



TACB Bulletin

6330 HWY. 290 EAST AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723 512/451-5711 NOVEMBER
DECEMBER 1980

BOARD ACCEPTS STAFF REPORT FOR LEGISLATURE

The Board, Nov. 21, unanimously accepted a staff report recommending that the Legislature consider whether the State's interest is better served through implementation of mandatory vehicle inspection in Harris County or by accepting the risk of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) imposed sanctions. The Board is unable to recommend a mandatory vehicle emissions testing program as a prudent air pollution control strategy. (See October 1980 TACB Bulletin for discussion of the TACB staff report.)

The Board's action followed a recommendation from the Board's ad hoc committee for oversight of the vehicle emissions testing program, which met prior to the Board meeting in Austin and Nov. 19 in Houston.

In reporting the committee's recommendation, Committee Chairman Otto R. Kunze, Ph.D., P.E. said:

"Relative to the report, there is really no clear-cut best type of I/M program. The selection of a specific program will involve trade-offs in costs, effectiveness, consumer acceptance, and consumer protection. The program features need to be decided by the elected officials in the Texas Legislature.

"We feel that the recommendations of the ad hoc committee follow the instructions of House Bill 726, perhaps contrary to what has been said by the EPA. Our goal was to present as many facts as possible in the report and the technical support documents without restricting any options that might be available."

Dr. Kunze also said that the committee felt its position was amenable with the recommendations in a letter from the Mayor of Houston and in a statement from the Houston Chamber of Commerce. Both urged the Board to recommend legislative action to require vehicle inspection because of the potential loss of wastewater treatment and highway/transit funds from the federal government if such a program is not implemented.

In the EPA statement and a summary to the Board, Stanton Coerr, EPA Region 6, disagreed with TACB's estimates of amounts of hydrocarbon reductions possible through a vehicle emissions testing program and of costs and time needed to implement a program. He also challenged the staff report's conclusion that a vehicle inspection program cannot be recommended as an effective air pollution control strategy.

Coerr said that by refusing to recommend a program for controlling vehicle inspections, the TACB had failed to respond to the requirements of House Bill 726 and urged the Board to begin developing comprehensive vehicle testing program alternatives for legislative consideration.

Phil Lorang, EPA Emissions Control Technical Division, said that two of the programs described in the TACB report for the Legislature's consideration would not be approvable by the EPA because they did not test pre-1975 vehicles.

Dr. Herbert C. McKee, Ph.D., pollution control director for the Houston Health Department, told the Board that a vehicle emissions testing program would be "nibbling at a small portion of the ozone problem in Houston" because of the questionable correlation between hydrocarbon emissions and ozone formation. "Available evidence indicates that vehicle exhaust is not the dominant factor in ozone formation in Houston.

TACB Bulletin

Tremendous reductions have been made in hydrocarbon emissions in Houston without any measurable reduction in ozone episodes," he said.

The Executive Director reported to the Board:

--A letter was sent to EPA, Nov. 10, requesting delegation of administrative and technical responsibilities for the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permit program. The request contained three conditions for the TACB's acceptance of such authority:

- 1) The TACB would not be responsible for completing review of applications pending in the EPA Region 6 office.
- 2) PSD permits reviewed by EPA would be issued within days.
- 3) The TACB's dispersion models Texas Episodic Model Version 8 (TEM-8) and Texas Climatological Model Version 2 (TCM-2) would be included as recommended in EPA's Guideline on Air Quality Models.

--The TACB staff conducted ten public meetings on utilization of the State's air monitoring resources in major metropolitan areas of the State. Local air pollution control agencies co-sponsored seven of the meetings.

Staff members described the TACB's ambient air monitoring resources that are not committed to the national air monitoring system and TACB recommendations for use of the resources. The final monitoring plan to be developed this winter will attempt to balance citizen concerns with TACB recommendations.

--Ten-year service awards were presented to 11 employees. Recipients were: James Lindgren, Jack Sadler, Lelah Sosebee, David Jones, Alice Smith, Richard Leard, Frank Phillips, Roger Wallis, W. B. "Dub" Willis, Dru Skaggs, and Larry Butts.

