**Network Modification Considerations**

**Region 5 States 2025 Monitoring Network Assessment**

This document presents a list of criteria to consider when making decisions about whether to shut down, relocate, or start up monitors. Not all criteria will be relevant for all monitors or areas, and other considerations not listed here may be important for some locations. The data to address many but not all of these criteria are available in the 2025 Monitoring Network Assessment. Following this list of criteria is a blank template you may modify to do your own assessment.

**Air Quality**

* How likely is the monitor to exceed the NAAQS? (Exceedance probability)
* What is the design value (DV) relative to other DVs in the area? (high, low, average)
* For PM2.5: Is the monitor located in an area of high or low concentration according to satellite data?
* Are design values increasing, decreasing, or level? (Design value trends)
* Is the site in a nonattainment area?
* For PM2.5 monitors with chemical composition data: How similar is the chemical composition to that at nearby monitors?
* Are there any results of special studies to consider? (e.g., mobile monitoring, field campaigns, air toxics studies, air sensors studies, etc.) What do these suggest?

**Uniqueness and impact of monitor**

* Does the monitor cluster tightly with many other monitors in the same urban area (CBSA)?
* How far is the monitor from other monitors measuring the same pollutant?
* How large of a population does the monitor serve? Is the population of that area increasing or decreasing?
* How large of a geographic area does the monitor serve?
* What is the stated spatial scale for the monitor (micro, middle, neighborhood, urban, regional)?
* What other parameters are monitored at the site?
* Is any special monitoring conducted at the site (CSN, Near-Road, NCore, PAMS, etc.)?
* How many years has the monitor operated? (length of record)
* What is the removal bias if the monitor were to shut down? (Available from [EPA’s NetAssess 2025](https://rconnect-public.epa.gov/NetAssess2025/))

**Emissions sources**

* Where is the monitor located relative to local emissions sources?
* What are the primary types of emissions sources close to site?
* Have there been any change in the operations of nearby facilities or sources? Have there been any changes to related modelling results?

**Regulatory requirements for monitor**

* Is the monitor required to fulfill EPA’s monitoring requirements for the CBSA (e.g., population-weighted emissions index, PWEI, for SO2)?
* Does the monitor meet the criteria for discontinuation in 40 CFR part 58.14(c)?
* Is the monitor part of an enhanced monitoring plan required because of the area’s nonattainment classification?

**Technical considerations**

* Are there any siting obstructions that interfere with the monitor (e.g., walls, trees, fences, buildings, etc.)?
* Has there been a change in the method used by the monitor (e.g., a shift from filter-based to continuous measurement of PM2.5)?
* Would shutting down or moving the monitor affect the efficiency of monitoring efforts (e.g., changing from 3 single-pollutant sites to 1 multi-pollutant site)?
* Are there any operator safety issues with the site?
* Are there any issues or challenges around access to the site?
* How secure is access to the site over long timeframes?
* Has there been a change or loss in funding sources for the monitor?

**Community considerations**

* Did the community request the monitor? Why?
* What are the demographics of the community (e.g., is there a large population of children or elderly people)?

**Template -** **Network Modification Considerations**

**Change under consideration:**

□ Shutdown of a monitor

□ Relocation of a monitor

□ Addition of a new monitor

Describe the change under consideration:

**Decide what are the most important considerations (from the list above or others) for the monitor(s)/location(s) and give them some sort of ranking (this could be 1-10, 1-100, or some other scale). Write them out below and then write out answers to the questions in the consideration point. For each consideration, write out whether this point supports or opposes the change under consideration. (Add additional pages as needed.)**

Example:

**Consideration**: What is the design value (DV) relative to other DVs in the area? (high, low, average).

Importance for site: #2/10 - The most important except for “Where is the monitor located relative to local emissions sources?”

Response: The DV is one of the lowest in the CBSA. This supports shutdown of this monitor as the monitor is highly unlikely to be impacting the attainment status of the area.

**Most important considerations for the monitor(s)/location(s):**

**Consideration**:

Importance for site:

Response:

**Consideration**:

Importance for site:

Response:

**Consideration**:

Importance for site:

Response:

**Consideration**:

Importance for site:

Response:

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