

# School Monitoring Initiative

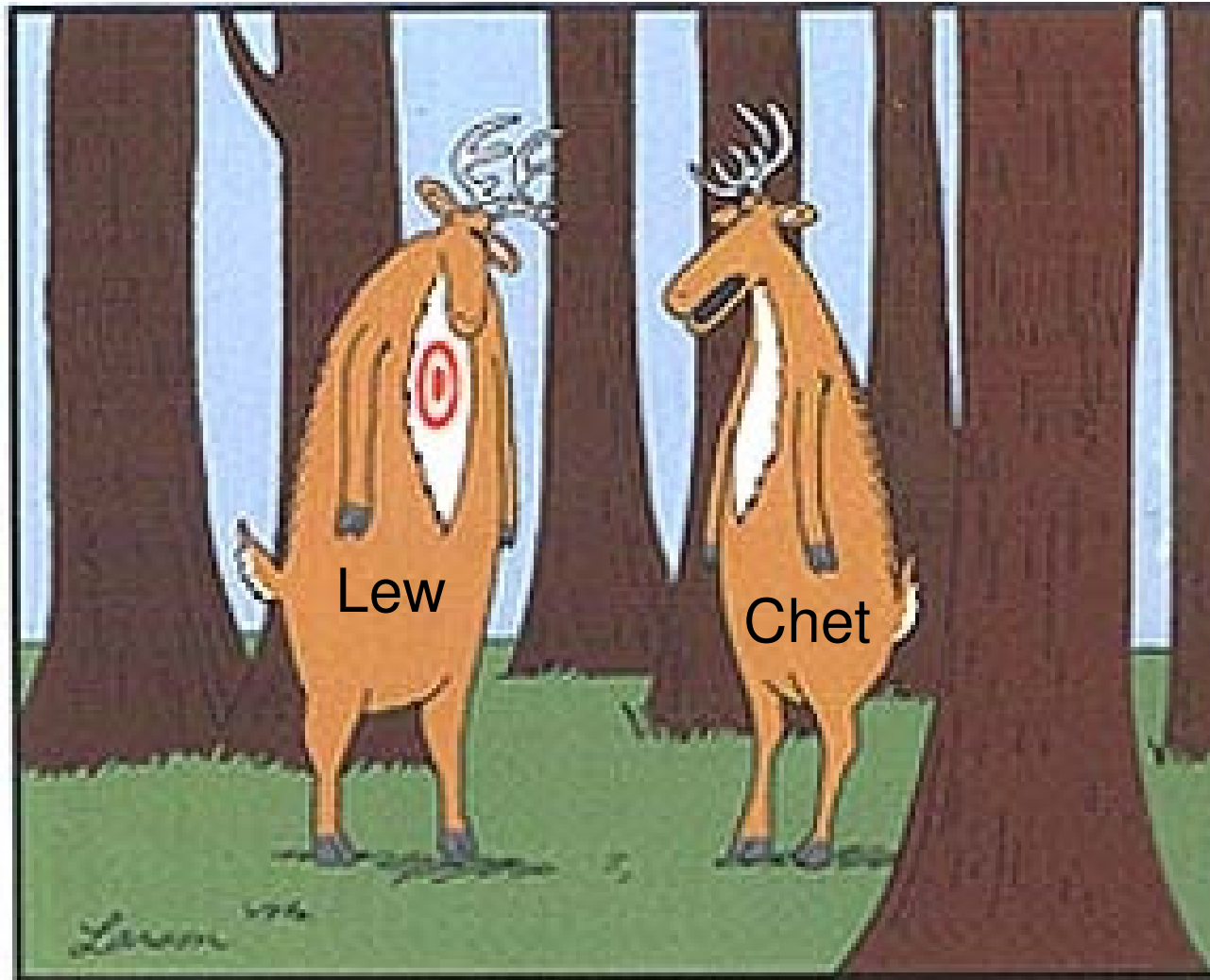
## Early Results & Status

Chet Wayland

NACAA Fall Meeting

Boston, MA

September 22, 2009



“Bummer of a birthmark, Lew.”

# Outline

- **Status update**
- **Results from first two schools (TN)**
- **Expectations for FY2010**
- **Next steps**



