

3.13 PORTABLE STATION SITING

3.13.1 INTRODUCTION

PRAMP employs a portable air monitoring station for use throughout the Airshed. The portable station is similar in construction and layout to other PRAMP continuous air monitoring stations, but the intention is that it is moved at approximately 18-month intervals as the need and issues arise.

This policy ensures that decisions on portable station re-locations follow consistent criteria and process steps. A *Standard Procedure on Selecting Locations for the Portable Air Quality Monitoring Station* provides additional details about the portable station as well as the selection process and site selection criteria.

3.13.2 APPLICATION

When PRAMP needs to identify a new site for the portable station, consideration of location options will focus on stakeholder input, monitoring objectives, cost comparisons and the requirements for siting stations in the Alberta Air Monitoring Directive (AMD).

Criteria for siting air monitoring stations in the AMD includes the following:

- A clear area with no trees or tall buildings inside a 100-meter radius around the station (deviations from this are evaluated on a case-by-case basis)
- Year-round access with a nearby power service
- Set back from roadways

Scheduling a relocation must be somewhat flexible to allow the portable station to remain at a site longer than originally planned should there be a need for more data to further evaluate or assess the issue or effects of any follow-up actions taken.

Location Intake

Potential locations and air quality issues will be gathered through various inputs, including the general public, Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Board.

Any requests for use of the portable station will normally be in writing to PRAMP. The content of the request must address the following;

- Concern or problem in which monitoring is requested,
- How long the problem has been occurring,
- What might be accomplished with air monitoring,
- How PRAMP could help.
- Any previous air monitoring in this area or for this concern, and
- Whether the appropriate regulatory organization been notified of the problem

The TWG will select the location for the next 18 months of monitoring, with ranked alternative locations should the initial selected location not be available (i.e. if no suitable “on the ground” location to place the station can be found) or the previously identified issue and/or the urgency to respond to the issue have diminished sufficiently to no longer warrant monitoring by the time the portable is available to go there.





The TWG will consider the various possible locations according to a scoring matrix identified in the *Standard Procedure*.

Since not all factors supporting the selection of a site can be empirically recorded, the process should allow for other factors, some of which are not so easily measured or may not even be included in the scoring matrix at the time it is used. The TWG may reprioritize the site selection, however there must be documented reasoning for the reprioritization.

Site Selection Approval Process

Once the TWG approves the site selection, the PRAMP Board of Directors will be informed of the TWG's decisions on siting, made as per this policy.

The TWG will decide if any additional monitoring capabilities will be added to the portable station to fully address the air quality issue at a given site. Once the TWG selects the site or issue to be addressed, work will begin to identify suitable "on the ground" locations if not already determined.

Although the sites selection process directs PRAMP to an issue or area to monitor, ground -truthing must be completed to select an appropriate site that has readily accessible power, good access, free of other potential ambient sources and meets the AMD siting criteria and have appropriate site documentation prepared prior to the end of sampling at the site.

The TPMs will identify and assess sites within an appropriate geographic area based on the monitoring objectives for the station. After an initial review of possible sites, the TPMs will provide options to the TWG. The TWG will provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors on the preferred site.

During the assessment phase for the siting, the TPMs will provide an update at each Board meeting. PRAMP Directors are expected to provide input as early in the process as possible so that the TPMs and TWG can incorporate the input into the assessment of options.

