

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Odor Screening and Air Monitoring Chanute, Kansas



Chanute, Kan. Odor Screening-Level Study – Interim Results

All pertinent documents or links to the documents can be found at
<http://www.epa.gov/region7/air/quality/chanute.htm>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are conducting a joint screening-level study to determine potential odor causing compounds when they are reported by the public. On Aug. 26 and on Sept. 7, 14 and 28, staff from the KDHE Southwest District office were notified by callers of unusual or offensive odors and staff collected short duration samples or “air quality snapshots” at those locations using SUMMA canisters. Background samples were collected on Aug. 5-6 in the Chanute area during times when no discernable odor was present. The locations of the odor and background sample collection points are identified on the map available on the website. Two additional samples were collected on Nov. 14 and Dec. 4 but the analysis of those samples has not yet been completed. One additional sample remains to be taken.

The laboratory results of the analysis of the odor samples can be viewed on the website. The individual concentrations from samples collected during odor events were compared to the average of the individual volatile organic compounds (VOC) concentrations collected in the two background samples. The preliminary findings are summarized below

- A review of the data revealed that airborne chemicals varied in terms of presence and concentrations for each sample.
- The substance with the highest concentration detected in a single sample thus far is toluene. The highest concentration of toluene detected falls within the range of concentrations found in past studies of toluene concentrations in the environment. (ATSDR Toluene Toxicological Profile)
- EPA and KDHE plan to perform follow-up emission source evaluations of the sources of toluene emissions within the Chanute area to determine whether additional action is necessary. EPA and KDHE emissions inventory data for the Chanute area are available for review. The initial review of the sources emitting toluene in the Chanute area are identified in “Toluene Emissions Inventory – Chanute.”
- Additional information regarding the results of the odor screening project and evaluation of local sources of air pollution will be posted on the website as it is available.

In addition, during the week of Nov. 28, 2011, EPA and KDHE began the particulate matter sampling described in the air monitoring plan. The two particulate monitoring sites are located at Chanute city park sites. Findings of the particulate matter sampling will be posted on this website.

People on EPA’s mailing list will be notified when the final report is posted online. If you would like to be added to that mailing list, please contact Beckie Himes at himes.beckie@epa.gov or call toll free 1-800-223-0425.