

February 19, 2002

Subject: Ambient Air QA Module Incorporated into the 21st Annual National Conference on Managing Quality Systems

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To: Ambient Air Monitoring Organizations

As many of you are aware, a National Monitoring Steering Committee is developing a Monitoring Strategy whose goal is to manage the nation's air monitoring networks such that critical stable network elements as well as changing priorities can be accommodated within a scientifically sound and resource optimized framework that addresses national and local interests. Part of this strategy includes a section on a QA strategy for reinventing the quality system. A QA Strategy Workgroup has been working on this strategy since the summer of 2001 culminating in an October Workshop and Report which is posted on AMTIC (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/geninfo.html>).

The QA Strategy Workgroup generated about 80 recommendations or actions items that would be addressed over the next 3-4 years. One of the action items was more QA training and possibly linking this training to the National QA Meeting. This action item has been accomplished.

EPA sponsors a national conference on managing quality systems for environmental programs every year. This conference is a national forum for disseminating and exchanging information on managing the quality of environmental data; discussion and action on issues of national concern; training; and technical presentations. The conference is open to all interested members of the environmental community including representatives from EPA, other Federal Agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments, academia, and the private sector. This conference is a good forum for understanding and being kept abreast of EPA QA policy, and receiving QA related training.

The 21st Annual National Conference will be held in Phoenix, AZ on April 8-11, 2002. For more information including a tentative Agenda, training courses, and registration information, see <http://www.atlintl.com/epa-conference-2002>.

On Wednesday April 10, OAQPS has secured conference space all day for ambient air QA issues. The first half of the day will be devoted to making progress on the QA Strategy recommendations and action items. The second half of the day will be a workshop that addresses the data quality objective software tool, using this tool for data quality assessments, and instruction on AIRS AQS QA related assistance and guidance.

The QA Strategy Workgroup feels that linking ambient air QA related activities to the National QA Conference provides many advantages to the ambient air QA community in both training, sharing ideas, and making improvements to the ambient air monitoring quality system. We hope that many QA managers within the ambient air monitoring community will be able to attend to share your ideas and affect change on the QA Strategy and the quality system.

