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Air Quality Measurements at Nordmedunit, Umm Quasr, Iraq

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CONTENTS

		Page
1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	INSTRUMENTATION	2
3	LOCATION	3
4	WIND DIRECTIONS	3
5	THE FIRST RESULTS	3
6	CONCLUSIONS	4

AIR QUALITY MEASUREMENTS AT NORDMEDUNIT, UMM QUASR, IRAQ

1 INTRODUCTION

The Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) was asked by the Norwegian army field hospital (UNIKOM/NORDMEDUNIT) in Umm Quasr to provide instruments for air quality measurements. The objectives of these measurements were to daily collect air samples to quantify the air pollution impact at the hospital. The health personnel consists of 50 Norwegians. Some of these persons will be located in the area for up to 12 months. A selection of persons will be followed up through medical tests. Information about air quality is thus needed for explanatory reasons. The concern about potential health effects was also mentioned in the request to NILU.

2 INSTRUMENTATION

The following instruments are being used at the Umm Quasr site:

- One automatic 24 h sampler (NILU-FK) for SO₂ and soot measurements (filter and absorption solution).
- One NILU PUF sampler for PAH sampling on filter and on polyurethane foam (filters can also be used for analyses of heavy metals).
- One analog wind recorder (Woelfle) mounted on a 2 m mast, located in an open field.

Temperatures are also measured at 01, 07, 13 and 19 hrs every day.

3 LOCATION

The monitoring site is located near Umm Quasr in the UN controlled zone at the border between Kuwait and Iraq (see map, Figure 1). The area is located 20-50 km north and north east of some of the burning oil fields in the north of Kuwait. The distance from the larger part of the burning oil field is about 100 km.

4 WIND DIRECTIONS

The predominant winds in May and June have been from around north and north-west (roughly 80% of the time). This means that smoke from the fires only rarely has been blown directly from the fire areas towards Umm Quasr. One such period was, however, observed between 26 and 27 May 1991. In the morning of 27 May weak winds (0.5 m/s) from south and west were observed in Umm Ouasr.

5 THE FIRST RESULTS

The 24 h average SO_2 concentrations in May and June 1991 varied between 5 and 36 $\mu g/m^3$. The average concentration was 11.5 ± 6.4 $\mu g/m^3$. The highest concentration, 36 $\mu g/m^3$, was measured on 26-27 May 1991.

The measured 24 h average soot concentrations were between 8 and 400 μ g/m³. The average concentration was 43.3 \pm 71.5 μ g/m³.

The WHO air quality guideline value for black smoke (reflectance method), which is 125 $\mu g/m^3$ as a 24 h average, was exceeded on two occations. On 26-27 May 1991 the measured concentration was more than 3 times the WHO guideline value. On 14-15 June 1991 the soot concentration was 156 $\mu g/m^3$.

Four PAH samples have been analyzed so far. The total PAH con-

centrations varied between 207 and 412 ng/m³. Naphtalene alone accounted for between 45 and 60%. The naphtalene concentrations in air were probably considerably higher. At high temperatures the sampling efficiencies of naphtalene and other volatile PAH-components are usually poor.

The average total PAH concentration of (296 ± 87) ng/m³ is rather low, and much lower than the concentrations measured in some of the industrialized areas in Norway or in streets with high traffic.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Strong conclusions cannot be drawn based on these rather limited data, collected during a period with favourable weather conditions with little air quality impact on the location in Umm Quasr. However, during winds from south and south west, the concentrations of black smoke (soot) at the border between Kuwait and Iraq exceeded the WHO air quality guideline value by a factor of 3. The SO_2 concentrations were surprisingly low and not higher than $36~\mu g/m^3$.

Also the total PAH concentrations were rather low. The most volatile compounds might, however, have been considerably higher than measured by the methods used.