## Assessing Outdoor Air Near Schools

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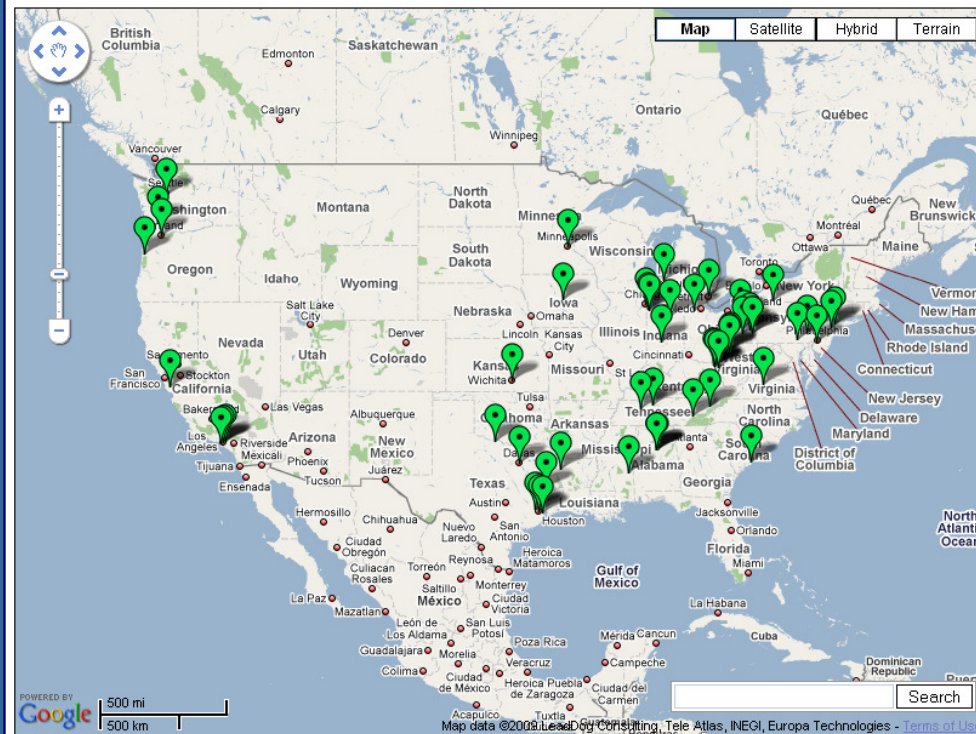
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You are here: [EPA Home](#) > [Air & Radiation](#) > [Assessing Outdoor Air Near Schools](#) > [Map of Schools](#)

- Assessing Outdoor Air Near Schools Home
- About the Project
- Hoja informativa
- Basic Information
- Map of Schools
- List of Schools
- Monitored Pollutants
- Children's Health Issues
- What You Can Do
- Frequent Questions
- Preguntas y respuestas
- Related Links
- Technical Information
- EPA Contacts

### Map of Schools

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Last updated on Wednesday, September 9th, 2009.  
<http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/map.html>

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# Current Status

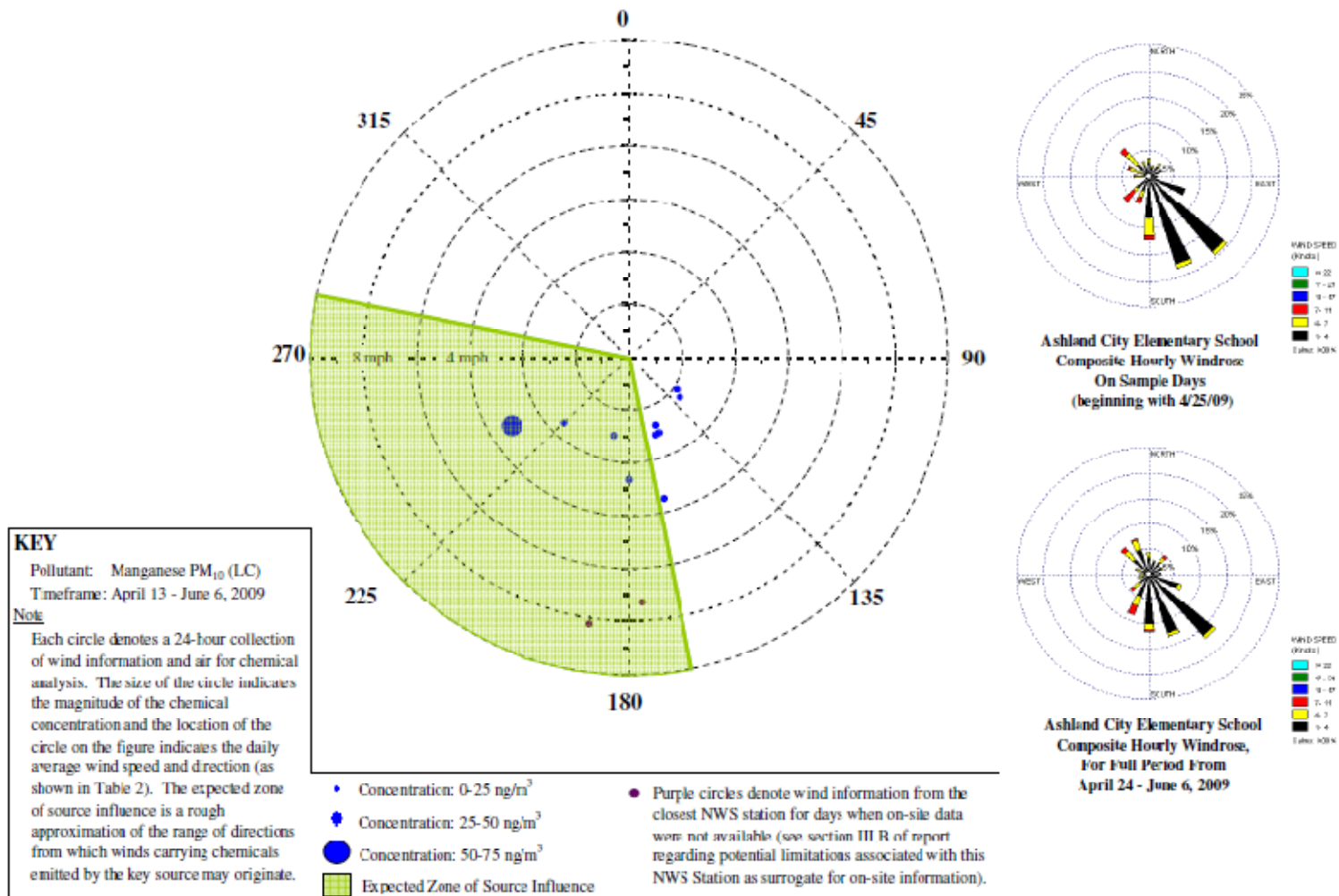
- 63 schools plus 2 Tribal schools to be monitored
  - 2 schools in TN completed 60-day monitoring
  - 54 sites currently operating monitors assessing 61 schools
  - 2 tribal sites/schools fully operating
  - Analysis and communication strategies ongoing
- All data posted on school website ([www.epa.gov/schoolair](http://www.epa.gov/schoolair))
  - Final data for 2 TN schools posted week of 9/7/09
  - Interim data for all schools posted on two-week update schedule
- Communications ongoing with EPA, S/L/T, Communities
  - SAT team meets twice/week
  - Communications calls with regions and states regularly\*
  - Materials distributed for review (OCH, OECA, etc.) as needed

