OSC Paul Peronard along with 4 START personnel arrived at the Red River Supply Warehouse fire site in Williston, North Dakota at approximately 9:30 pm on July 22 and established air monitoring stations at approximately 10:30 pm. While en-route to the site, a phone conference was held with North Dakota Department of Public Health personnel, EPA Environmental Response Team (ERT), and the OSC to review Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemicals inside the facility to determine likely combustion gases that would pose a public health concern. The combustion products anticipated included carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, nitric oxides, hydrochloric acid, sulfur dioxide, chlorine, and ammonia, hydrogen sulfide. Based on the MSDS information, EPA ERT indicated particulate emissions was the main concern regarding public exposure from the fire.

EPA set up and ran several particulate monitors outside the perimeter boundary and conducted combustion gas monitoring along the perimeter. EPA monitored conditions throughout Tuesday night and early morning hours of Wednesday. Emission gas monitoring showed no measurable levels of combustion products at the site perimeter. Particulate monitoring around the perimeter measured elevated levels which dropped throughout the night. The Williston City particulate monitoring station located in a residential area, a couple thousand feet northwest from the fire, indicated minor to moderate levels of particulates.

This morning, EPA met in unified command with ND personnel, fire department personnel, and the Red River Supply environmental contractors, Garner Environmental, to assess the site situation and discuss next steps. EPA will continue to conduct air monitoring and will assist in defining next steps to evaluate potentially contaminated storm water (being held in the storm channel) and ponded site water. EPA field air monitoring data is being uploaded to EPA's response data base and should be available for review this afternoon. The OSC will also conduct a site assessment to decide if any additional immediate actions are necessary for materials remaining in the burned out structure.

ND has requested assistance from EPA in putting out a joint statement regarding air monitoring.