the Texas Air Control Board it intends to impose a ban on the construction or modification of major industries in Dallas and Tarrant counties because the state's plan for bringing down ozone levels there is inadequate to meet federal requirements.

EPA has not suggested what additional pollution controls would be needed except to recommend consideration of a regional approach that would include Denton, Collin, Rockwall, Kaufman, Ellis, Johnson, Parker, and Wise counties.

"In these surrounding counties, it seems that, at a minimum, vehicle inspection and maintenance, transportation control measures similar to those now in the TACB's plan, and reviews of new industrial sources of emissions will be

(continued on page two)



EPA MAY REQUIRE the state to impose ozone pollution controls on the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolplex area peripheral counties in an effort to improve the air quality.

EPA announces ozone plan options for Denton County

The EPA has notified the Texas Air Control Board that the state has until Aug. 31 to select one of two options for revising the State Implementation Plan for Ozone for Denton County: 1) an "areawide" approach to include the surrounding counties in the Dallas/Tarrant counties planning area, or 2) a "county-specific" approach for Denton County.

If Denton County and other counties adjacent to Dallas and Tarrant counties and the state opt for the areawide approach, the TACB must advise the EPA of this choice by Aug. 31. No deadline for submittal of an areawide plan was included in EPA's June 17 letter announcing the options.

If the county-specific
(continued on page two)

TACB reports Collin County ozone findings

Ozone concentrations above the national ambient air quality standard of 0.12 parts per million (ppm) were recorded four times at TACB's Collin County monitor during the summer of 1986, but a recently completed TACB staff analysis of the data concludes that this resulted from the movement of pollution into the county from the Dallas metropolitan area.

"Our findings suggest that the high ozone concentrations in Collin County are not significantly affected by local self-generated ozone caused by emissions in the county," Steve Spaw, TACB deputy executive director, said. This conclusion was based, among other things, on the occurrence of a consistent

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Board Calendar

July 17, Austin:

- Enforcement Committee, 8:30 a.m.
- Regulation Development Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- Mobile Source Committee, 10 a.m.
- Board meeting, 10:30 a.m.

August 14, Austin:

- Board meeting, 10:30 a.m. (tentative)

From page one

TACB anticipates new EPA ozone guidelines

necessary to reduce ozone pollution in North Central Texas," Robert E. Layton, Jr., EPA's Region VI administrator, said.

Three Board committees will meet July 17

Three committees will meet July 17 prior to the board meeting.

The Enforcement Committee, appointed by Chairman John L. Blair May 29, will hold its first meeting at 8:30 a.m. R. Hal Moorman is committee chairman; members are Bob G. Bailey, Hubert Oxford III, and William H. Quortrup. The TACB staff will brief the committee on current enforcement procedures and rules.

The Regulation Development Committee, chaired by Dick Whittington, will meet at 9:30 a.m. to consider 1) revisions to Regulation VI (permits) concerning stack heights, PSD permits, and public notice of applications for permits; and 2) minor administrative changes to Regulation VIII (emergency episodes); and 3) to review and consider for public hearing revisions to Regulation V and the general rules relating to EPA-required reasonably available control technology for three new categories of volatile organic compound emission sources.

The Mobile Source Committee, chaired by Otto R. Kunze, will meet at 10 a.m. to discuss the development, current status, and future of the vehicle inspection and maintenance program in Texas. ■

Layton said that 36.1 percent of the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Dallas County is due to vehicles registered in surrounding counties, and 23.5 percent of the VMT in Tarrant County is due to vehicles registered in adjacent counties.

"New information confirms that we will probably have to take a regional approach to reducing ozone because our metropolitan counties seem to be contributing to each other's ozone problems," Layton said.

TACB Executive Director Eli Bell said the state is willing to consider additional controls for submittal to the EPA. "We understand that EPA intends to furnish guidelines on how the state plan should be developed so that it will be approvable," Bell said. "We will wait for this direction before taking any new action toward designing additional control strategies. As always, we will work closely with local governments in

considering options open to us, and these will be presented for public comment at meetings and hearings.