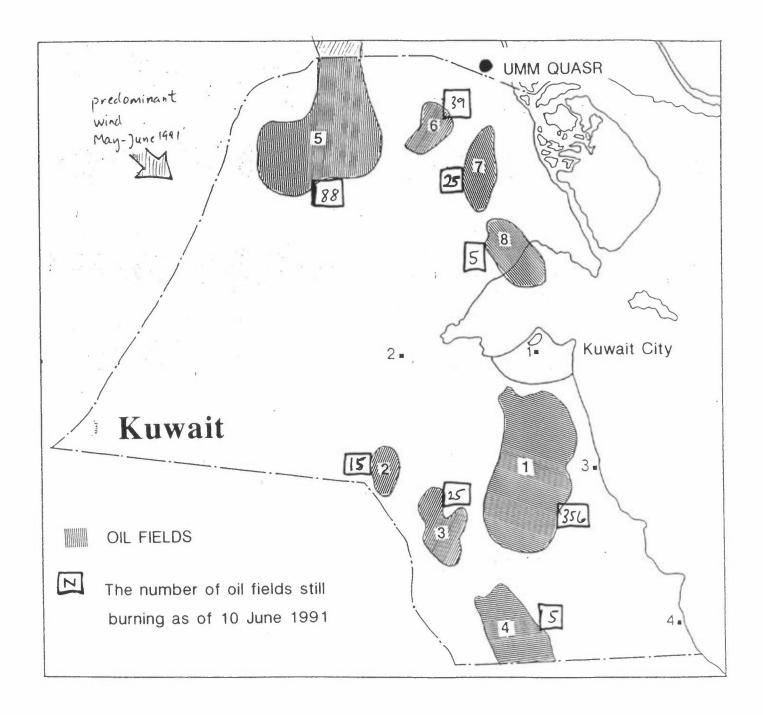
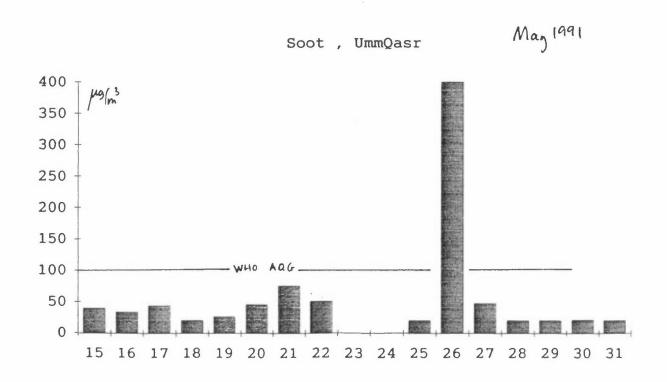


Figure 1: Burning oil fields and location of monitoring site in Umm Quasr.



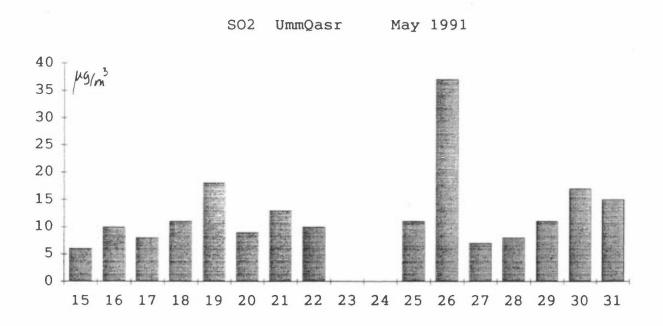


Figure 2: 24 h average concentrations of SO_2 and soot (black smoke) in Umm Quasr at the border between Kuwait and Iraq (May 1991).

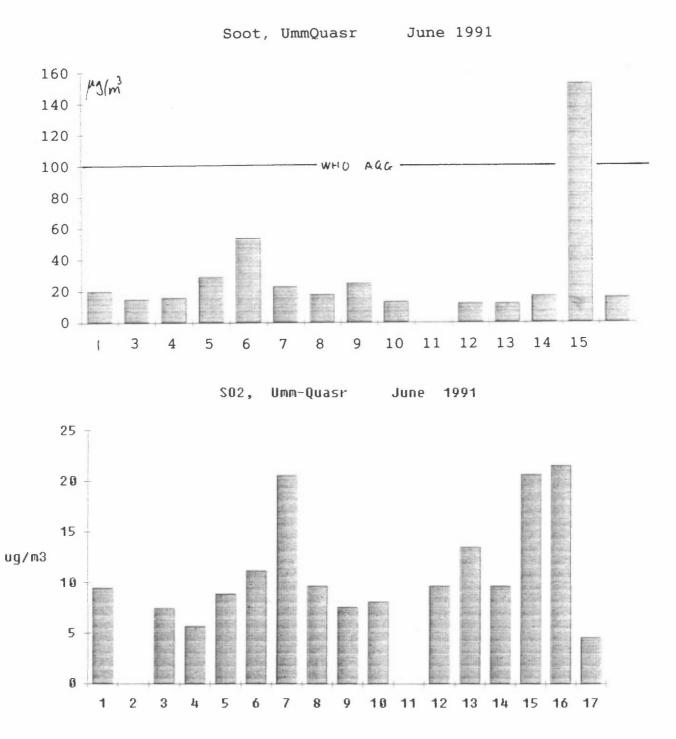


Figure 3: 24 h average concentrations of SO_2 and soot (black smoke) in Umm Quasr at the border between Kuwait and Iraq (June 1991).

