TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

El Paso PM_{10} Exceptional Events Demonstration

Public Comments Addendum

Socorro Hueco
April 25, 2017
May 2, 2018

11/15/2019

ED_014139_00000135-00001

Public Comment Process

A copy of the public review message that was sent to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Air Monitoring Network Announcements email subscriber list is presented in Figure 1. A copy of the TCEQ web page posting of the El Paso 2017 and 2018 Particulate Matter Exceptional Events Demonstration document for public review is shown in Figure 2. The TCEQ received one public comment by email that was addressed via response to the commenter as shown in Figure 3.

From: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality <tceq@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 11:49 AM
To: Weslee Copeland <weslee.copeland@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Air Monitoring Network Announcements Update

You are subscribed to Air Monitoring Network Announcements for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This information has recently been updated, and is now available.

In accordance with federal regulations, a demonstration document supporting the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) proposed exceptional event flags for El Paso PM_{10} data for 2017 and 2018 is provided through the link below for public review and comment. There are two PM10 proposed exceptional event flags for data collected at the Socorro Hueco monitoring site on two separate days in 2017 and 2018. Both of the proposed flags are for high wind regional blowing dust events that are described in more detail in the demonstration document.

The TCEQ is accepting comments on the proposed flags and will address and forward these comments to the EPA for consideration. The EPA will review this demonstration document along with any comments received and decide whether to accept or reject each proposed flag. The data with flags where EPA concurs will be removed from consideration for determinations of compliance with the PM10 NAAQS.

Comments should be submitted by e-mail to monops@tceq.texas.gov with "PM-FLAGS" as the subject. Comments will be taken until 5 p.m. on November 11, 2019.

- El Paso PM10 2017-2018 Exceptional Events Document

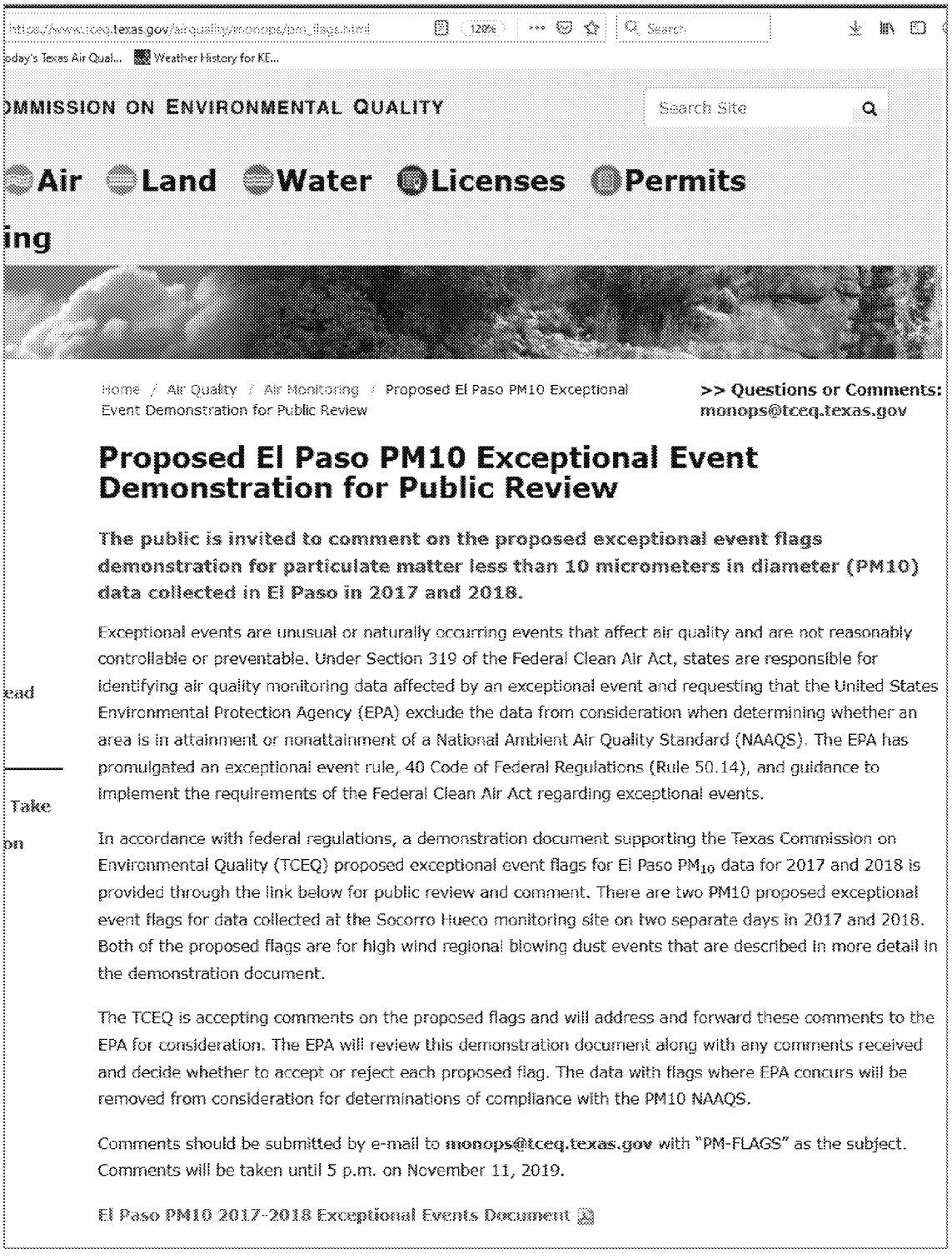
For more information, please visit the TCEQ's Air Monitoring webpage for Exceptional Event flags: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/monops/pm_flags.html.