To meet the ozone standard, VOC emissions must be reduced by 52.8 percent in Dallas County and 51.5 percent in Tarrant County. The present plan provides for reductions of 23 percent in Dallas County and 26.4 percent in Tarrant County by the end of 1987.

The state initiated a vehicle inspection and maintenance program in Dallas and Tarrant counties on January 1, 1986. EPA is proposing approval of that part of the plan.

Other transportation control measures in the present plan in both counties include coordinating traffic signals to improve the flow of traffic, staggered work hours, countywide car pool and van pool programs, more bus service, and peripheral parking for the Fort Worth central business district. ■

From page one

EPA cites Denton County options

approach is chosen, the due date for submittal of a revised ozone SIP for Denton County also is Aug. 31, EPA Regional Administrator Robert E. Layton, Jr. said. He denied the state's earlier request for an extension of the Aug. 31 deadline to allow additional time for consideration of an areawide approach. He said he was aware that an areawide approach could result in expanded regional emission reductions.

Layton said "it is our

desire to develop SIP revisions for Denton County that both satisfy EPA requirements and respond to local concerns" and, therefore, the options of an areawide approach or a county-specific plan were being offered.

James Gise, director of TACB's Control Strategy Division, has met with officials of Denton and Collin counties to discuss Layton's letter and the deadlines set in it. ■

July Board agenda announced

The Air Control Board at its meeting at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 17, will consider action on two air quality regulations and two contested cases involving alleged violations of state regulations.

Also, the staff will present recommendations for 25 agreed enforcement orders.

The contested cases concern the issues of whether Troy Vines, Inc., Midland, meets the criteria for qualifying for a standard exemption from a TACB permit for construction of a concrete batch plant; and whether Larry Jones, Inc., Arlington, should be issued a special permit for a woodworking facility.

The board will consider three changes to Regulation VI (permits): 1) the elimination of a preliminary determination on permit applications for minor permits in order to shorten permit-processing time; 2) changes to the state rule to conform more nearly with federal rules on PSD permits and stack height requirements; and 3) establishment of a 15-day deadline for receipt of requests for public hearing on special permit applications and a 30-day deadline for hearing requests on all other permit applications.

The board will consider minor administrative changes to Regulation VIII (air pollution episodes).

If the board adopts the rule changes, they would take effect 20 days after the changes are filed with the office of the Secretary of State. ■

At APCA'88 annual meeting

Ozone control issues to be one of major discussion topics in Dallas

Ozone control issues will be one of the major discussion topics at the 81st annual meeting of APCA, international air pollution control and hazardous waste management association, to be held June 20-24, 1988 in Dallas, according to James H. Price, director of TACB's Research Division. Price is technical program chairman for the meeting.

The focus of the ozone discussions will be that the implementation of many ozone control strategies has failed to bring ozone levels down to federal compliance levels in many areas. Price said APCA speakers will attempt to answer why this is so and "where do we go from here?"

Hazardous waste management, air toxics, indoor air quality, and visibility also will be featured topics for discussions by panels of experts.

The program committee has announced a total of 48 subjects for technical papers. Price said a total of around 600 papers are expected to be presented at more than a hundred technical sessions. Forms for proposing presentations are available from Price, TACB, 6330 Highway 290 East, Austin, Texas 78723. The deadline for return of the proposal form is Oct. 15.

Price said technical committees of the association will have the major responsibility for soliciting papers and designing sessions, but that unsolicited papers are also welcome and will be referred to a representative of the appropriate committee for consideration, review, and scheduling.

Proposals for the presentation of papers should include a 300 to 500 word description of their content. ■

From page one-

Collin County monitoring results

time-lag between the time high concentrations were recorded at a monitor located just inside Dallas County near the Collin County border and the Collin County monitor, located in McKinney some 18.29 miles north, and on the direction of the wind at the time the measurements were made.

The EPA requires the TACB to monitor for ozone in counties in standard metropolitan areas where there is a county classified

as "nonattainment" for ozone. Currently, the TACB is monitoring for ozone in Wise County, also in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area.