Of the 26 staff members who have received the award since 1978, 22 still are with the TACB.

The Board tentatively scheduled its next meeting Jan. 9.

BUDGET COMMITTEE, STAFF REVIEW CONTRACT LIST

Immediately following the Board meeting, members of the Board's Budget and Finance Committee reviewed with staff a list of the contracts that will be necessary to accomplish special projects outlined in the TACB's 1981 grant from EPA. The EPA is making some \$3 million in additional funding available to the TACB during the next fiscal year to be used primarily for acquiring data required for development of the 1982 State Implementation Plan in Harris County. In the next several months, the committee will review the contracts as requests for technical proposals are published in the Texas Register and firms are selected to provide the services needed. The committee includes Mr. Charles Jaynes, chairman, Dr. Jack Kilian, and Mr. William Parish.

HEARINGS SET FOR REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS

Public hearings on proposed revisions to TACB Regulation I, III, IV, V, and VI have been scheduled in three cities, Dec. 11.

HOUSTON - 6:30 p.m.
Houston Public Library
Concourse Level Meeting Room
500 McKinney

ODESSA - 7:00 p.m.
Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting Room
400 W. 4th

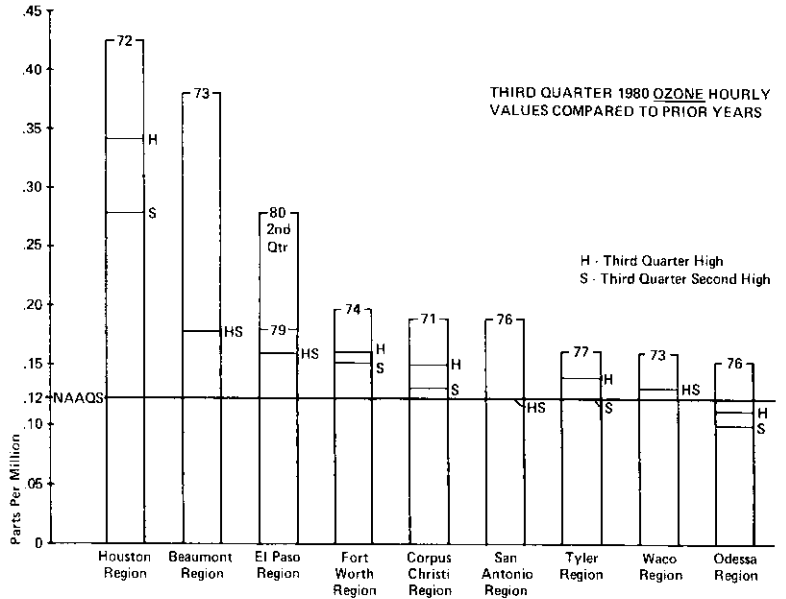
AUSTIN - 7:00 p.m.
Texas Air Control Board
Auditorium
6330 Highway 290 East

(Continued)

