



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

=====

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

45 MARS HILL

FREDERIKSTED, ST. CROIX, VI 00841

PHONE: (340) 773-1082, FAX: (340) 773-9310

July 19, 2017

Kirk Wieber  
Section Chief  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region II  
290 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007-1866

Dear Mr. Wieber:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the public comment period for the US Virgin Islands Annual Air Monitoring Network Plan has concluded. The following networks were included in the 2017 Annual Network Review:

- Particulate Matter (an aero-diameter of ten microns or less) (PM<sub>10</sub>)
- Particulate Matter (an aero-diameter of two and a half microns or less) (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

No public comments were submitted to the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources during this period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Norman D. Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Norman D. Williams  
Director

Attachment (3)  
VI 2017 Network Plan  
Public Notice  
Posted Public Notice



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Protection pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 58.20(d), submits Annual Review of the Air Quality Surveillance System. Such comment period will end thirty days after this notice is posted. Please address comments to:

**Norman Williams, Director**  
**Department of Planning and Natural Resources**  
**Division of Environmental Protection**  
**#45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00840**  
Or email: [norman.williams@dpnr.vi.gov](mailto:norman.williams@dpnr.vi.gov) or  
[howard.brown@dpnr.vi.gov](mailto:howard.brown@dpnr.vi.gov)

The review may be seen at any of our district offices at #45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00840 or 8100 Lindberg Bay Suite No. 61, Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas VI 00802. For more information contact Howard Brown at the address provided, or call (340) 773-1082.





## **USVI Annual Air Monitoring Network Plan 2017**



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# **U.S. Virgin Islands Monitoring Network Plan 2016**

## **Introduction**

The annual network plan describes to the US Environmental Protection Agency which pollutants and other parameters the US Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources Division of Environmental Protection measures at its different ambient air monitoring sites and why they are measured at those specific locations.

Based on population, 40 CFR Part 58 does not require monitoring in the US Virgin Islands for CO, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Based on sources, 40 CFR Part 58 does not require monitoring in the US Virgin Islands for SO<sub>2</sub>, and Pb. The Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) currently operates two (2) monitoring stations for particulate matter in ambient air. One (1) of the sampling stations is located in St. Croix and one (1) is located on St. Thomas.

The objective of the Virgin Islands air monitoring network is to determine the exposure of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> on the population. The goal is to provide ambient data that supports the nation's air quality programs. The ambient data from this network will drive an array of regulatory decisions, ranging from designating areas as attainment or non-attainment, to developing cost effective control programs. Data from this program will also be used for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) comparisons, development and tracking of implementation plans, assessments for regional haze, and assistance for health studies and other aerosol research activities.

The Virgin Islands maintains the PM<sub>10</sub> FRM sampler in order to collect data on Sahara Dust episodes passing through the Territory which is more prevalent in the summer months. These episodes of dust storms appear to be passing through the region before summertime more frequently. These events can be documented through sampling and verified through the US Naval website [www.nrlmry.navy.mil/aerosol/](http://www.nrlmry.navy.mil/aerosol/) and the San Juan Weather Service. The PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations in the US Virgin Islands are highest and reach closest to the 24-hour standard of 150  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  during these episodes.

There have been questions locally whether these Sahara Dust episodes are contributing to the increase in emergency room visits by asthmatics, or other individuals with respiratory illnesses. PM<sub>10</sub> data can be utilized if the VI Department of Health decides to conduct a health study on whether there is a correlation between increase emergency room visits and Sahara Dust.

The following is the PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring network plan description which is available to the public for comment. After that review period it must be submitted to the Regional Administrator for approval (40CFR § 58.20).



## Bethlehem Village

Table 1

Site Location	Bethlehem Village
Site Address	Bethlehem Village Management Office
Site Specific Name	Bethlehem Village
AQS Number	78-010-0012
VI County	St. Croix
Statistical Area	US Virgin Islands
Coordinates	Latitude 17°42'48.57" N Longitude 64°47'0.33" W

The Bethlehem Village site was established in July 1979. This site was originally established to Sample for Total Suspended Particulate (TSP). TSP monitoring ended in 1995. PM<sub>10</sub> Federal Reference Method (FRM) began in 1996 and PM<sub>2.5</sub> FRM monitoring began in 1999. The PM<sub>10</sub> FRM sampler is currently collocated at the site.

The parameters monitored are indicated in the following table:

Table 2

Parameter	Sampling Method	Analysis Method	Schedule	Spatial Scale
PM <sub>2.5</sub> FRM	142	gravimetric	1 in 6 day	Neighborhood
PM <sub>10</sub> FRM	125	gravimetric	1 in 6 day	Neighborhood
PM <sub>2.5</sub> Continuous Raw Data	701	TEOM Gravimetric	Continuous	Neighborhood

### **Monitoring objective statement:**

Population Exposure

### **Statement of Purpose statement:**

The goal of the Particulate Matter, two and a half microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and Particulate Matter ten microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>) monitoring program is to provide ambient data that supports the nation's air quality programs.



The ambient data from this network will drive an array of regulatory decisions, ranging from designating areas as attainment or non-attainment, to developing cost effective control programs.

Data from this program will also be used for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) comparisons, development and tracking of implementation plans, assessments for regional haze, and assistance for health studies and other aerosol research activities.

This site was established to be in compliance with the regulations.  
This site is suitable for comparison against the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS standard.

### **Plan Changes for Next 18 Months**

There are planned changes within the next 18 months.

### **Waterfont/ Vendor's Plaza**

Table 3

Site Location	Waterfront/Vendor's Plaza
Site Address	# 8 Tolbod Gade
Site Specific Name	Vendor's Plaza
AQS Number	78-030-0010
VI County	St. Thomas
Statistical Area	US Virgin Islands
Coordinates	Latitude 18°20'26.70" N Longitude 64°55'50.93" W

This is a new site that has begun data collection with continuous TEOM 1400A samplers in 2007 for Particulate Matter ten microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>) and Particulate Matter two and a half microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) sampling. In 2016, only a PM<sub>2.5</sub> continuous monitor is operated at the site.



The parameters monitored are indicated in the following tables:

Table 4

Parameter	Sampling Method	Analysis Method	Schedule	Spatial Scale
PM <sub>2.5</sub> Continuous Raw Data	701	TEOM Gravimetric Continuous	Continuous	Neighborhood Scale

**Monitoring objective statement:**

Population Exposure

**Statement of Purpose statement:**

The goal of the Particulate Matter two and a half microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) monitoring program is to provide ambient data that supports the nation's air quality programs. The ambient data from this network will drive an array of regulatory decisions, ranging from designating areas as attainment or non-attainment, to developing cost effective control programs.

Data from this program will also be used for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) comparisons, development and tracking of implementation plans, assessments for regional haze, and assistance for health studies and other aerosol research activities.

This site was established for reporting daily air quality, especially in instances of Sahara dust storms from the Sahara Desert in Africa, and volcanic ash from the Volcano on the Caribbean island of Monseratt. These storms are passing through the territory throughout the year. Through the use of the Air Quality (AQI) Index of which there are six levels. Each color coded section has a level of health concern and AQI value range. This gives the public a better understanding of the air quality.

**Plan Changes for Next 18 Months**

There are planned changes within the next 18 months.



## **References**

1. 40 Code of Federal Regulations. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Part 58 Ambient Air Quality Surveillance Subpart B, C and D.
2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Air Quality System Database.





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May 30, 2017

by larahalliday

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