Areas are classified as nonattainment for ozone if ozone concentrations exceed 0.12 ppm four times averaged over three years. Concentrations in Collin County exceeded the federal standard four times in six months in 1986, Spaw pointed out, so that three years' worth of data is not necessary. ■

Thousands of Texas companies still must register

Fewer than 2,000 of an estimated tens of thousands of Texas companies, agencies, and individuals who store and use any of 406 hazardous chemicals above an EPA-mandated threshold level have registered with the State Emergency Response Commission. The registration requirement is contained in a federal law (Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986) designed to prevent Bhopal-type chemical disasters.

A provision of the act set May 17 as the deadline for such registration and specified that fines up to \$25,000 a day could be assessed for failure to comply with the deadline.

Rosemary Henderson, an EPA Region VI spokeswoman, told the Bulletin that anyone who meets the criteria for mandatory regis-

EPA enforcement policy pending

tration and has not yet registered should do so "without delay." She said although up to this time EPA has not announced a grace period for late registration, it also has not announced that it would begin enforcement action against those who had missed the deadline. "There is a lot of confusion at this time on the part of many people concerning registration requirements," Henderson said. "Regardless of whatever EPA's enforcement policy will be, the best course of action is for people to register as soon as possible."

Laureen Chernow, of the Texas Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Management, said "we hesitate to speculate as to the total number of companies and facility operators that should register, but it's safe to say there are tens of thousands we have yet to hear from."

She said companies and persons who should register but have not done so should send required information to:

Emergency Response Commission, Division of Emergency Management, P.O. Box 4087, Austin, TX 78773-0001.

Information should include:

- **Company's or person's name**
- **Headquarters address**
- **Contact person/ phone number**
- **Name of facility coordinator**
- **Location of each facility which manufactures or stores hazardous chemicals (the chemicals are listed in the April 22, 1987 Federal Register.)**

The Department of Agriculture has sent letters to farm and ranch operators throughout the state to notify them of the federal requirements. Chernow said she is confident most farmers, city and county governments, and other small facility owners and operators are aware of the act's requirements. She said anyone having questions should contact the DPS Emergency Management

Office (512) 465-2138, or an appropriate agency member of the Emergency Response Commission. Inquiries made to the TACB should be directed to Ed Gonzales, (512) 451-5711, ext. 419.

The commission has designated the counties of the state as the basic planning districts. The county organizations have been given the options of 1) having the county committee be responsible for the entire county; 2) setting up subcommittees to operate under the central committee; or 3) setting up two or more independent committees to represent specific areas of the counties. The deadline for the organization of the local committees is Aug. 17.

Companies and persons

Local planning groups designated

coming under the requirements of the act have until Sept. 17 to inform local planning committees of the designation of persons responsible for the program at each facility. Lists of hazardous chemicals on site must be furnished by Oct. 17 to the state commission, local committees, and local fire departments.

The State Emergency Response Commission is made up of the Department of Public Safety, Department of Health, Water Commission, Railroad Commission, Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, Comptroller's Office, Department of Agriculture, and the Air Control Board.■

El Paso 100% likely to exceed standard, EPA says

The TACB has begun work toward the preparation of a state air quality plan for El Paso based on new federal standards for fine particulates. The new standards were announced June 3 in Washington; the formal time-frame of nine months for submission of a state plan began July 1 when the standards were published in the Federal Register.

The new standards apply to particles smaller than 20 micrometers in diameter, and are usually referred to as PM₁₀ standards. EPA announced a 24-hour standard of 150 micrograms per cubic meter and an annual average standard of 50 micrograms per cubic meter.

El Paso is the only area of the state which EPA has designated as falling within the range of a greater than 95 percent probability of exceeding the 24-hour standard. State PM₁₀ control strategy implementation plans are required for areas falling within this range. The plan must provide for attainment of the standard no later than three years after it is approved by EPA, although a two-year extension may be granted in "special cases."

The current state plan for the control of total suspended particulates for a portion of the City of El Paso will remain in effect until EPA approves a new plan for fine particulates, Joe Panketh, TACB PM₁₀ project coordinator, said.

In addition to the plan for El Paso, TACB must

monitor for PM₁₀ at least at one site in each of four counties, Harris, Dallas, Lubbock, and Nueces. If measurements of PM₁₀ at a monitor are above the new standards, a state plan must be developed, Panketh said.

