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June 6, 2011

RE: Poor, Very Poor AQI and Particulate Matter Exceedences in the LICA monitoring network, AENV reference 248008

In the early hours of the morning on Friday June 3, 2011, the LICA monitoring network detected a number of elevated fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) readings at all of stations equipped to monitor PM_{2.5} (Cold Lake South, Portable Station, and St. Lina). These elevated readings resulted in *Poor* and *Very Poor* Air Quality Index values; as per the terms and conditions in LICA's contract with AENV for operating the Cold Lake South station, these air quality events were reported to the Department's Policy Division. The *Poor* and *Very Poor* air quality events had largely tapered off by the time the workday started on Friday morning and air quality in the City of Cold Lake was rated as being *Fair* by around 7am and *Good* by 9am.

As a result of the elevated particulate matter concentrations, there were exceedences (concentrations ranging from 31-38 µg/m³, AENV reference 248008) of the 24-hour Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objective (AAAQO) for particulate (PM_{2.5}) of 30µg/m³ at the Portable monitoring station.

The large forest fire burning north of Fort McMurray in the Richardson backcountry was the likely cause of the regionally high particulate matter episodes in the LICA airshed. The timing of the exceedences coincided very closely with the predictions in the hour-by-hour forecasting of smoke from wildfires in Western Canada provided through the BlueSky system.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Bisaga'.

