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Air Quality Status Report July 26, 2010

- Ozone and particle data are consistent with typical values that occur during this time of year and no obvious influence due to the oil spill is evident.
- None of our monitoring data would indicate that they pose a significant health threat. Data from the DEP monitoring network are not showing any abnormal results at this time.

Air Quality Index (AQI)

- The AQI for Sunday, July 25, was **Good** for ozone and fine particulate concentrations in the panhandle. “Good” means the air quality is satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk. Wind flow was from the east to southeast throughout the day along the Gulf coast.
- The **highest ozone readings** occurred along the northern Gulf coast with a maximum 1-hour concentration of 25 ppb and a maximum 8-hour concentration of 21 ppb both in Pensacola as compared to Florida’s 1-hour standard of 120 ppb and the federal 8-hour standard of 75 ppb.
- The **highest fine particulate concentration** occurred in Tallahassee with a 24-hour reading of 8.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ compared to the federal 24-hour standard of 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Additional Monitoring

- The most recently available data (July 19) from EPA’s monitors in Pensacola and Panama City showed values of VOC’s **well below levels of concern** for public health.
- DEP began monitoring for VOC’s on May 18th in Ft. Walton Beach and Apalachicola. The most recent monitoring results (July 16) showed values of VOC’s **well below levels of concern** for public health. One limitation of the VOC and semi-volatile monitoring is the time lag between when the samples are taken and when the data are available due to laboratory time needed to analyze the samples.
- Review of confirmed VOC monitoring data from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama coastal areas, while more elevated than in Florida, also show **no significant issues** at this time.
- The most recently available semi-volatile data (July 18) from EPA’s monitors in Pensacola and Panama City show **no significant issues** at this time.
- Review of confirmed semi-volatile monitoring data from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama coastal areas also show **no significant issues** at this time.

Air Quality Forecast

- The air quality for Monday, July 26, is expected to be **Good** for ozone and particulate matter along the Gulf coast based on ozone and particulate matter forecasts. Winds on the coast and in the Gulf will generally be from the southeast throughout the day.
- Air quality impacts, if any, could occur with onshore flow at the coast in Florida. Some thunderstorms are possible in the afternoon along the coast due to the remnants of Tropical Depression Bonnie.

Odor

- Measurements taken by Pinellas County and DEP during periods of odor have not shown any unusual VOC levels. EPA is currently investigating odor reports, as needed, and performing air monitoring with stationary and mobile teams throughout the northern Gulf coast, including Florida. Air quality measurements taken in locations where odors were detected have not yet identified any compounds that are present above levels of public health concern.