Three years of monitoring results are required to determine federal standard-attainment status. The TACB has been monitoring fine particulates in the outdoor air over the state for the past two years. Information from this activity will be useful to the TACB in assessing the probability of future requirements for control measures, Panketh said. To make its determination of areas where a state plan must be submitted within nine months, EPA used a formula based on measurements of total suspended particulates adjusted for fine particulates. Using this formula, EPA found there was a 100 percent probability that El Paso would not attain the PM₁₀ 24-hour standard.

Construction ban to be lifted

In Harris County, a 36-square mile area near the ship channel designated "Harris I" by TACB has been under a major emissions source construction ban since November 1983 under regulations based on levels of total suspended particulates. This ban will be lifted 30 days after the

PM₁₀ standards take effect, Panketh said.

Five total suspended particulate monitors and one PM₁₀ monitor have been operating in the Harris I area. Panketh said no PM₁₀ measurements above the new standards have been recorded, but he pointed out that the major industry, a steel mill, which was in operation at the time the total suspended particulates controls went into effect, has not been operated since the PM₁₀ monitor was located there two years ago.

In El Paso, the highest recorded level of fine particulates was 323 micrograms per cubic meter in a 24-hour period, more than double the 24-hour standard measurement. This measurement, at a monitor located at the Health Department building at 222 South Campbell St. (as well as other El Paso monitor measurements), has been validated by the quality assurance staff, Panketh said. Jan Moneysmith, quality assurance division director, said the measurement was made during an air stagnation occurrence caused by a five-day-long inversion.

Typical major industrial emission sources of fine particulates are stationary combustion processes, petroleum refineries, iron and steel mills, non-ferrous metals industries, feed and grain operations, and the cement industry, Panketh said.

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Administrative Penalties

The Air Control Board issued the following agreed board orders on May 29:

Austin Countertops, Inc., a cultured marble manufacturing facility at 11108 Bluff Bend Drive, Austin, Travis County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.)

American Molds, Inc., a fiberglass mold manufacturing facility at 900 West Kirby, Wylie, Collin County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.)

Can-Am Rubber Co., Inc., a custom rubber blending facility off Stayton Road in Dayton, Liberty County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption, \$4,500.

Cermetco, Inc., a plasma flamespray unit at a machine shop at 17515 Telephone Road, Pearland, Brazoria County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. No monetary penalty except that a penalty of \$50 per day could be assessed for each day information re-

quested by the TACB to complete its review of the company's permit application is late.

Champion International Corp., a paper mill on North Shaver Street at the Washburn Tunnel, Pasadena, Harris County, causing, suffering, allowing, or permitting visible emissions from Recovery Boilers Numbers 6 and 7 to exceed an opacity of 20 percent averaged over a five minute period, \$19,200. The company was sold to Simpson Paper Co. on Jan. 30, 1987.

Farmers Cooperative of El Campo, a fertilizer terminal at 1000 South Meadow Lane, El Campo, Wharton County, constructing and operating an anhydrous ammonia tank without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption, \$750.

First Southwest Sacking Co., Inc., a chicken feed blending plant on FM 515, two miles east of Emory, Rains County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was

issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.)

H & S Constructors, Inc., a portable sandblasting facility at 1616 Corn Products Road, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption, \$500.

Hudson Products Corp., a fiberglass fan manufacturing plant on Highway 59, two miles south of Beasley, Fort Bend County, constructing and operating two paint spraying booths without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. No monetary penalty except that a penalty of \$50 per day could be assessed for each day information requested by the TACB to complete its review of the company's permit application is late.

Insulated Panel Systems, Inc., a panel manufacturing plant at 12245-H Spencer Road, Houston, Harris County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. No
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Administrative Penalties

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monetary penalty except that a penalty of \$50 per day could be assessed for each day information requested by the TACB to complete its review of the company's permit application is late.

International Stone & Materials Corp., a bark processing plant at 14022 Pike Road, Missouri City, Fort Bend County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. No monetary penalty except that a penalty of \$50 per day could be assessed for each day information requested by the TACB to complete its review of the company's permit application is late.