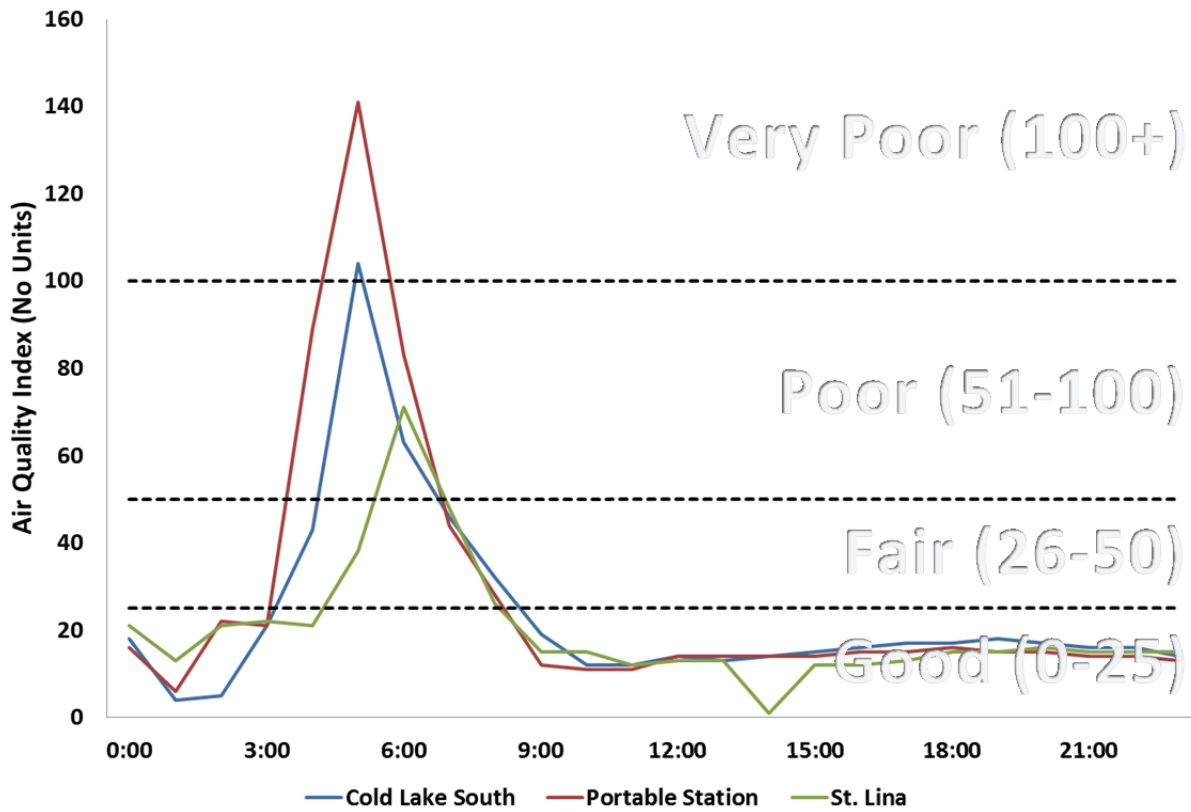
Michael Bisaga

Airshed Program Manager
Lakeland Industry and Community Association

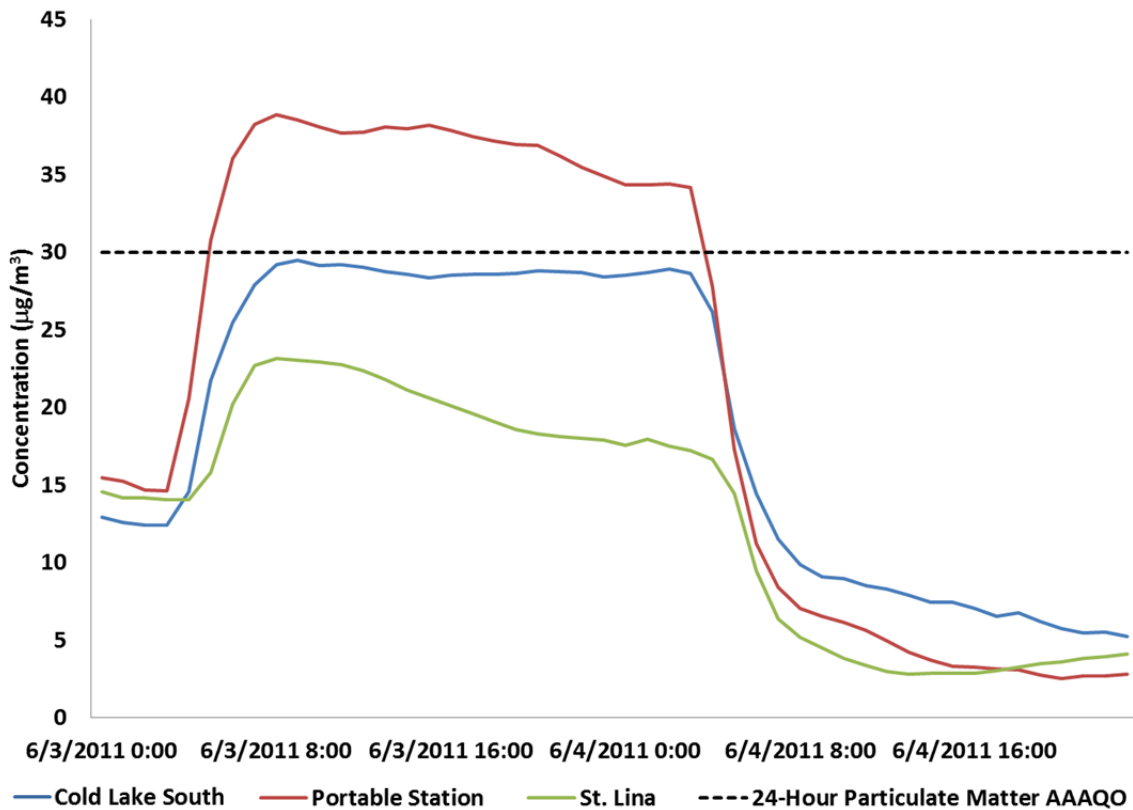
cc (email): Lili Goncalves (Imperial Oil), Monty Moore (Husky), Kathleen Zellweger (Shell), Roxane Bretzlaff (CNRL), Shannon Makinson (Cenovus), Charmaine Code (LICA), Doug Wong (AENV-Region), Bob Myrick (AENV-Policy).

