

National Air Toxics Trends Station
Work Plan Template
Revised: April 2026

Section 1: Project Description

1.1 Overview and Project Objectives

There are currently 188 hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), or air toxics, regulated under the Clean Air Act (CAA) that have been associated with a wide variety of adverse health effects, including cancer and neurological effects. These air toxics are emitted from multiple sources, including major stationary, area, and mobile sources, resulting in population exposure to these pollutants.

The National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS) program was developed to fulfill the need for long-term HAP monitoring data of consistent quality. This site (insert site name and AQS ID xx-xxx-xxxx) is part of a national network of air toxics monitoring stations. The primary purpose of the NATTS network is tracking trends in ambient air toxics levels to facilitate measuring progress toward emission and risk reduction goals. The monitoring network is intended, over a multi-year period, to be able to detect a 15% difference (trend) between successive 3-year annual mean concentrations within acceptable levels of decision error.

1.2 Project Outputs, Outcomes, and Linkage to the U.S. EPA's Strategic Goals

Outputs:

Successful annual NATTS site operation will result in the collection of a year's worth of quality-assured ambient air toxics measurements for selected HAPs that are submitted to the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) data repository.

Outcomes:

Short-Term Outcomes

- Characterizing ambient levels of air toxics within communities, areas, or regions.
- Providing quality assured HAP data for trends determination.

Intermediate Outcomes

- Directly evaluating public exposure & environmental impacts in the vicinity of monitors.
- Providing quality assured HAPs data for risk characterization.

Long-Term Outcomes

- Assessing the effectiveness of specific emission reduction activities.
- Evaluating and subsequently improving air toxics emission inventories and model performance.

Linkage to U.S. EPA's Strategic Goals:

The goals of the National Air Toxics Trends Sites support EPA's Strategic Plan under "Powering the Great American Comeback" initiative, Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-announces-epas-powering-great-american-comeback>

Section 2: Project Network Design Plan

2.1 Site Selection

The NATTS network is a collaboration between EPA (including the Office of State Air Partnerships [OSAP] and the Regional Offices) and State, Local, and Tribal (SLT) air pollution control agencies. The network is comprised of ambient air monitoring stations in urban, suburban, and rural locations which are representative of different parts of the country. NATTS monitoring is typically established at sites representative of neighborhood, urban, or regional scales.

(Describe the particular NATTS site.)

2.2 Meteorological Measurements

Measurement of site-specific meteorological parameters is not a requirement of the NATTS Program but is highly desirable if it can be accomplished. Further information regarding in situ meteorological measurements is available in the NATTS Technical Assistance Document Revision 4 (<https://www.epa.gov/amtic/natts-technical-assistance-document>). If site specific meteorological monitoring is conducted, each site must provide parameter measurement details. If site specific meteorological monitoring is not conducted, each site must provide location and parameter details of the closest off-site meteorological monitoring station (i.e., National Weather Service site, local airport, etc.).

2.3 Measured Pollutants. At a minimum, recipient agrees to the following:

- Acrolein ^a
- Benzene
- 1,3-Butadiene
- Carbon tetrachloride
- Chloroform
- Ethylene oxide ^{**}
- Perchloroethylene (Tetrachloroethylene)
- Trichloroethylene
- Vinyl chloride
- Acetaldehyde
- Formaldehyde
- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Naphthalene
- Arsenic compounds (PM₁₀)
- Beryllium compounds (PM₁₀)
- Cadmium compounds (PM₁₀)
- Lead compounds (PM₁₀)
- Manganese compounds (PM₁₀)
- Nickel compounds (PM₁₀)

^a Guidance regarding acrolein sampling, analysis, and data reporting (Data Quality Evaluation Guidelines for Ambient Air Acrolein Measurements) is available at <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/final-acrolein-method-development-report>.

^{**} The 2016 updated EPA unit risk estimate for ethylene oxide (EtO) identified EtO as a key cancer risk driver. The NATTS network began sampling for EtO in July of 2019. The EPA has been, and will continue, to work with partner agencies in support of successful implementation of the improved analytical method for EtO.

Section 3: Monitoring Protocols

3.1 Sampling Methods and Minimum Detection Limits (MDLs).

Recipient agrees to the methods and procedures as specified and required in the NATTS TAD Revision 4 for VOCs, carbonyls, PAHs and PM₁₀ metals sampling and analysis:

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-08/NATTS-TAD-Revision-4-Final-July-2022-508.pdf>