KW Industries, a steel pole manufacturing facility at 909 Industrial Blvd., Sugarland, Fort Bend County, constructing and operating a galvanizing unit without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. No monetary penalty except that a penalty of \$50 per day could be assessed for each day information requested by the TACB to complete its review of the company's permit application is late.

Mobay Corp., a chemical manufacturing plant at 8500 West Bay Road, Baytown, Chambers County, failing to comply with volatile organic compound fugitive monitoring and reporting requirements, \$2,000.

Nance Marble Co., Inc., a cultured marble manufacturing facility at 7218 Polar Bear, San Antonio, Bexar County,

constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.)

Plains Seed and Delinting Co., Inc., a waste cotton seed disposal site 0.7 miles east of FM 1729 on FM 835 in Lubbock County, causing, suffering, allowing, or permitting the outdoor burning of waste cotton seed, \$950.

R & D Marble, Inc., a cultured marble manufacturing facility at Route 3, Box 131, Willis, Montgomery County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.)

Red Ewald, Inc., a fiberglass products manufacturing plant on Highway 181, 0.5 miles south of the intersection of Highways 181 and 123 in Karnes County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption, \$1,175.

Russell-Stanley Southwest, Inc., an industrial container manufacturing facility at 4004 Homestead, Houston, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption, \$4,825.

Scientific Gas Products/Ashland Chemical Co., a specialty gas processing plant at 3325 Westside Drive, Pasadena, Harris County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or

without qualifying for a standard exemption. (No monetary penalty.) The company was sold to Scott Specialty Gases on March 1, 1987.

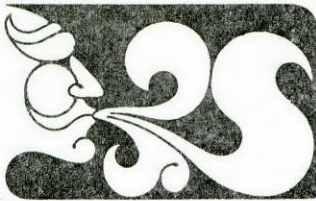
Specialty Marble, a synthetic marble manufacturing plant at 3324 South Jones, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. No monetary penalty except that a penalty of \$50 per day could be assessed for each day the company fails to meet the conditions for qualifying for a standard exemption.

Tide Products, Inc., a fertilizer terminal 1.25 miles southwest of El Campo on Loop 525 at the intersection of Loop 525 and Highway 59, Wharton County, constructing and operating an anhydrous ammonia tank without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.)

Trinity Marble Designs, Inc., a cultured marble products manufacturing plant 1.3 miles west of I-35 on Hackberry Road, Van Alstyne, Grayson County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company qualified for a standard exemption. (No monetary penalty.)

U. S. Brick, Inc., a brick manufacturing plant at 500 N. Southeast 14th Avenue, Mineral Wells, Palo Pinto County, causing, suffering, allowing, or

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Houston area study indicates need to factor in weather conditions to determine effectiveness of controls

The influence of weather on ozone concentrations needs to be considered in determining the effectiveness of ozone pollution control measures, TACB atmospheric scientists conclude in a report presented at the recent annual meeting of APCA in New York.

"Even though weather is not a consideration in determining attainment or nonattainment of the federal ozone standard for an area, understanding its effect on the formation of ozone is crucial in the final analysis of the effectiveness of control strategies," researcher Keith Zimmermann said.

In their study, the TACB researchers "normalized" regional ozone statistics for the Houston area by relating the information to a weather-based ozone-potential index.

Following their analysis of Houston area weather and ozone-monitoring data for the years 1975-1978 and 1980-1983, they found that weather patterns influence ozone concentrations in that area. After the "normalization" of the data, they concluded that without an adjustment for the influence of the weather the effectiveness of pollution controls may be obscured.

"In order to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of various control strategies for ozone, it is necessary to understand how year-to-year variations in weather affect the probabilit-

ity of high ozone occurring locally as well as to further our understanding of the long-range transport of ozone," Zimmermann said. "Under certain meteorological conditions such as widespread stagnation, precursors of ozone are likely to have local origins; however, under other meteorological conditions it is possible that the precursors or ozone itself may have been transported over a considerable distance."

Findings in the study were presented at the 80th annual APCA meeting and exhibition June 21-26 in New York. Zimmermann was the principal researcher. Richard Tropp, who made the APCA presentation, and Jerome Barta, senior computer analyst, participated in the study.