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your User Profile Page. You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, visit the Subscriber Help Center.

This service is provided to you at no charge by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Visit us on the web at www.tceq.texas.gov.

How are we doing? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey

Figure 1. Copy of email announcing the demonstration document public review.



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>> Questions or Comments: monops@tceq.texas.gov

Proposed El Paso PM10 Exceptional Event Demonstration for Public Review

The public is invited to comment on the proposed exceptional event flags demonstration for particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM10) data collected in El Paso in 2017 and 2018.

Exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events that affect air quality and are not reasonably controllable or preventable. Under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Air Act, states are responsible for identifying air quality monitoring data affected by an exceptional event and requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exclude the data from consideration when determining whether an area is in attainment or nonattainment of a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The EPA has promulgated an exceptional event rule, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (Rule 50.14), and guidance to implement the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act regarding exceptional events.

In accordance with federal regulations, a demonstration document supporting the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) proposed exceptional event flags for El Paso PM_{10} data for 2017 and 2018 is provided through the link below for public review and comment. There are two PM10 proposed exceptional event flags for data collected at the Socorro Hueco monitoring site on two separate days in 2017 and 2018. Both of the proposed flags are for high wind regional blowing dust events that are described in more detail in the demonstration document.

The TCEQ is accepting comments on the proposed flags and will address and forward these comments to the EPA for consideration. The EPA will review this demonstration document along with any comments received and decide whether to accept or reject each proposed flag. The data with flags where EPA concurs will be removed from consideration for determinations of compliance with the PM10 NAAQS.

Comments should be submitted by e-mail to **monops@tceq.texas.gov** with "PM-FLAGS" as the subject. Comments will be taken until 5 p.m. on November 11, 2019.

El Paso PM10 2017-2018 Exceptional Events Document

Figure 2. Copy of the TCEQ web page posting the original demonstration document for public review.

From: MONOPS
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2019 1:30 PM
To: 'George & Suzanna Chiriboga, REALTORS' <wehelpbuyers@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: PM flags

Good afternoon,

Thank you again for your comments regarding the "El Paso PM10 2017-2018 Exceptional Events" document. To clarify the Exceptional Event (EE) process, if EPA concurs with the proposed EE flags, these two data points will be excluded only when EPA makes regulatory attainment/non-attainment decisions for the El Paso area. These data points will continue to be reported as official valid pollution data and will continue to be made available to the public regardless of whether or not EPA concurs with the proposed EE flags.

Thank you,

W.Copeland
Monitoring Division, TCEQ

How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey.

From: MONOPS
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2019 9:40 AM
To: George & Suzanna Chiriboga, REALTORS <wehelpbuyers@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: PM flags

Good Morning,

Thank you for providing comments on the "El Paso PM10 2017-2018 Exceptional Events" document. Your comments will be included when it is submitted to EPA.

How is our customer service? Fill out our online customer satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/customersurvey.

H. Stewart
Monitoring Division, TCEQ

From: George & Suzanna Chiriboga, REALTORS <wehelpbuyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 9:26 PM
To: MONOPS <MONOPS@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: PM flags

As a wife and mother and member of a conscientious and concerned neighborhood, I speak for many friends who are careful about caring for the health and well being of our families.

While I don't understand how this system works exactly, what I do know is that we want data reported and made available to us regardless of any factors. No matter the origin of air pollution, we want to know so that we can provide reasonable protection to our families.

We understand that the environment presents challenges in the form of fires, pollution, chemicals, mother nature, dust, etc. The cause is not as great a factor as the knowledge. With the knowledge we can prepare, wear masks, keep our asthmatics in doors, etc.. I know I am speaking for several families and friends who want to be made aware and stay abreast of the environmental quality readings.

Thank you,

Houston resident

Figure 3. Comment received from the public (bottom), with subsequent TCEQ responses (middle and top).