Table 1: Concentration of PAH in air (ng/m^3) Umm Quasr, Kuwait

Naphtalene					
2-methylnaphthalene 1-methylnaphthalene 8.8	РАН				15.6.1991 Total
2-methylnaphthalene 1-methylnaphthalene 1-methylnaphthalene 8.8 4.5 7.2 9.1 1-methylnaphthalene 8.8 4.6 2.1 4.2 5.1 8iphenyl Acenaphthylene Acenaphthylene Acenaphthylene Dibenzofuran Fluorene Dibenzothiophene Phenanthrene 48.7 7.2 17.6 34.3 2.7 5.7 Fluorene 15.4 7.2 17.6 34.3 2.7 5.2 2.7 5.2 Anthracene 10.8 2-methylphenanthrene 11.4 3.4 2.5 3.3 2.2 3.3 2.2 3.3 2.2 3.3 2.3 3.3 2.2 3.3 2.3 3.3 2.3 3.3 3	Nanhtalene	228	94 4	184	132
1-methylnaphthalene					9.3
Bipheny					5.6
Acenaphthylene Acenapthene Dibenzofuran Fluorene Dibenzothiophene Dibenzot					17.4
Acenapthene Dibenzofuran Fluorene Dibenzothiophene Phenanthrene Anthracene 10.8 2-methylphenanthrene 11.4 2-metylanthracene 1-methylphenanthrene Fluoranthene Benzo(a) fluorene Benzo(b) fluorene Benzo(g, h, i) fluoranthene Cyklopenta(cd) pyrene Benzo(b, j, k) fluoranthenes Chrysene/Thriphenylene Benzo(b, j, k) fluoranthenes Chrysene/Thriphenylene Benzo(a) pyrene Benzo(a) pyrene Benzo(a) pyrene Benzo(a) pyrene Benzo(b, j, k) fluoranthenes Chrysene/Thriphenylene Benzo(a) pyrene Fluoranthenes Benzo(b, j, k) fluoranthenes Benzo(b, j, k) fluoranthenes Benzo(a) pyrene Benzo(a) pyrene Benzo(a) pyrene Fluoranthenes Benzo(a) pyrene Fluoranthenes Benzo(a) pyrene Fluoranthenes Benzo(a) pyrene Fluoranthene					
Dibenzofuran					
Fluorene		5.7			
Dibenzothiophene		1	7.2	17.6	34.8
Phenanthrene 48.7 31.7 33.2 22. Anthracene 10.8 4.5 6.1 10.4 2-methylphenanthrene 11.4 3.4 2.5 3.4 2-metylanthracene 11.4 3.4 2.5 3.4 2-methylphenanthrene 11.4 2.5 3.4 2-methylphenanthrene 2.7 2.9 1.3 2-methylphenanthrene 2.7 2.9 1.3 2-methylphenanthrene 2.7 2.9 2.9 2-methylphenanthrene 2.7				2.7	5.5
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Chrysene/Thriphenylene 4.6 2.4 1.9 1. Benzo(b,j,k)fluoranthenes 2.7 5.9 2.9 1. Benzo(e)pyrene ~0.8 1.3 1.2 0.1 Benzo(a)pyrene ~0.8 0.3 1.0 0.1 Perylene 1.8 0.7 0.1 Dibenzo(ac/ah)anthraces 0.7 0.1 Benzo(g,h,i)perylene 1.8 1.1 1.1 Anthanthrene 2.0 1.0 1.0 Coronene 2.0 1.0 1.0					~0.4
Benzo(b, j, k) fluoranthenes 2.7 5.9 2.9 1.2 Benzo(e) pyrene ~0.8 1.3 1.2 0.1 Benzo(a) pyrene ~0.8 0.3 1.0 0.1 Perylene 1.8 0.7 0.1 Dibenzo(ac/ah) anthraces Benzo(g,h,i) perylene 1.8 1.1 1.4 Anthanthrene 2.0 1.0 1.0 Coronene 2.0 1.0 1.0				1.9	1.1
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Benzo(a)pyrene "0.8 0.3 1.0 0.1 Perylene Inden-(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene 1.8 0.7 0.1 Dibenzo(ac/ah)anthraces Benzo(g,h,i)perylene 1.8 1.1 1.1 Anthanthrene 2.0 1.0 1.0 Coronene 1,2,4,5-dibenzopyrene 1.0 1.0					0.6
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Dibenzo(ac/ah)anthraces Benzo(g,h,i)perylene Anthanthrene Coronene 1,2,4,5-dibenzopyrene 1.8 1.1 1.0 1.0			1.8	0.7	0.7
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene 1.8 1.1 1.4 Anthanthrene 2.0 1.0 1,2,4,5-dibenzopyrene					
Anthanthrene Coronene 2.0 1,2,4,5-dibenzopyrene			1.8	1.1	1.0
Coronene 2.0 1.0 1,2,4,5-dibenzopyrene					
1,2,4,5-dibenzopyrene			2.0	1.0	
Total 412 207 303 260					
	Total	412	207	303	260

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ABSTRACT

The first results of air quality measurements performed by NILU in Umm Quasr, at the border of Kuwait and Iraq show high concentrations of black smoke, and rather low concentrations of SO_2 and PAH.

* Kategorier: Åpen - kan bestilles fra NILU A
Må bestilles gjennom oppdragsgiver B
Kan ikke utleveres C