Zimmermann said that following the identification of two weather pattern classes related to high ozone concentrations and two related to low ozone concentrations in the Houston area, the frequency of their occurrence was quantified.

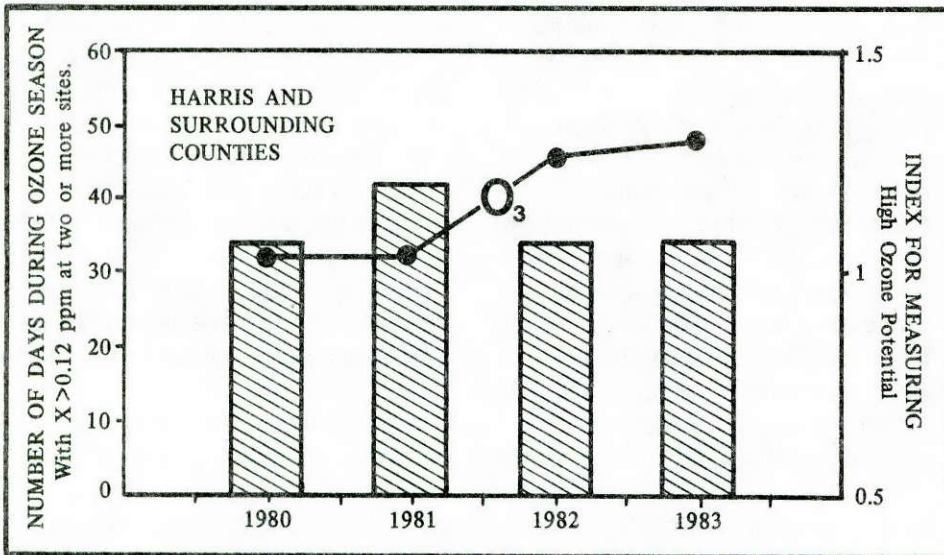
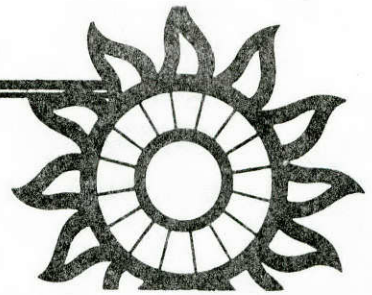
"We found that the frequency of occurrence could vary considerably from one year to another," he said. "This could mean that certain years have a greater potential for high ozone concentrations than other years. In other words, the ozone deck could be stacked against you in a year where a greater number of two particular weather patterns

occur. That is, even though emissions are substantially the same, more exceedances of the ozone standard could occur. But the reverse is also true. Some years have a low potential for ozone concentrations exceeding the federal standard because of the greater number of occurrences of two other weather patterns."

Zimmermann said weather patterns related to high ozone concentrations are "general stagnation" and "coastal return."

General stagnation refers to an air mass that is centered over East or South Texas, or an extremely weak pressure gradient that is associated with any other synoptic pattern. This pattern results in erratic or extremely weak airflow along the Texas Gulf Coast. The coastal return classification for Houston refers to an air mass that is influencing the Texas Gulf Coast and is centered in the eastern United States, with ridging into northern Texas. A coastal return case also may be associated with an extension of the Bermuda High shifted northward. This classification is associated with northeasterly or easterly winds along the Texas Gulf Coast, and the afternoon appearance of a sea breeze in Houston is possible.

In 1983, there were 23 coastal return cases and 25 general stagnation cases for



a total of 48 occurrences of weather patterns related to high ozone concentrations, Zimmermann said. The average number of high ozone cases is 38.6 per year. Therefore, he said, 1983 was a year with a high potential for high levels of ozone.

The weather patterns related to low ozone concentrations are "general precipitation" and "Gulf return."

General precipitation can refer to several different synoptic patterns. Widespread precipitation may be caused by warm front-overrunning, an easterly wave, or a convergence zone, among other causes. This classification may be used when frequent showers are occurring over the entire region for a large portion of the 24-hour period.

