

Region 4 Air Monitoring Quality Assurance

What does EPA look at in a Technical Systems Audit?

- **Quality Assurance Program**
 - Independence of QA Program (CFR)
 - Current & accurate QAPPs/SOPs (CFR)
 - Implementation of PQAO Oversight Responsibilities (CFR)
- **Data Management System**
 - Adequate and effective data validation process
 - Secure, accurate, and complete reporting of validated data to AQS, per CFR requirements
- **Field Operations**
 - Adherence to 40 CFR 58, Appendix E requirements (Probe and Monitoring Path Siting Criteria)
 - Adherence to CFR / FRM / FEM requirements (instrumentation)
- **Laboratory Operations**
 - Adherence to CFR / Laboratory method requirements
 - Adequate and Effective Quality System in laboratory
- **Records Management System**
 - Availability of NIST-traceability (certification) records for calibration / audit standards throughout 3-year time frame

Top 10 TSA Findings

Staff turnover – foundational knowledge loss, followed by lack of training for new hires

Inadequate quality system / lack of QA oversight & QA resources

- Field sites not meeting Appendix 40 CFR 50 Appendix E requirements
- Air monitoring analyzers and samplers not operated in accordance with CFR / FRM / FEM requirements
- Laboratories not operating in accordance with analytical method requirements
- Audit / calibration standards failing NIST-traceability certifications
- Missing / unavailable NIST-traceability certification records
- Widespread QAPP / SOP issues (e.g., outdated, inaccurate, or absence of)
- Agencies not validating data
- Inconsistency in operations (field, laboratory, QA)

What's next with the Regional QA program?

Technical Systems Audits- we are looking at our TSA SOP, reports and collaborating with other Regions and OAQPS to figure out if there is any way to streamline audits, reports and become more consistent regionally and nationally...

Air QAPPS -

For 2020, we have asked the Region 4 monitoring agencies to let us know if they have implemented any changes that will require the resubmission of their QAPPS. Based on that information, and the number of revised QAPPS that we receive (we already have a few resubmissions in house), in early FY2021 we will start reaching out to States to put the on a staggered schedule for submission of their QAPPS.

Training-

In addition to the March Air Monitoring Workshop, we will work on a training for States to be offered sometime in the summer.

What Technical Systems Audits are scheduled in 2020?

Florida

Georgia