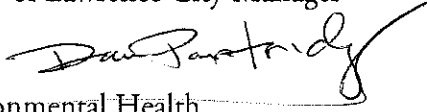


MEMORANDUM

Date: March 5, 2007

To: Craig Weinaug, Douglas County Administrator
Dave Corliss, City of Lawrence City Manager

From: Richard Ziesenis 
Director of Environmental Health

RE: Update on Air Quality Monitoring

Background:

The need for some form of air quality capacity within the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department was first raised by the Douglas County Commission in 2000. In response, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board formed an Air Quality Advisory Committee to consider air quality trends, data, and possible voluntary measures to maintain or improve outdoor air quality within Douglas County. The committee was comprised of people who have an active interest in various aspects of air quality, together with a Health Board liaison member and Health Department staff. The committee was formally charged to "consider air quality data and trends and recommend measures to maintain compliance with EPA air quality standards." In April of 2003, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) installed an outdoor air quality monitoring station at the City of Lawrence Municipal Airport, which has now provided four years worth of monitoring data for ozone levels (results from KDHE ozone monitoring are attached).

For EPA regulatory purposes, Douglas County is in a separate air quality area than the Kansas City area. The EPA requires at least three years worth of air quality monitoring data to determine if an area is in compliance with the Clean Air Act. For ozone levels, the 8-hour standard is expressed in the form of the three-year average of each year's fourth highest concentration. The 8-hour standard is not exceeded until the three-year average of each year's fourth highest monitored value exceeds .084 parts per million (ppm).

2003 – 2005 Ozone Monitoring Period:

During the 2003 – 2005 ozone monitoring period, Douglas County and the greater Kansas City monitoring areas were both in compliance with the EPA Clean Air Act. The average ozone reading for Douglas County was .073 parts per million (ppm). This reading was among the lowest of the nine monitoring sites within the greater Kansas City area.

2004 – 2006 Ozone Monitoring Period:

During the 2004 -2006 ozone monitoring period, Douglas County and the greater Kansas City monitoring areas were both in compliance with the EPA Clean Air Act. The average ozone reading for Douglas County was .072 parts per million (ppm). This reading was again among the lowest of the nine monitoring sites within the greater Kansas City area. For example, the Lawrence monitor only recorded one reading during the 2006 monitoring year which exceeded the .084 ozone limit, compared to 27 ozone exceedences for the greater Kansas City area during the same time period.

KDHE has now removed the air quality monitoring station located at the Lawrence Municipal Airport because of the following three reasons:

1. Four years of data have concluded that ozone levels from Douglas County have been very low compared to the greater Kansas City area.
2. KDHE believes it can sufficiently monitor the quality of air in Douglas County with their Leavenworth County monitor already in place.
3. KDHE has experienced budget reductions. Because of the low levels of ozone recorded over the past four years, KDHE has concluded that the Lawrence monitoring station was of lower priority to continue operating, compared to the other monitors already in place.