The Gulf return category refers to an air mass centered at or off the Atlantic Coast or an extension of the Bermuda High with ridging along the northern Gulf Coast. This is associated with southerly or

southeasterly winds along the Texas Gulf Coast. The development of a sea breeze is probable.

In 1983, there were only 58 occurrences of these low ozone concentration patterns in the Houston area, where the average number is 70.1 per year.

"That means that 1983 not only had more high-ozone concentration weather patterns, but it also had fewer low-ozone concentration patterns occurring than in an average year," Zimmermann said. "Although this makes 1983 a good candidate year for a large number of ozone concentrations above the federal standard, data for that year shows there was not an increase in the number of days with high regional ozone concentrations."

In the study, which is based on statistics that provide a regional measure of ozone levels rather than individual monitor measurements, the daily weather pattern classes were compared to the maximum hour-

ly ozone concentration recorded by up to 14 ozone monitors in Harris County and the surrounding area. The number of ozone monitors in operation increased from four in 1975 to 14 in 1983. The days during the normal ozone season (May through October) were classified as being high, medium-high, medium-low, or low ozone days according to the maximum hourly value reported at two or more sites in the region. High ozone days referred to days on which the maximum hourly ozone concentration at two or more stations in the region exceeded 0.20 ppm. The dividing value for medium-high ozone days was 0.12 ppm while the dividing value for medium-low ozone days was 0.06 ppm. Low ozone days referred to the remaining days.

Zimmermann said this method provides a more regional description of ozone levels in the Houston area to compare with the generalized weather pattern affecting the area. If only the maximum hourly value of ozone were considered, a monitor could be influenced by an extremely localized phenomenon not related to the synoptic weather pattern or the normal pattern of emissions in the area.

The year 1979 was excluded from the study since a change occurred that year in the calibration method used in the analysis of ozone concentrations. ■

Board to consider plan to protect national parks visibility

The TACB staff will present recommendations at the board meeting Aug. 14 on revisions to the state's plan for the protection of visibility in the Big Bend and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks.

The deadline for submitting visibility plan revisions to the Environmental Protection Agency is Aug. 31.

Revisions to the state plan are required to correct existing and prevent future visibility impairment from identifiable sources. In the future, revisions will be required to address regional haze and urban plumes.

Public hearings were held in April in Alpine and Austin. At the hearings, National Park Service repre-

sentatives and a citizen recommended revising the initial staff proposals to incorporate a long-term strategy which would more effectively ensure prevention of future visibility degradation and also would provide for a study of regional haze. Other issues discussed at the hearing included integral vista identification and protection, current visibility monitoring efforts, permit-review procedures, and recognition of the international contribution to regional haze.

At an April visibility workshop at the TACB central office in Austin, spokesmen for the National Park Service documented significant visibility degradation due to regional haze in both parks and dis-

cussed statistical and modeling techniques utilized to identify three primary source areas: 1) northeastern Mexico (Monterrey); 2) Texas Gulf Coast; and 3) El Paso/Juarez. The TACB staff concurred with the park service speakers regarding the necessity of enhancing public awareness of visibility issues, researching the sources of regional haze, estimating the benefits of potential control measures, and considering the development of international agreements to examine visibility issues.

Both staffs agreed to work closely together toward these goals which can be accomplished outside the state implementation plan process. ■

EPA begins rulemaking process

Citizen groups to receive grants under Superfund program

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has begun a rulemaking process that will enable the agency in late 1988 to award grants of up to \$50,000 to citizen groups who need technical assistance to interpret information about Superfund hazardous waste sites.

"We can give grants to citizen groups to help them understand activities at our Superfund sites," said Robert E. Layton, Jr., EPA's regional administrator. He said the groups can use the grants to hire experts or consultants for explanations of public

health threats; the nature and extent of contamination according to site studies; whether a site requires cleanup; and the effectiveness of the chosen remedy.

Only one grant may be awarded for each site and the group must contribute a 20 percent matching share. However, Section 117(e) of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, which authorizes the grants, provides for waivers of the 20 percent match and \$50,000 ceiling if deemed necessary.

