Statement on Red River Supply warehouse fire

EPA emergency response personnel arrived on-scene at the Red River Supply warehouse fire at approximately 10:30 pm on July 22 and transitioned with federal, state, and local responders to supplement and support air monitoring activity in the immediate area. EPA conducted monitoring for combustion products and particulates, adding several additional particulate monitoring locations downwind to the west and northwest of the site.

During day time hours on July 22 wind conditions were blowing particulates from the fire to the south away from Williston. Winds shifted during the late afternoon and evening to the west towards Williston. Air monitoring results indicate that combustion gases, (OPTIONAL: including carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitrogen oxides, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, chlorine, ammonia, and hydrogen cyanide,) were not detected outside the facility boundaries. While monitoring indicated elevated levels of particulates close to the facility boundary, these levels dropped off significantly several hundred feet downwind from the site.

Particulate measurements at the state's monitoring station approximately 2000 feet northwest from the site showed low to moderate levels during the evening. Particulate monitoring conducted by EPA initially indicated elevated levels in the immediate vicinity of the site. These levels dropped steadily throughout the night as the fire burned out. Based on these results, the City lifted the evacuation order for neighboring areas.

As a precaution, EPA air quality monitoring will continue through the remainder of today. EPA will also coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the North Dakota Department of Health, and other federal, state and local officials to assess and handle any contaminated debris and stormwater runoff, and to address any impacts to Little Muddy Creek.