



Air Quality Monitoring Related to Bridge Decommissioning

August 29, 2016

WSDOT and the Washington State Department of Ecology are working together to conduct short-term air-quality monitoring to characterize the concentration of particulate matter near activities to deconstruct the old SR 520 floating bridge on Lake Washington. WSDOT and Ecology are proactively conducting this monitoring in response to public inquiries; it is not required by regulations nor permits.

Monitoring is underway in Medina and will last for approximately three weeks. Ecology has portable monitoring equipment available to use. If an emergency develops for air monitoring elsewhere (e.g., a forest fire) the equipment would be redeployed and this short-term monitoring effort rescheduled.

What qualifies as an exceedance of air quality standards?

The ambient air quality standard for particulate matter is established as an average concentration over 24 hours. In other words, an activity could exceed the particulate matter standard at a specific point in time – or even when averaged over an hour – but this would not be considered an exceedance unless the 24-hour average also exceeded the standard.

You can find more about the standards by visiting Ecology's website:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/sips/pollutants/naaqs.htm

Is current demolition work permitted?

Yes. WSDOT and the construction contractor, Kiewit/General/Manson (KGM) have completed all necessary environmental studies and obtained all necessary permits to decommission and remove the old floating bridge from Lake Washington; relevant permits are available for review on WSDOT's website.

Air permits are not required for this demolition, but, consistent with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency regulations, WSDOT and KGM do follow best management practices to control dust. WSDOT will continue to work closely with KGM to ensure that all permits and requirements are met throughout the process.