



ABSTRACT - Air Quality Monitoring in Brazil

Currently, air pollution stands out as one of the most complex environmental issues, responsible for the deaths of 3.6 million people in the world only in 2012. Therefore, air quality monitoring constitutes one of the main tools for maintaining safe levels of pollutants in the atmosphere.

In Brazil, the CONAMA Resolution Nº 05 of 15/06/1989 establishes the National Programme for Control of Air Quality (PRONAR), which determines the creation of a National Network for Monitoring Air Quality. CONAMA Resolution Nº 03 of 28/06/1990 establishes what should be the standards for air quality and the responsibility of states for air monitoring in their respective territories. In addition, there is the Law Nº 10.650/2003 which provides for public access to environmental information in existing agencies and members of the National Environmental System entities.

Due to lack of data compiled representing the national scene monitoring the air quality, it was decided to investigate the current situation of the monitoring network of the existing air in the country through information posted on the websites of state environmental agencies. Access to monitoring data on websites is usually offered through periodic reports and air quality bulletins, and, in most cases, the information is qualitative, not very transparent, is outdated or is not appropriate for query history. The website of CETESB should serve as an example because it offers an interactive platform for generating information. The monitoring of air quality in the country occurs in four regions, except the North, and only in 40% of federative units (11/27); the Federal District and 10 states, namely: Bahia, Espírito Santo, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Paraná, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, São Paulo and Sergipe.

Only 1.7% of the cities are covered by air monitoring. The Southeast region represents 78% of the monitored cities. The North, Midwest and Northeast regions have enormous lack of monitoring of air quality in their areas. A total of 252 monitoring stations were identified, but not all pollutants are monitored in each aggravating the monitoring situation. The Particulate Matter (PM) is monitored in 82% of all stations, O₃ in 46%, and SO₂ in 45%. São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro monitor PM_{2,5}, respectively, 16% and 22% of their stations. Most part of the states manages their own stations, except Bahia, where the management is conducted only by private companies.

Thus, the public access to monitoring data is not adequate; the PRONAR was not fulfilled; part of the federative units has not implemented air monitoring in their territories or performs incompletely, with prejudice, at least, to the monitoring of air quality in the



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country, to combat of air pollution, to the health of Brazilians, and to dissemination of information to society. Resolutions sinned in not setting deadlines for the establishment of their determinations, and in not providing sanctions for the failure to meet their recommendations by state governments and IBAMA, which remain silent for 25 years. These facts indicate that there is still a long and urgent way to go, to understand the monitoring of air quality in the country, which outdated and insecure.