Should I Consider Air Monitoring?

Air monitoring can be expensive, very time consuming, and may lead to more questions than actual solutions. Therefore, it is important to carefully consider whether or not performing air monitoring is of use to solving a problem. Monitoring is often used to determine unknown severity of a problem, whether an air quality control is effective, or to rule out some pollutant as an air quality concern. Below is a map to help guide the decision of whether or not air monitoring should be considered.

Start

Has an ANTHC Phase I Air Assessment been completed?

No

Complete an ANTHC Phase I Air Assessment first to prioritize air quality issues.

Yes

Is there uncertainty among tribal leaders or community members that the issue (dust, smoke, etc.) is really a problem?

No

No, we’re certain this is a problem. Everyone complains about it and we can see and/or smell the pollution.

Yes

Can measuring the presence or absence of a pollutant help decide if this is a real problem or rule it out as one?

No

What are some possible solutions to this problem?

Yes

Can these solutions be implemented without monitoring the air?

Yes

Air monitoring may be considered

Yes, but...

If the problem can be solved without air monitoring, it may be more cost effective/efficient to focus time and energy at the solution rather than on air monitoring.

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We have been told we need air monitoring data for additional support and/or funding for solutions.

We want to measure how effective our efforts to control the air pollution are by monitoring before and after.

We feel that air quality data will be of particular value in implementing an air quality control or study.

Air monitoring may be considered

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