Concentrations of the NATTS Required Analytes Corresponding to a 10⁻⁶ Cancer Risk, a Noncancer Risk at a HQ of 0.1, and to the MDL Measurement Quality Objective (MQO)

| Pollutant | Cancer Risk 10 ⁻⁶ (µg/m ³) As of 12/2017 ¹ | Noncancer at HQ=0.1 (µg/m ³) As of 12/2017 ¹ | Required MDLs (µg/m ³) |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Acrolein | --- | 0.002 | 0.09000 |
| Benzene | 0.13 | 3.00 | 0.13000 |
| 1,3-Butadiene | 0.03 | 0.20 | 0.10000 |
| Carbon tetrachloride | 0.17 | 10.0 | 0.17000 |
| Chloroform | --- | 9.8 | 0.50000 |
| Ethylene oxide | 0.0002 | --- | 0.05400 |
| Perchloroethylene (Tetrachloroethylene) | 3.8462 | 4.00 | 0.17000 |
| Trichloroethylene | 0.2083 | 0.20 | 0.20000 |
| Vinyl Chloride | 0.11 | 10.0 | 0.11000 |
| Acetaldehyde | 0.45 | 0.90 | 0.45000 |
| Formaldehyde | 0.08 | 0.98 | 0.08000 |
| Benzo(a)pyrene | 0.00057 | --- | 0.00091 |
| Naphthalene | 0.0294 | 0.40 | 0.02900 |
| Arsenic compounds (PM ₁₀) | 0.00023 | 0.0015 | 0.00023 |
| Beryllium compounds (PM ₁₀) | 0.00042 | 0.002 | 0.00042 |
| Cadmium compounds (PM ₁₀) | 0.00056 | 0.001 | 0.00056 |
| Lead compounds (PM ₁₀) | --- | 0.015 | 0.01500 |
| Manganese compounds (PM ₁₀) | --- | 0.03 | 0.00500 |
| Nickel compounds (PM ₁₀) | 0.0021 | 0.009 | 0.00210 |
| Hexavalent chromium (TSP)* | 0.00008 | 0.01 | 0.00008 |

Because of methodological uncertainties surrounding the measurement of acrolein in ambient air, data quality evaluation guidelines were developed and are available at <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/final-acrolein-method-development-report>.

Acrolein health benchmark is the ATSDR MRL which was derived for intermediate-duration inhalation exposure (15–364 days)

* Hexavalent chromium is not currently required for NATTS sites, if recipient chooses to monitor for Hexavalent chromium (TSP) they may do so and use either a state lab or the EPA National Contract lab to conduct analysis.

3.2 Sampling Frequency, Duration, and Quantity.

Recipient agrees to monitor for all pollutants at a 1-in-6-day frequency for one year. The minimum numbers of samples required for the grant period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 is indicated in the table below.

| | 1 in 6 | Field Blanks | Base Total |
|-----------|--------|--------------|------------|
| Carbonyls | 61 | 12 | 73 |
| VOCs | 61 | 0 | 61 |
| Metals | 61 | 12 | 73 |
| PAHs | 61 | 12 | 73 |

¹ Based on unit risk values and reference concentrations used in the 2017 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) See the NATA Technical Support Document posted at www.epa.gov/nata for more information.

3.3 Precision Measurements.

For method precision measurements, if capability for duplicate or collocated monitoring exists for any pollutant categories (carbonyls, VOCs, metals and PAHs), a minimum of 10% (6 samples) as shown in the table below is required. All analytical labs are required to perform replicate analysis for all pollutant categories to demonstrate analytical precision (6 replicate analyses).

| Duplicates or Collocates * | Replicates |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 6 | 6 |

* For sites with collocated or duplicate monitors, a minimum of six samples (10% of annual number of samples arising from 1 in 6 sampling frequency) is necessary for method precision calculations. In the absence of collocated or duplicate monitors, the base total in table 3.2 applies.

Section 4: Quality Assurance Project Plan

Quality Assurance is an integral part of the NATTS program. OSAP and the EPA Regional Offices review and track QA information in order to comply with the performance measures (i.e., Data Quality Objectives and Measurement Quality Objectives) that have been established for the program. The DQO and MQOs for the program are in the following document: The current version of the National Air Toxics Trends Stations - Quality Management Plan is located at <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/air-toxics-ambient-monitoring#guidance>. Outside of your normal quality assurance checks, the EPA requires that the State and Local agencies that support the NATTS participate in the following activities:

1. Follow all quality control guidance and requirements as detailed in the NATTS Technical Assistance Document Revision 4's (<https://www.epa.gov/amtic/natts-technical-assistance-document>) data validation tables.
2. Analyze the quarterly Proficiency Testing (PT) samples that are provided by the designated EPA contractor.
3. Annually review and update the prior year Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) and associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). For any QAPPs that are submitted for approval (new or revised), the QAPP shall provide a level of detail and organization that is consistent with the EPA QAPP Standard, located at https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/quality_assurance_project_plan_standard.pdf.
4. The recipient agrees to comply with the requirements of Quality Policy (CIO 2105.4) and Quality Procedure (CIO 2105-P-01.4), https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-03/enviornmental_information_quality_policy.pdf.
5. Submit air toxics collocated, duplicate and replicate data, as applicable, to the AQS database within 180 days after the end of the quarter.
6. Participate in NATTS teleconference calls that are initiated by OSAP.
7. Participate in Regional air toxics monitoring teleconferences.
8. Provide OSAP and/or their QA contractor with updated (not less than annually) method detection limits (MDLs) as required in the NATTS PT program.
9. Participate in OSAP-instituted Technical Systems Audits.
10. Participate in providing corrective action plans to address audit findings resulting from the technical systems audits.

