Message

From: Siegel, Kathryn [siegel.kathryn@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/28/2017 3:37:14 PM
To: Compher, Michael [compher.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: URGENT ACTION – Invalidation of Ozone data in AQS due to QC issues

FYI...Chet just sent this message to the ADDs.

I have a meeting at 11am, but give me a call if you want to go over anything. Hope you had a good trip to IEPA yesterday. If we don't talk, have a great weekend and see you on Monday.

-----Original Message-----
From: Wayland, Richard
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2017 10:34 AM
To: Air Division Directors and Deputies <Air_Division_Directors_and_Deputies@epa.gov>
Cc: Weinstock, Lewis <Weinstock.Lewis@epa.gov>; Naess, Liz <Naess.Liz@epa.gov>; Koerber, Mike <Koerber.Mike@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT ACTION – Invalidation of Ozone data in AQS due to QC issues

Air Division Directors,

Just a quick update that you can pass along to your states if they are asking. We are not planning to hold the states strictly to this May 1st deadline but we are continuing to have discussions with states on this issue. Just want you to be aware in case you are asked. Many states have already completed this work and that is fine, but just know we have been asked to have further conversations with some states on this and thus, we will likely allow more time. I hope to have more clarity shortly.

Thanks
Chet

Richard A. "Chet" Wayland | Director | Air Quality Assessment Division - Mail Code C304-02 | Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 | Desk: 919-541-4603 | Cell: 919-606-0548 |

-----Original Message-----
From: Wayland, Richard
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 9:31 AM
To: Air Division Directors and Deputies <Air_Division_Directors_and_Deputies@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT ACTION – Invalidation of Ozone data in AQS due to QC issues
Importance: High

Hi folks... just passing this along as an FYI. Your monitoring managers were the direct recipient. If you have any questions, let me know.

Thanks
Chet
Richard A. "Chet" Wayland | Director | Air Quality Assessment Division - Mail Code C304-02 | Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 | Desk: 919-541-4603 | Cell: 919-606-0548 |

-----Original Message-----
From: Weinstock, Lewis
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Wayland, Richard <Wayland.Richard@epa.gov>
Cc: Hemby, James <Hemby.James@epa.gov>; Naess, Liz <Naess.Liz@epa.gov>; Papp, Michael <Papp.Michael@epa.gov>; Skinner-Thompson, Jonathan <Skinner-Thompson.Jonathan@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT ACTION – Invalidation of Ozone data in AQS due to QC issues
Importance: High

Chet - The ozone QA/QC communication has gone out. Please feel free to forward to appropriate management contacts. We hit the monitoring APM's in the message below.

Lewis Weinstock | Group Leader | Ambient Air Monitoring Group | Air Quality Assessment Division - Mail Code C304-06 | Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 | Phone: 919-541-3661|

-----Original Message-----
From: Weinstock, Lewis

Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:44 AM
To: Judge, Robert <Judge.Robert@epa.gov>; Khan, Mazeeda <Khan.Mazeeda@epa.gov>; Chow, Alice <chow.alice@epa.gov>; Rinck, Todd <Rinck.Todd@epa.gov>; Compher, Michael <compher.michael@epa.gov>; Verhalen, Frances <verhalen.frances@epa.gov>; Davis, Michael <Davis.Michael@epa.gov>; Fallon, Gail <fallon.gail@epa.gov>; Flagg, MichaelA <Flagg.MichaelA@epa.gov>; Hall, Chris <Hall.Christopher@epa.gov>
Cc: Payton, Richard <Payton.Richard@epa.gov>; Brown, Ethan <Brown.Ethan@epa.gov>; Papp, Michael <papp.michael@epa.gov>; Wells, Benjamin <Wells.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Naess, Liz <Naess.Liz@epa.gov>; Rice, Joann <rice.joann@epa.gov>
Subject: URGENT ACTION – Invalidation of Ozone data in AQS due to QC issues
Importance: High

Good morning:

As you all are aware by now, we have recently identified ambient ozone data in AQS that was reported during periods of time when 1-point QC checks were outside the critical criteria in the QA Handbook and contained in approved monitoring organization QAPP's. We are currently in the middle of the ozone designations process and it is important that we maintain the integrity of that process. It is critical that we base our designations decisions on defensible data for areas both attaining and not attaining the standard. To this end, we believe that the data identified as outside these critical criteria be null coded in AQS so that the underlying design values supporting the designations process are based on valid data. We understand that there is limited time to complete this work due to the tight timelines for designations. Therefore, this process has been divided into two phases as explained below:

Phase 1:
These are high priority monitors whose 2014-2016 design value would change or become incomplete due to the data invalidations. Attached to this message is an Excel table that explicitly lists the monitors and periods of time for when ozone data should be null coded (coded as Phase 1). We ask that you communicate with the affected monitoring organizations to ensure that these data are invalidated in AQS no later than May 1, 2017 (we will be doing our design value pull from AQS on the morning of May 2). Luckily this first phase only affects about 80 monitors, as some states have already begun invalidating their data.

Phase 2:
The list of the remaining monitors that will have similar data invalidation actions are coded as Phase 2 in the Excel table. These monitors have a less immediate impact on designations so are being included in the Phase 2 action. We recognize that this phase affects a larger number of monitors, therefore we are providing more time to invalidate this data. Please work with your monitoring organizations to complete this exercise by August 1, 2017.

Additional details on the Excel table: The attachment contains three tabs: (1) Data Invalidations – which contains specific information for the data invalidation, (2) 2014-2016 Design Values – design values before and after ("a" added to column heading) data invalidations, and (3) Failed QC Checks – details on the actual QC checks. Please contact Liz Naess (Ben Wells is out of the office until 4/24/17) or Mike Papp with questions on the data retrieval (Liz/Ben) or associated QA issues (Mike).

For additional background information on this quality assurance issue, please refer to the attached memo entitled "Ozone 1-point QC Check Data Quality Evaluation and Next Steps".

We will be checking in periodically during our monthly conference calls to answer any questions and assess progress on this action. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Lewis Weinstock (Ambient Air Monitoring Group and Liz Naess (Air Quality Analysis Group)

Air Quality Assessment Division - Mail Code C304-06 | Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Research Triangle Park, NC 27711 |