



Update on IG Investigation

AQS/AirNow Ozone Data Comparison

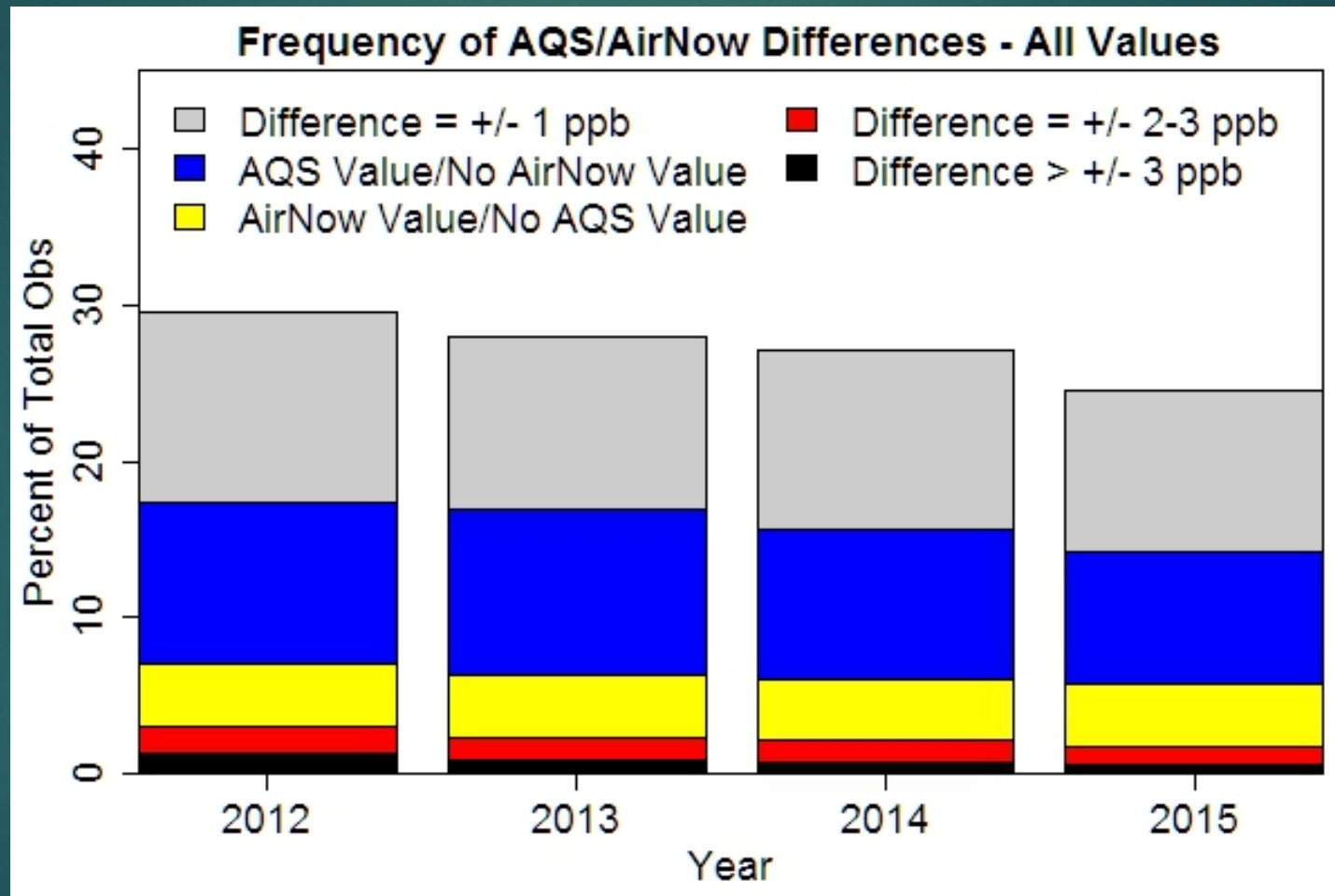
PRESENTATION FOR NACAA MONITORING COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Background

- ▶ The Inspector General's office (OIG) conducted an investigation to determine if ambient ozone monitoring data in AQS met EPA's established QA criteria
 - ▶ Initial investigation focused on comparison of hourly ozone data in AQS and AirNow
 - ▶ OIG conducted follow-up visits to air monitoring programs in three states
 - ▶ Management alert summarizing the findings of the investigation was posted on February 6 (<https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/report-certain-state-local-and-tribal-data-processing-practices-could>).
- ▶ OAQPS conducted an independent analysis of the AQS and AirNow ozone data in order to verify OIG's conclusions
 - ▶ Compared hourly ozone concentration data in AQS and AirNow for years 2012 to 2015
 - ▶ We issued a response to the management alert based on our analysis on February 10

National Results



Conclusions and Next Steps

- ▶ OAQPS and OIG both found about 75% agreement between AQS and AirNow
 - ▶ We are not concerned about differences of +/- 1 ppb (rounding/truncation), or records with AQS data and no AirNow data since reporting data to AirNow is voluntary
 - ▶ Records with AirNow data and no AQS data often represented data collected outside of the ozone season and not reported to AQS, or they could represent legitimate data invalidations
 - ▶ Differences of +/- 2 or 3 ppb may be due to allowable QA practices (zero adjustment)
 - ▶ Potential QA concerns were limited to a handful of states, and often only a subset of monitors in those states
 - ▶ Looking at 2013-2015 design values showed no impact on designations for the 2015 ozone standard
- ▶ Path Forward
 - ▶ OAQPS will update the analysis to include 2016 data after the May 1 certification deadline
 - ▶ We will continue to work with the Regional Offices to ensure that all States are meeting the established QA criteria