

News Release



IPAMS
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

Date: July 31, 2009
Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@ipams.org

IPAMS Releases Uinta Basin Air Quality Study

The natural gas and oil industry voluntarily undertakes study to quantify and minimize impact to air quality

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) publicly released the results of the Uinta Basin Air Quality Study (UBAQS), a comprehensive modeling study that provides quantitative estimates of air quality in the Uinta Basin of Utah. IPAMS proactively conducted this unprecedented analysis to ensure that industry, state, and federal land managers have the tools necessary to protect air quality. Without this IPAMS initiative, the information would simply not be available to regulators.

UBAQS model results indicate that average ambient concentrations of ozone and criteria pollutants will remain below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) within the six-county Uinta Basin area through the year 2012.

"UBAQS uses state-of-the-art atmospheric science and photochemical modeling technology to forecast changes to air quality resulting from natural gas, oil, and other activity in the six-county Uinta Basin in northeast Utah," said Kathleen Sgamma, IPAMS Director of Government Affairs. "IPAMS wants to ensure that industry and regulators understand the cumulative impacts of producer activities in the basin. UBAQS provides federal land managers, such as the Bureau of Land Management, and regulators with the tools they need to analyze and mitigate impacts to air resources."

To ensure a sound scientific study, federal, state, tribal, and county governments provided input. ENVIRON International Corporation, a highly-regarded air modeling contractor that has done extensive work for government regulators across the Intermountain West, performed the modeling. The study provides a comprehensive analysis of cumulative air quality impacts using conservative modeling assumptions that overstate impacts from natural gas and oil activities to provide public land managers and regulators with a worst-case scenario in the basin. Even with that worst-case scenario, UBAQS results show that the basin will remain in attainment for all air quality standards, including ozone, specified by the Clean Air Act.

Air quality models are predictive tools. Sound scientific methodology supports the comparison of modeling results to actual ambient air emissions monitoring data. Industry is sponsoring monitoring stations in the basin that will provide actual ambient data so that regulators have the information they need to continue to protect air quality.

"Natural gas and oil producers are developing vital American energy resources in an environmentally responsible manner that protects air quality, while providing jobs and revenue to Utah's rural economies," concluded Sgamma.

###

About IPAMS

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions, industry consultants, and their 150,000 employees who are committed to environmentally responsible natural gas and oil development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.