EPA Region 3 Update

Alice H. Chow
Chief, Air Quality Analysis Branch
Air and Radiation Division

Agenda

- Before Pandemic
- The Pandemic Happened
- End of pandemic?

Before Pandemic

- Hard to recall “normal” times, but
  - Implemented revised TSA schedules to gain efficiency in spreading out workload
  - Continued work on developing APTI training working…originally scheduled March 2020
  - Particpated on PFAS ORD/WV sampling study in Parkersburg, WV
  - Ethylene Oxide modeling activities with WV
  - Supported SIP activities for designations, redesignations, attainment plans
  - Hired Meighan Long as new monitoring employee

The Pandemic Happened

- Region 3 office shutdown mid-March 2020
- Remote is the way to go
  - Some issues with connectivity, electronic signatures, etc.
  - Big modeling runs were difficult
- Work impacted:
  - PM2.5 Purple Air sensor study in Philadelphia ports suspended
  - APTI 470 in person training
  - NPAP/PEP audits halted, stop work order on contract

The Pandemic Happened

- Adapting to the “New Normal”
  - Division Director authorized electronic signatures for data certifications, QAPP approvals, and annual network plans
  - Began working on conducting virtual Technical System Audits (TSAs)
  - Getting used to virtual meetings…lots and lots of virtual meetings
- Accomplishments
  - Created a package for R that makes it easy to retrieve ambient air monitoring data from AQS Datamart API
    - AQS Datamart is open to the public
      - The user does not need to be behind the EPA firewall
    - Will be released under a Creative Commons license (CC0).
    - Public domain, no restrictions on usage, free (gratis) & libre license

The Pandemic Happened

- Accomplishments (cont.)
  - Conducted 3 virtual TSAs (WV, DC, MD)
    - Saved travel time, gained efficiencies
    - Developed protocols that can be used in the future
  - Continued to support S/Ls in Ethylene Oxide activities
    - Modeling with WV
    - Public meeting with DE
    - Provide data to ATSDR for Health Consult for Braun
  - Worked to lift stop-work order on ESAT contract for NPAP/PEP audits
  - Held Air Monitoring Roundtable meeting with S/Ls on special purpose call

End of Pandemic?

- Restart Purple Air sensor study in Philadelphia ports?
- Catch up on NPAP/PEP audits in R3?
- In-person APTI 470 class in Oct. 2021?
- In-person TSAs?

Questions? Comments?