Air quality summary third quarter, 1980

OZONE

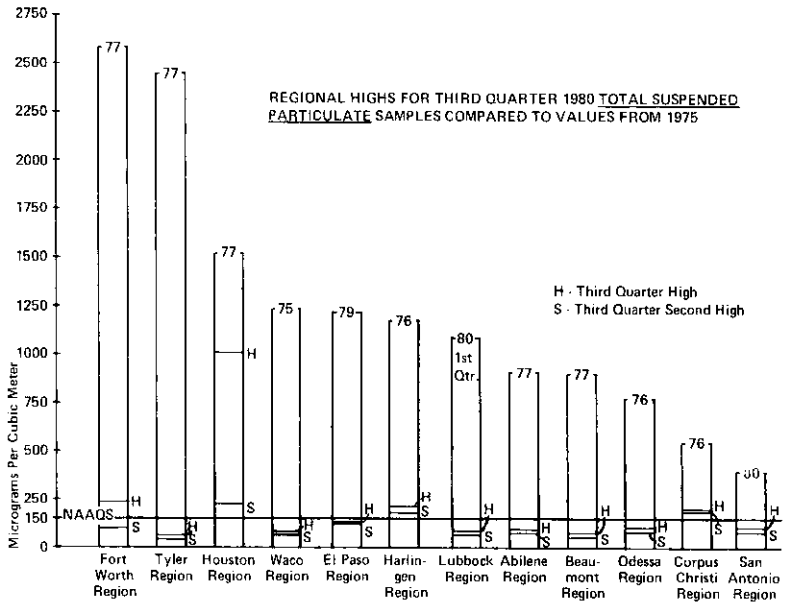
This chart compares third quarter 1980 regional high and second-high ozone hourly values with the highest hourly value ever recorded in each region. The revised national standard for ozone is a daily maximum hourly average, not to be exceeded more than an average of once a year (over a three-year period, recommended length).



TOTAL SUSPENDED PARTICULATE

This chart compares regional high and second-high total suspended particulate (TSP) measurements for the third quarter of 1980 with the national standard and the highest TSP value recorded since 1975. Only the third quarter's second-high values should be judged against the indicated national standard, which is allowed to be exceeded once per year.

Data analysis reveals that the chart's 1975-1979 maximum regional particulate levels were short-lived and suggests that they were measured by samplers during agricultural operations, construction activities or dust storm conditions. Many of this quarter's samples subsequently may be found to have the same origins.

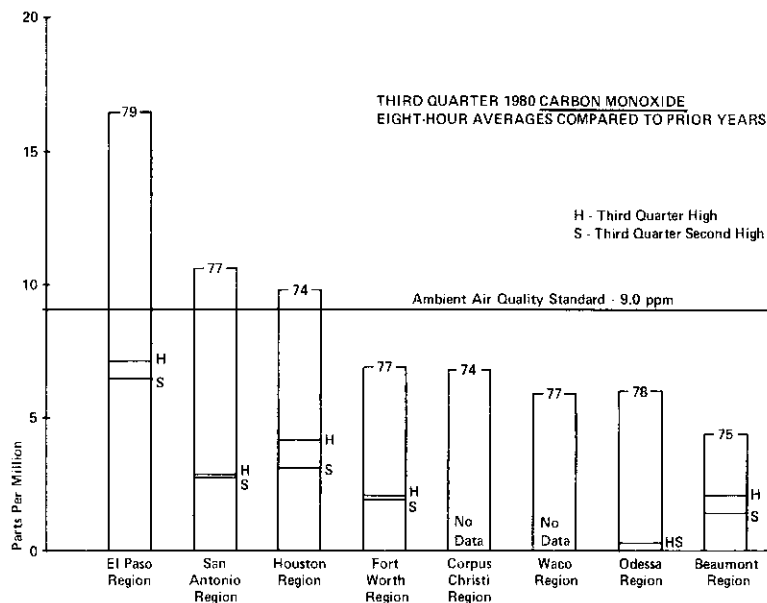


(Continued)

Major proposed revisions include simplified public notice procedures for persons applying for construction permits. Another revision would allow a facility unable to meet currently established limits of opacity on emissions from industrial smokestacks to apply to the TACB for an alternate opacity limit and would prescribe the conditions which the applicant must meet. The requirement for control of volatile organic compounds in Ector County would be deleted because measurements of ambient air ozone in that county no longer exceed the national standard. Also proposed is a "bubble" policy to allow facilities to control alternate sources of emissions in lieu of a source specified by TACB Regulations.

