EPA R6 Recommended Procedural Practices related to Initial Notification of a Potential Exceptional Event

Air agencies submit an exceptional event demonstration when requesting EPA to exclude ambient air monitoring data from regulatory decisions. The EPA Region 6 Air Monitoring and Grants Section (6MM-AM) developed this summary to conform to the 2016 revisions to the Exceptional Events Rule (81 FR 68216, October 3, 2016). As a result of the 2016 revisions, 40 CFR 50.14(c)(2), *Initial notification of potential exceptional event,* requires an air agency to notify EPA of its intent to request the exclusion of an exceedance of an applicable NAAQS by:

- creating an initial event description and flagging the data in the AQS database, and
- engaging in the Initial Notification of Potential Exceptional Event process.

Air agencies should first coordinate via email or phone with EPA R6 Air Monitoring/Grants Section regarding the regulatory significance of the potential event, prior to starting the Initial Notification process.

The Initial Notification should be by letter to the EPA Region 6 Regional Administrator with an email copy to the R6 Air Monitoring/Grants Section Chief and appropriate section staff. EPA expects the Initial Notification letter to be 1 page and include basic information about the potential exceptional event, what the air agency believes is the regulatory determination type for the exceedance, and the potential cause of the exceedance.

EPA R6 intends to:

- Acknowledge receipt, in an email, of the Initial Notification letter.
- Contact the air agency within 2 weeks to schedule a conference call or meeting to discuss the event.
- Respond in writing within 60 days to the Initial Notification about the recommendations from the call or meeting, that includes:
  - Whether EPA will consider a demonstration for review based on regulatory significance;
  - Information about available national guidance for demonstration preparation; and
  - A *due date* for the Exceptional Event demonstration submittal, if applicable.

Prior to the 2016 revisions, air agencies were required to submit an AQS database flags by July 1 of the year following the year in which the event occurred. The former rules also set a deadline for demonstration submittal. The 2016 revisions remove the specific exceptional event deadlines that apply in situations other than initial area designations following promulgation of a new or revised NAAQS.

Additional information on Exceptional Events can be found at **[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-analysis/treatment-air-quality-data-influenced-exceptional-events"]**

ED_014139_00001333-00001