Layton said that the EPA can award grants only

after it establishes procedural regulations for managing the grants. The EPA took the first step in this process when it published an Advance Notice of Rulemaking in the Federal Register on June 10. The notice solicits comments on the major issues the agency must resolve in order to establish the grants program. The comment period ends July 24.

Information on where to obtain information on the program is available from Nadine McPherson, EPA Community Relations Office, (214) 655-6715. ■

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Among the better known methods of controlling particulate emissions are fabric filters, or "bag-houses"; wet scrubbers which collect particles in a gas stream by first wetting

the particles through contact with liquid droplets; electrostatic precipitators that are generally used to remove particles from gas streams which can be easily ionized; and mechanical

dust collectors called "cyclones."

EPA has estimated that nationwide, the new standards will cost industries \$1.9 billion over the next seven years, although many of those costs would have been incurred under the standard for total suspended particulates.

Dr. Tom Dydek, TACB toxicologist, said for the protection of human health, the new standards will be more pertinent than the total particulates standard because particles smaller than 10 micrometers can penetrate deeply into the lungs and are responsible for most health problems associated with particulates. ■

Administrative Penalties

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permitting visible emissions from a stationary flue to exceed an opacity of 20 percent averaged over a five minute period, \$8,450.

Westfield Sandblasting, Inc., a sandblasting facility at 20811 Essman Lane, Houston, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption, \$250.

Wishert - Thompson, Inc., a fiberglass tank and pipe manufacturing facility at 321 South Market Street, Karnes City, Karnes County, constructing and operating the facility without a permit or without qualifying for a standard exemption. Subsequent to the notice of violation, the company was issued a special permit. (No monetary penalty.) ■

The following notice will appear in three consecutive issues of the TACB Bulletin. This is No. 1.

State law requires that mailing lists for publications such as the TACB Bulletin be revised on an annual basis. Please indicate below your wishes and return this form (with the computer label on back) to the TACB, Public Information Office, 6330 Highway 290 East, Austin, Texas 78723.

- Renewal: Please indicate any change of address.**
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The TACB Bulletin is distributed free of charge upon request to individuals, organizations, elected officials, and companies.

Renewal Notice

For contractors, supervisors

UTA asbestos-abatement training set for July 13-17

The College of Engineering and the Continuing Education Office of the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), and the EPA will sponsor an asbestos-abatement training program on "Practices, Procedures and Supervision" July 13-17 at the Texas Air Control Board auditorium, 6330 Highway 290 East, Austin.

The course is intended primarily to help contractors and supervisors involved in asbestos abatement. A UTA spokeswoman said the course also will meet the needs of architects, engineers, health professionals, government regulators, building managers, asbestos workers, and asbestos coordinators in dealing with asbestos abatement projects.

The 1986 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Re-

sponse Act requires asbestos abatement contractors and workers to be state-certified or to have attended an EPA-approved training course. This course, which satisfies EPA's training requirement, was designed under the auspices of the EPA by the Georgia Tech Research Institute.

Three members of the UTA College of Engineering faculty will serve as instructors. They are Dr. Ernest Crosby, assistant dean of engineering; Vittorio Argento, former member of the Texas Air Control Board and engineering professor; and Dr. Richard Thompson, professor.

The course is set up to provide instruction with the use of a comprehensive workbook, and hands-on experience.

Inquiries concerning asbestos-abatement training courses should be addressed to:

Continuing Education Office, University of Texas at Arlington, P.O. Box 19197, Arlington, Texas 76019. The telephone number is (817) 273-2581.

Persons completing the course will earn 3.2 Continuing Education Units, and those who successfully pass an examination will receive certificates showing that they have demonstrated an adequate understanding of the course material.

The course fee is \$550, and the fee for the optional exam is \$60. Checks should be made payable to the University of Texas at Arlington. Payment for telephone registration must be made by Visa or Mastercard. ■

TEXAS AIR CONTROL BOARD
6330 Hwy. 290 East
Austin, Texas 78723



In this issue

- EPA proposes metroplex sanctions
- Options for Denton County
- Collin County ozone results reported
- Weather affects Houston ozone
- New PM₁₀ standards and El Paso
- Reminder on hazardous chemicals

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