



OAQPS Priorities in a New World

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AUGUST 23, 2022



OAQPS Priorities

- Key air quality priorities for OAQPS are not drastically different than they have always been...
 - Climate Change
 - Environmental Justice
 - Air Toxics Regulations and Risk Management
 - NAAQS Standard Setting and Implementation
 - Air Quality Data Analyses and Information Management
 - Source Monitoring and Measurement
 - Air Quality Modeling Guidance and Tools
 - National Emissions Inventory Development, Analyses and Management
 - International Air Quality
 - **Ambient Air Monitoring**
- What is different is the changing world around all of us and around those priorities... especially in the ambient monitoring world



What has Changed?

➤ Technology

- Low-cost sensors have provided individuals and communities easier access to monitoring capabilities
- IT capabilities are greatly enhanced allowing non-governmental entities better capabilities to access and analyze monitoring data

➤ Science

- Constantly evolving health and monitoring science allow for better understanding of health risks at lower and lower concentration levels that are pushing the capabilities of the technology to accurately measure pollutants (Example: Ethylene Oxide)
- Newer information on emerging pollutants of concern is challenging us to balance what we know with what we need to know and limited resources to often do both (Example: PFOAs, PFAS)

➤ Awareness

- With easier access and evolving science there is more and more attention on ambient monitoring and providing accurate information in more places than ever before

➤ Recognition

- EPA, State, Tribal, and Local Agencies are putting more emphasis on environmental justice and underserved communities and monitoring is usually at the forefront of that emphasis
- GAO 2020 report highlighted the aging infrastructure of our national networks and the need to modernize and better manage this national treasure
- Congress is full of potential Bills around community monitoring and improving monitoring capabilities and funded monitoring specific needs in the FY22 American Rescue Plan (ARP) and in the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).



What has not Changed?

➤ Resources

- With the exception of the recent ARP funds and funds associated with the IRA, EPA, States, Tribes and Locals have not seen significant increases in ambient monitoring funds in over 15 years
 - GAO estimated that with inflation, monitoring budgets have decreased by about 20% over the last 15 years
 - Monitoring agencies have seen equipment becomes dated and have not always been able to update existing equipment and rarely able to expand monitoring capabilities
 - Monitoring agencies have seen staffs reduced as a result of limited funds
 - ... so a pretty depressing picture uh?
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- The mission to protect public health that we all have an obligation to do
 - The passion and dedication each of us has as public servants to provide clean air for our fellow citizens
 - The reality that all air quality management programs depend heavily on the data from ambient monitoring
 - The reality that monitoring is the gold standard, ground truth of what people are breathing every day
 - The overall strength of this community



Where Do We Stand?

- Some may say that with all of these challenges and with the continued stresses on resources that this is a tough time to be in the monitoring world
- I would counter that it is the best time to be in the monitoring world as we have nothing but opportunities before us.
- This is the community that has solved incredibly difficult challenges for generations and has always risen to the moment. We will do so now.
- We should not fear all the changes but embrace them and figure out:
 - How we use new technology to help us solve air quality problems
 - How we work better with our communities to jointly understand and share their concerns
 - How we address those that criticize our programs by listening and responding with solutions and
 - How we manage our monitoring assets so we can make the winning arguments for where resources are needed when opportunities like ARP and IRA come



*These are challenging times no doubt. But these are times where the work you all do is more important than it has ever been. From the federal level, the state and tribal level, the local level and all our supporting vendors... this is a time to step forward and not backward. How can we address the issues around Environmental Justice and Emerging Pollutants successfully. It will take all of us... but there is no better group of people in the world to be successful in this than all of you sitting here today. **I thank you for being here, but more importantly, I thank you for your passion, your dedication and your service.***



Welcome Deputy Administrator of the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Janet McCabe