

Submission
No 15

INQUIRY INTO HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION IN THE SYDNEY BASIN

Organisation:

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Telephone:

Date Received: 6/08/2006

Subject:

Summary

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The Chairperson,
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2,
Legislative Council of N.S.W.

Friday 4th August 2006

Submission to the Inquiry into the health impacts of air pollution in the Sydney Basin.

Dear Chairperson,

The attached tables are from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority's Quarterly Air Monitoring Reports, published by the EPA in the conduct of its ongoing Air Monitoring Program. I draw your attention to the duplication of data series for particulate matter from the 3rd Quarter (Volume 19 n.3) to the 4th Quarter 1993 (Volume 19 n.4) reports for the following table:

*Table 3.3: PARTICULATE MATTER: LESS THAN 10 micrometre (PM₁₀)
Micrograms per cubic metre at 0° Celsius
24-HOUR CLOCK SAMPLE (6-DAY CYCLE)
Measurement Technique: High Volume Sampler with Size-Selective Inlet*

Note that each of the monthly average and highest value statistics for any particular monitoring site in the July 1993 series is identical to the corresponding October 1993 series. The same duplications appear for the August 1993 and November 1993 series, and the September 1993 and December 1993 series. The only differences are the Beresfield data which do not appear in the earlier quarterly report and a qualification of the August data for Fairfield.

This cannot have been a simple duplication error by the printer.

I contacted the EPA about the anomaly several years ago but did not get a response.

These are important historical series scientific data which continue to be used by researchers. In this case at least one set of data is obviously false.

To my knowledge the EPA has not published any correction for the particular false data series.

The nexus with the terms of reference of the Inquiry into the health impacts of air pollution in the Sydney Basin are:

- (f) the effectiveness of ... programmes for mitigating air pollution; and
- (h) any other relevant matter.

Scientific data collected on behalf of the New South Wales Government should be trustworthy, particularly when used for the assessment of the health impacts of air pollution.

I believe the Committee should investigate the accountability of the EPA for the correctness of published data.

Yours Sincerely,

Cliff Maurer

Clifford Maurer

Attachments: Tables from two of the regular quarterly report series containing air monitoring data from the Environment Protection Authority's statewide air monitoring network.

TABLE 3.3

PARTICULATE MATTER: LESS THAN 10 μ m (PM ₁₀) Micrograms per cubic metre at 0° Celsius (μ g/m ³ at 0° C) 24-HOUR CLOCK SAMPLE (6-DAY CYCLE)		JUL	AUG	SEP
BLACKTOWN Flushcombe Rd	Monthly Average	30	14	34
	Highest Value	48	20	120
BRINGELLY Ramsay Rd	Monthly Average	22	18	10
	Highest Value	39	28	21
EARLWOOD Beaman Park	Monthly Average	25	24	15
	Highest Value	53	39	25
FAIRFIELD @ North St	Monthly Average	***	14 #	15
	Highest Value	***	14 #	33
NEWCASTLE Athletics Field	Monthly Average	25	15	17
	Highest Value	33	23	24
RICHMOND University of Western Sydney	Monthly Average	24	16	15
	Highest Value	38	23	33
ROZELLE Rozelle Hospital Balmain Rd	Monthly Average	23	14	11
	Highest Value	44	18	21
SYDNEY Cnr George & Market Sts	Monthly Average	35	26	21
	Highest Value	58	40	35
WALLSEND Swimming Pool	Monthly Average	16	11	10
	Highest Value	23	17	16
WOLLONGONG Gipps St	Monthly Average	26	13	20
	Highest Value	41	19	39

@ Mobile site

*** Data not available

Only figure available for month

Extract from Quarterly Air Quality Monitoring Report 1993/3 Part A: EPA Data
volume 19 n3, July - August - September 1993 page 17

TABLE 3.3

PARTICULATE MATTER: LESS THAN 10μm (PM₁₀)		OCT	NOV	DEC
Micrograms per cubic metre at 0° Celsius (μg/m³ at 0° C)				
24-HOUR CLOCK SAMPLE (6-DAY CYCLE)				
MONITORING SITE				
BERESFIELD Francis Greenway High School	Monthly Average	***	21	32
	Highest Value	***	39	53
BLACKTOWN Flushcombe Rd	Monthly Average	30	14	34
	Highest Value	48	20	120
BRINGELLY Ramsay Rd	Monthly Average	22	18	10
	Highest Value	39	28	21
EARLWOOD Beaman Park	Monthly Average	25	24	15
	Highest Value	53	39	25
FAIRFIELD (+) North St	Monthly Average	***	14	15
	Highest Value	***	14	33
NEWCASTLE Athletics Field	Monthly Average	25	15	17
	Highest Value	33	23	24
RICHMOND University of Western Sydney	Monthly Average	24	16	15
	Highest Value	38	23	33
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	Highest Value	58	40	35
WALLSEND Swimming Pool	Monthly Average	16	11	10
	Highest Value	23	17	16
WOLLONGONG Gipps St	Monthly Average	26	13	20
	Highest Value	41	19	39
(+) Temporary site		*** Data not available		

Extract from Quarterly Air Quality Monitoring Report 1993/4
Part A: EPA Data
volume 19 number 4, October - November - December 1993