Section 5: Reporting Requirements

Provide a detailed narrative about the data management and reporting of data for the NATTS (The NATTS Technical Assistance Document Revision 4 provides guidance). Note that the following are required and not negotiable:

- Report all quality assured ambient monitoring data to the U.S. EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) Database (<https://www.epa.gov/aqs>) on a quarterly schedule within 180 days of completing a data collection quarter.
- Follow all guidelines and procedures as detailed in the NATTS Technical Assistance Document Revision 4 (available on AMTIC, <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/natts-technical-assistance-document>) which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Report values below MDL; under no circumstances are data value substitutions (e.g., ½ MDL) acceptable. Values reported below MDL must be flagged appropriately.
 - Sample-specific "alternate" MDLs (the unique MDL generated for each individual sample) must be included with data reported to AQS.
 - Reporting units for all data, to include MDLs, must be as specified in the NATTS TAD Revision 4 (i.e., ppbv, µg/m³, ng/m³) specific to each target pollutant.
 - Units of mass per cartridge or filter are not acceptable.
 - For each monitor, in addition to the AQS required "Reporting" agency and "PQAO", report the "Collecting" and "Analyzing" agencies.
 - Thereafter, only subsequent changes need be entered.
- Submit quality assurance data (collocated, duplicate and replicate), as applicable, to the AQS database within 180 days after the end of the quarter.
 - Definitions for collocated, duplicate, and replicate data (as well as associated requisite reporting procedures) are provided in the NATTS TAD Revision 4.

Section 6: Budget

Providing these data will help EPA track costs and plan for future budgets. An explanation of each of the following budget line items are in Section 6.2 below.

6.1 Project Budget:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| A. Personnel | \$ |
| B. Fringe Benefits | \$ |
| C. Travel | \$ |
| D. Equipment | \$ |
| E. Supplies | \$ |
| F. Contractual | \$ |
| G. Other | \$ |
| Total Direct Charges | \$ |
| H. Indirect Charges | \$ |
| Grant Total | \$ |

Federal Funds Requested: \$

U.S. EPA In-Kind \$

6.2 Explanation of Budget Framework:

Provide a rationale for the NATTS Funding Plan and provide a detailed narrative to support each budget object class outlined below.

- a. Personnel. Personnel costs are those costs for labor effort directly related to the air toxics monitoring grant. Identify all staff positions by job title, annual salary, percentage of time assigned to the project and total cost for the budget period. Any person identified must be an employee of your organization, not a consultant or personnel of a sub-grantee or subcontractor.
- b. Fringe Benefits. Fringe benefit costs are those costs for personnel employment other than the employees' direct income (i.e., employer's portion of FICA insurance, retirement, sick leave, holiday pay, and vacation cost) that will be paid by the grantee. Provide the total cost of fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate. Provide break-down of amounts and percentages that comprised fringe benefit costs, such as health insurance, FICA, retirement insurance, etc.
- c. Travel. Travel and per diem costs are those costs for travel and subsistence which are directly related to the grant. Identify the number of trips planned, the purpose of each trip, the destination for each trip, the number of travelers, and the estimated cost of each trip (e.g., monitoring, administrative activities, attendance at specific conferences, meetings, training, etc.).
- d. Equipment. Equipment, material, and supply costs are those costs directly related to the grant. Identify each item of equipment to be purchased which has an estimated acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit and a useful life of more than one year. Provide a description of each item of equipment and its cost. No equipment may be purchased without the express Regional Office approval. If equipment purchased wholly or partially with assistance agreement funds is to be used on more than one project/program, acquisition costs or usage fees must be approved and allocated properly.
- e. Supplies. Equipment (less than \$5,000), material, and supply costs are those costs directly related to the grant. Identify all supplies purchased and its cost. The budget detail should be as descriptive as possible. Categories of supplies to be procured; e.g., laboratory supplies or office supplies, are acceptable if items cannot be reasonably separated. Provide the individual and total cost of supplies.
- f. Contractual. Contractual services are those services directly related to the EPA program/project. Identify each proposed contract and specify its purpose, nature, period of performance and estimated cost. Do not include procurement contracts which are reflected in other object class categories such as equipment, supplies, etc. If funds allocated to this object class category include proposed expenditures not usually categorized as services to be procured at the market place, explanatory footnotes must be included. Provide the total cost for contracts.
- g. Other. List each item of cost in sufficient detail for the EPA to determine its reasonableness and if it is allowable. Provide the individual and total cost for other.

- h. Direct Charges. Provide the individual and total amount of direct costs (items a-g above).
- i. Indirect Charges. Indirect costs result from allocation of a grouping of administrative costs which are not easily identified as a direct cost. Provide the total amount of indirect costs. Include a copy of your current indirect cost agreement which reflects the approved rate.

Section 7: Measures of Success

NATTS sites are expected to operate over not less than a six year period for assessments of national trends. Within a given year, data quality objectives will be met at a particular monitoring site if samples are collected on a 1-in-6 day sampling schedule with at least an 85% quarterly completeness. Monitoring data should be submitted to the Air Quality System (AQS) within 180 days of completing a data collection quarter.