

Cook County Department of Environmental Control
Technical Services - Air Monitoring Services

The Technical Services section is currently responsible for maintaining and operating a county-wide air monitoring network. The Technical Services Division works under a cooperative agreement with the State and Federal Environmental Protection Agencies. Current staff consists of 10 people performing a variety of tasks to sample and analyze the air we breathe.

The following pollutants are measured on a real time hourly basis using a sophisticated telemetry system:

Sulfur Dioxide	Carbon Monoxide
Nitric Oxide	Ozone
Nitrogen Dioxide	Total Oxides of Nitrogen
Solar radiation units	Continuous Particulate
Carbon Speciation	Sulfate and Nitrate
Meteorology	

In addition to the hourly samples the following are gathered on a federally selected schedule.

Total Suspended Particulate	Chromium
Inhalable Particulate	Iron
Soluble Sulfates	Nickel
Soluble Nitrates	Manganese
Lead	Arsenic
Cadmium	

The Technical Services Division cooperating with the Illinois EPA creates the Air Quality Index Report on a daily basis. This report is transmitted to the National Weather Service and a recorded message is available to the public. This message is of special interest to people who suffer from asthma, heart disease, or any type of lung disorder. The message contains current pollution levels and the forecast for the next 24 hour period. The message created by Cook County geographically covers the City of Chicago, Suburban Cook, Will, and Lake Counties. The Phone Number is (708)865-6320

In 1994 a Radon Awareness program was initiated. Radon information will be disseminated under a grant from the Illinois department of Nuclear safety. The number for Radon Information is (708) 865-6177.

The question of why do we need Technical services can be answered in many ways. The easy answer is to protect the health of the people in Cook County. The summer of 1988 with the 10 days of air stagnation produced numerous ozone alerts across the state and in 1991 the unhealthy sulfur dioxide levels in Blue Island are two examples of extreme conditions which affected large geographic areas. Under good to moderate air quality approximately 15% of the population still has adverse health effects.

The Technical data that is generated is also used for the following:

- Determination of progress in meeting air quality standards.
- Evaluation of Pollution Trends.
- Activation of the emergency control procedures during episodes of high pollution levels.
- Evaluating special air quality problems

COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AIR MONITORING SITES 2003												
AIRS Code	City	Address	O3	PM2.5	PM10	SO2	CO	NO2	Pb	Toxic Metals	MANUAL SPECIATION	CONTINUOUS SPECIATION
170310001	Alsip	4500 W. 123rd St.	X		X				X			
170310014	Chicago	3300 S. Michigan		X								
170310022	Chicago	3535 E. 114th St.		X					X	X		
170310026	Chicago	735 W. Harrison							X	X		
170310032	Chicago	3300 E. Cheletenham	X									
170310050	Chicago	103rd & Luella	X	X		X						
170310052	Chicago	4850 Wilson		X					X			
170310057	Chicago	1745 N. Springfield Ave.		X							X	P
170310060	Chicago	13100 S. Doty			X							
170310064	Chicago	5720 S. Ellis	X									
170310076	Chicago	7801 Lawndale	P	X		P		X			X	X
170311003	Chicago	6545 W. Huribut	X									
170311018	Bedford Park	7800 W. 65th St.				X						
170311601	Lemont	729 Houston	X			X						
170311901	Midlothian	15205 Crawford Ave.			X							
170312001	Blue Island	12700 Sacramento		X	X	X						
170313301	Summit	60th St. & 74th Ave.		X	X				X	X	P	
170314002	Cicero	1820 S. 51st Ave.	X			X	X	X				
170314101	Hoffman Estate:	1100 W. Higgins rd.			X							
170316003	Maywood	1500 Maybrook Dr.							X			
170316004	Maywood	1505 S 1st Ave					X					
170316005	Cicero	13th St. & 50th Ave.		X								
170318003	Calumet City	1703 State St.	X			X	X	X				
<p>P- Proposed monitoring sites to be added in 2003</p> <p>Empact grant to add six continuous PM2.5 monitors in Metropolitan Chicago area.</p> <p>Manual speciation site in Chicago to be replaced with continuous monitors. Manual site to be moved to Summit, il</p>												