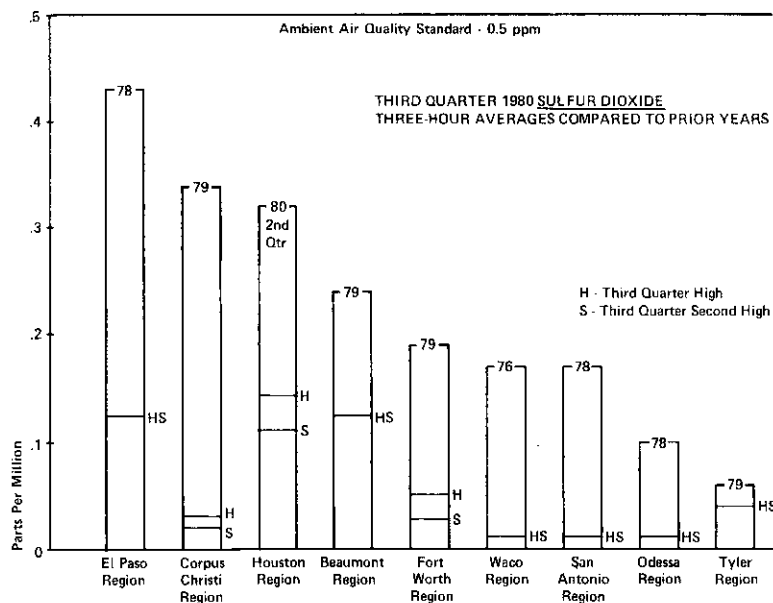
CARBON MONOXIDE

This chart compares third quarter 1980 regional high and second-high nonoverlapping eight-hour averages with the national standard and the highest eight-hour average carbon monoxide concentration ever recorded in each region. Only the third quarter's second-high carbon monoxide averages should be judged against the national standard because the concentration of 9 ppm is allowed to be exceeded once per year. Monitors in El Paso have recorded carbon monoxide concentrations above the eight-hour national standard in previous years; the highs in the San Antonio and Houston regions were not accompanied by second-highs above the standard and were not violations.



SULFUR DIOXIDE

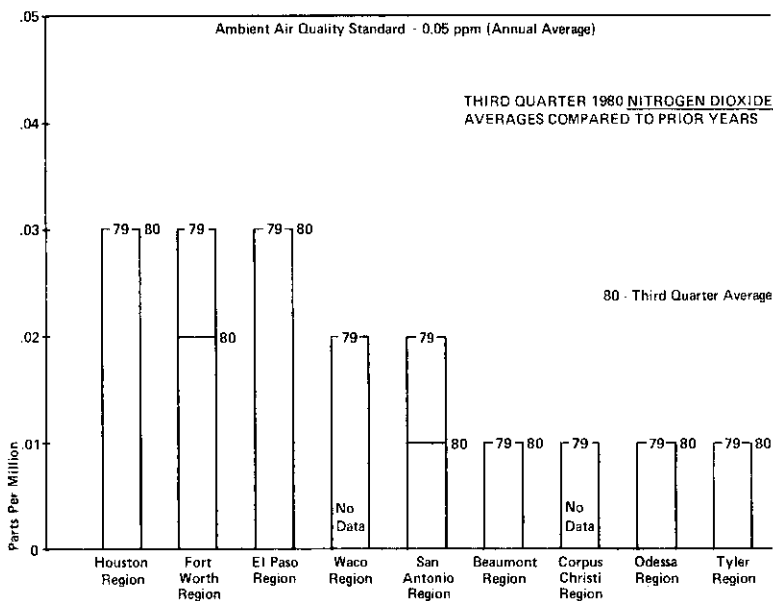
This chart compares third quarter 1980 regional high and second-high sulfur dioxide three-hour average values with the national standard and the highest three-hour average ever recorded in each region. Only the third quarter's second-high values should be judged against the indicated national standard, which is allowed to be exceeded once per year. In several regions the high and second-high have the same value this quarter.



No ambient monitor in the state has recorded a three-hour average value for sulfur dioxide above the national standard.

NITROGEN DIOXIDE

This chart compares third quarter 1980 regional nitrogen dioxide quarterly averages with the 1979 annual nitrogen dioxide average recorded in each region. The El Paso region's annual average increased in 1979. The annual average in all other regions has remained constant since continuous nitrogen dioxide monitoring was begun.



It is misleading to judge quarterly averages against the national standard, which is constructed as an annual average.