

TONAWANDA COMMUNITY AIR QUALITY UPDATE



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Monitoring Data Shows Benzene Reductions

December 2016- Current Air Quality Monitoring in Tonawanda

- DEC continues to operate two air quality monitors from the original Tonawanda air quality study. The monitoring sites are located in Tonawanda at Grand Island Boulevard and Brookside Terrace.
- Results at the industrial monitor (Grand Island Boulevard) show a reduction in benzene concentration of 92%.
- Results at the residential monitor (Brookside Terrace) show a reduction in benzene concentration of 74%, which is below 2015 levels found in urban locations in the state.
- Reduced benzene concentrations are the result, in part, of operational modifications made by the Tonawanda Coke Corporation (TCC) in response to NYSDEC and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) inspections of the facility and subsequent federal and state enforcement actions against TCC. Operational modifications include:
 - the installation of flares to manage the coke oven gas
 - numerous repairs to address leaks in the coke oven gas system
 - the implementation of an enhanced leak detection and repair program
 - installation of a baghouse for pushing controls
 - the total elimination of ammonia emissions
- An increase in the ambient formaldehyde concentrations at the Brookside Terrace location was observed. The observed increase in formaldehyde emissions are intermittent at the Brookside Terrace location and are below concentrations associated with acute upper respiratory effects (eye and throat irritation).
- DEC continues to monitor the air quality in Tonawanda and will work to identify and control sources of air pollution which contribute to levels above NYSDEC's health-based guideline concentrations.

Where can I find more information?

To learn more about the Study, read the full original Study report and to find updates about the air quality information still being collected in the area please visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/55471.html>

Who should I contact if I have questions about the Air Quality Study?

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