**\*Communications are critical as we have so many players (HQ, Regions, S/L/T, communities, schools, parents) in this program**

# First Two Schools (TN) - Findings

- Ashland City Elementary (#1 school in USA Today) and Lakeview Elementary (#95)
  - Both schools identified based on concern regarding nearby manganese (Mn) sources
  - 12 samples collected April-June
  - Measured concentrations below levels of health-based concern
    - Although data indicate source influence on school air concentrations ...
      - All individual measurements below individual sample (short-term exposure) screening levels
      - Projected long-term averages for Mn and other pollutants below long-term comparison levels
  - Mn source emissions
    - Ashland: Most recent estimates (2007 TRI) less than half estimates used by USA Today or NATA
    - Lakeview: Most recent estimates generally similar to previous estimates
  - Meteorological data (wind patterns) at school differ from those from nearest NWS station (used in USA Today and NATA modeling) but support the notion that wind patterns during the sampling are not inconsistent with long-term wind patterns in the area
  - Next steps:
    - No additional air monitoring planned
    - Recognize TN continued oversight through operating permit programs
    - Also, recognize that collection of on-site wind data (to improve our long-term modeling capabilities) has continued to date and may continue for limited time into future, as resources allow

Figure 2. Ashland Elementay School (Ashland City, TN) Concentration and Wind Information.



# Plans for FY2010

- Initial 63 schools plus 2 Tribal schools monitoring expected to be complete by late February, 2010
  - All results will be posted on the website
  - Final summary report by early April, 2010
  - Enforcement working in parallel examining sources near schools
- Address potential additional needs associated with initial schools
  - FY2010 budget has \$2.5M earmarked for schools monitoring
  - Plan to hold much of these funds initially to cover potential additional monitoring / analysis at initial schools



# Next Steps (FY10 & beyond)

- Issues
  - Commitment to meet with stakeholders before finalizing next steps
    - States (ECOS, NACAA) and communities (NEJAC) all expressed interest in discussing next steps with EPA
    - Other EPA offices (OCH, OECA) have an interest
  - Desire to move toward a community-based toxics monitoring approach
    - Can't cover all 128,000 schools
    - Focus on schools misses potential higher-risk areas in communities – most children spend more time away from school than in school
    - States will not support another round of school-oriented monitoring w/out resources specifically for that activity; they are significantly underfunded for required NAAQS monitoring already
    - Have no intention of abandoning schools and want to avoid that perception in any option
- Revisit EPA's current air toxics monitoring strategy in moving toward developing a long term sustainable strategy
  - With no regulatory monitoring requirements for toxics, we need to develop and implement a strategy that addresses concerns, appropriately targets communities and leverages limited resources
  - Providing resources (funds, monitoring equipment) directly to states is problematic
  - Competitive grant process works, but is extremely slow and may appear unresponsive
  - States want more control over where monitoring is occurring
  - Need to complete screening analyses and transition to a more community-based, sustainable strategy