

Air Quality Modeling: December 22nd U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum Addressing the Use of Ambient Ratio Method 2



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12/28/2015

Chuck Buttry, Regional Manager (Southeast), Trinity Consultants forwarded a December 22nd memorandum from the United States Environmental Protection Agency – Research Triangle Park, North Carolina (“EPA”) titled *Model Clearinghouse Review of the Use of Ambient Ratio Method 2 (ARM2) Default AERMOD Option for Hankook Tires Facility NO2 Ambient Impact Analysis (“Memorandum”)*.

The EPA *Memorandum* was in response to a concurrence request from EPA Region 4 regarding the proposed use of the Ambient Ratio Method 2 technique for a facility in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Chuck summarized the December 22nd EPA *Memorandum* noting:

On December 22, the US EPA Model Clearinghouse concurred with EPA Region 4 regarding the use of the Ambient Ratio Method 2 (ARM2) technique for 1-hour modeling NO₂ at the Hankook Tires facility in Clarksville, Tennessee. The ARM2 technique is a non-regulatory default option in the AERMOD model, and requires EPA Regional Office approval and concurrence from the Model Clearinghouse. The ARM2 technique is appropriate when modeling NO_x emissions from sources with low NO₂/NO_x in-stack ratios and that are located in areas (usually rural) with relatively low ozone concentrations. As such, this technique should be considered when conducting NO₂ modeling for many areas of Arkansas. Note that ARM2 has been included as an available AERMOD regulatory default in the proposed changes to the *Guideline on Air Quality Models* (Appendix W to Part 51). When and if the new Guideline is promulgated, use of ARM2 would not need any additional approval (as long as other recommended default settings were used).

[Click here to download a copy of the *Memorandum*.](#)