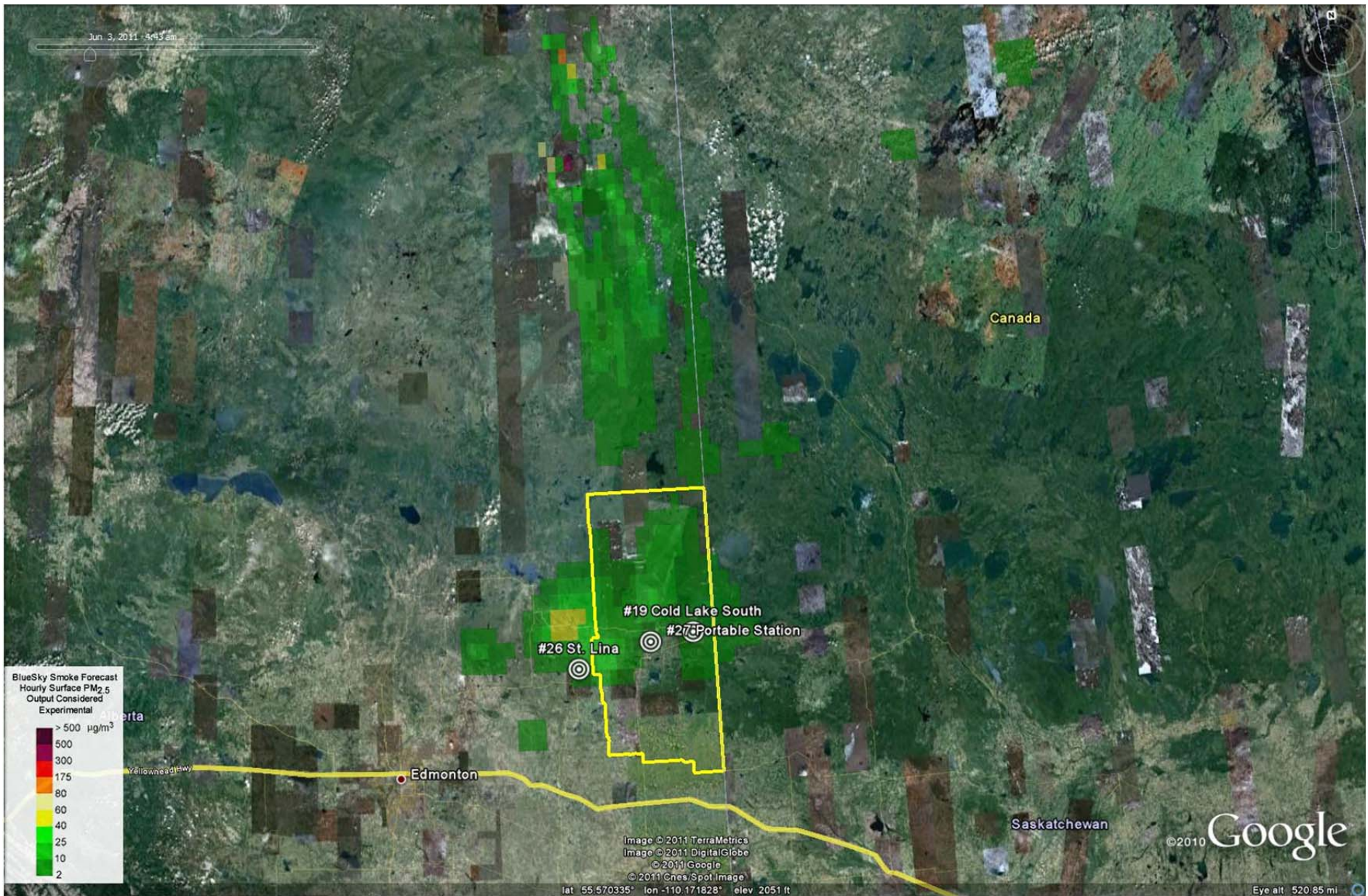
Attachments: Air Quality Index chart, 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentrations, BlueSky Forest Fire Smoke Forecast Map.

Air Quality Index (June 3 2011, 00:00 - 23:00)



Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) 24-Hour Rolling Average





BlueSky Smoke Forecast: June 3, 2011, 04:45