

The Texas Air Quality Research  
Program (AQRP)

<http://aqrp.ceer.utexas.edu/>

# Texas AQRP

Administered by the University of Texas (UT) for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

- Overview of Program
- Current process for funding projects
- Projects currently funded
- Development of Strategic Plan for next biennium and possible interaction with NASA Discover-AQ program

# The Texas Air Quality Research Program (AQRP)

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- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has selected the University of Texas at Austin to administer the Texas Air Quality Research Program. The goal of the Program is to develop scientific information needed by the State as it responds to new, more stringent air quality standards.
- Among the most challenging of the standards to be addressed will be proposed revisions to the ground-level ozone requirements. Currently the Dallas-Fort Worth area does not meet the 8-hour ozone standard and additional reductions of emissions may be needed to bring the area into compliance. Other cities, such as Austin, San Antonio that currently meet federal ozone standards, could become designated as nonattainment under the proposed standards.
- Approximately \$4.9 million in funding has been allocated to the Texas Air Quality Research Program to improve scientific understanding of emissions, atmospheric chemistry, and the global, continental, and regional movement of air pollutants. The Program will also improve the models used to evaluate the effectiveness of emission reductions.

# AQRP Structure

- Independent Technical Advisory Committee provides input on technical merits of proposals
- TCEQ reviews proposals for relevance to State's air quality research needs
- Advisory Council approves projects for funding

# Timeline/Process for Selecting Projects

- December 21, 2009: TCEQ release Request for Grant Applications for AQRP
- January 29, 2010: Grant Applications due
- April 30, 2010: Contract to administer AQRP between the TCEQ and UT signed
- May 2010: UT forms Independent Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) and Advisory Council, solicits input from TCEQ on research priorities, and releases Request for Proposals
- June 25, 2010: Proposals due; 45 proposals requesting \$12.9 million received
- July, 2010: ITAC reviews technical merit of proposals
- July-August, 2010: TCEQ reviews proposals for relevancy to State air quality research needs
- August, 2010: Solicit public input; make funding recommendations to Advisory Council
- Late August through September, 2010: Initial projects selected for funding; contracts put in place
- Fall 2010: Seek input on priority research areas for next biennium

# Proposals received

- Proposals were responsive to solicitation and fell into broad categories:
  - Dallas-Fort Worth measurement campaign
  - Measurements of emissions from industrial flares
  - Improvements to air quality models
  - Improvements to emission estimates
- Proposals were received from multiple Texas Universities, national laboratories, and environmental consulting firms/Universities outside of Texas with specialized expertise

# Possible Relationship with NASA Discover-AQ team

- Seek input on strategic directions for next biennium
- Process:
  - Develop strategic plan for potential collaboration of AQRP with Discover-AQ
  - ITAC and TCEQ to review plan for collaboration
  - If ITAC, TCEQ and Council approve, and if funding is secured for the next biennium, potential for focused RFP to be released