



Air Resources Board



Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

May 21, 2014

To PQAQO Contacts:

The Corrective Action Notification (CAN) process was developed for the Air Resources Board's (ARB) Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAQO) to document, investigate, correct, and reduce the recurrence of air monitoring issues that could potentially impact data quality. Any person within ARB or a local monitoring organization within a PQAQO, may initiate the CAN process when an issue is identified.

In 2013, a total of 54 CANs were initiated. Of those, ten resulted in the flagging, correction, and/or invalidation of data. Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) instruments incorrectly reporting data in standard conditions impacted five months of data and a malfunctioning wind direction sensor and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) analyzer each resulted in three months of invalidated data. Other issues included a nearby air conditioning repair, data loggers pulling data from the wrong ports, high winds, and missed calibrations.

Overall, CANs were initiated for a wide range of issues. The most common issues resulting in the issuance of CANs included:

- Anomalous trends, patterns, and/or values observed in data. (8)
- Outdated or incorrect metadata information in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Air Quality System (AQS). (10)
- Missing or unavailable leak check, calibration, and/or certification documentation at the time of an audit. (11)
- Instrument leak checks, flow rate verification checks, calibrations, and/or certifications not being performed at the required frequency. (11)

Anomalous trends, patterns, and/or data typically revolved around data gaps, unusually high values, and/or disagreement between collocated monitors. Outdated or incorrect metadata were a result of new or closed monitors that had not been added or updated correctly in AQS. Missing documentation was typically identified during the on-site performance audits conducted by ARB. Overall, the review did not identify any

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

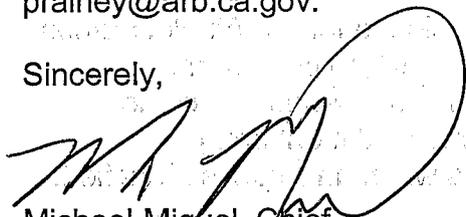
California Environmental Protection Agency

systematic issues that impacted a specific instrument, pollutant, or agency. However, the review highlighted the need to review QA/QC requirements and documentation practices.

ARB's goal is to prevent the recurrence of issues and to improve data quality. ARB and air monitoring organizations utilizing the CAN process should continue to report operational problems, instrument malfunctions, and/or any items needing corrective action or investigation and resolve these issues in a timely manner.

If you have any questions regarding specific CANs or suggestions regarding the CAN process, please contact Mr. Patrick Rainey at (916) 327-4756, or by email at prainey@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Miguel, Chief
Quality Management Branch
Monitoring and Laboratory Division

cc: Cindy Castronovo, Chief
Northern Laboratory Branch

Ken Stroud, Chief
Air Quality Surveillance Branch

Fernando Amador, Manager
Air Monitoring South Section

Ranjit Bhullar, Manager
Quality Assurance Section

Joe Guerrero, Manager
Air Monitoring North Section

Patrick Rainey, Manager
Quality Management Section

Greg Gilani
Quality Management Section