• **Reduced Number of Sampler Cartridges Deployed** – As noted in last month’s report, there will be a reduction in the number of samplers sent to sites, starting with the samples deployed on 1/4/2011. Site operators will continue to receive two jars, one with a sampler to be deployed in the field (long tubing with white plug), and the other containing a travel blank (short tubing with a black plug). Three sites (IL11, MN18 & NY67) will continue receiving triplicate samples as a quality assurance study.

• **Binder Clips for Securing Samplers in Holder** – Several sites have noted that the plastic tubing on the sampler isn’t sufficient to hold the cartridge securely to the bolt in the enclosure. We recommend using a medium-sized binder clip around the tubing, as suggested in the field SOP. (See photo at right.) We are enclosing a binder clip in the next set of samplers sent out. Please keep the clip at your site, and let us know if you need more.

• **Sampler Receipt and Storage** – The ammonia absorption cartridges are shipped out the week before deployment. You should have no more than two sets on site at a time: One deployed in the field, and one waiting to be deployed. If you must store your samplers for an extended period, we recommend that they be kept in a refrigerator or freezer. Please let us also know ASAP of any cartridges or glass jars damaged in shipment, and we will send you a replacement set.

• **Shipping Delays** – The CAL typically ships out cartridges the Tuesday before deployment, allowing one week for transit to your site. If you do not receive your shipment in time for deployment on the scheduled Tuesday morning, contact the CAL (phone 1-800-952-7353 or email clehmann@illinois.edu) and we will track the shipment. We suggest leaving the cartridges in the field until the new cartridges arrive, unless there is a significant delay in shipment.

• **Travel Blanks** – The NADP validates AMoN sampler sets based on the travel blank concentration. The acceptable limit is 0.2 mg/L ammonium in the travel blank solution, or a field concentration of ~0.4 µg/m³. Several samples were flagged with high travel blank concentrations in this month’s data set. We’re continuing to investigate the source of contamination, and laboratory blanks from the CAL are consistently low.

• **Sample Change Dates** – Here’s the Tuesday sample change schedule for January – February 2011:
  - January 4
  - January 18
  - February 1
  - February 15
• **Sample Change Dates** – Here’s the Tuesday sample change schedule for January – February 2011:
  - January 4
  - January 18
  - February 1
  - February 15

You will receive your preliminary data report for this month as a separate email. All AMoN data is posted on the NADP website at [http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu/nh3net/data/](http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu/nh3net/data/).

I do appreciate your feedback, concerns, and questions about AMoN. My contact information is shown below. Thank you for your continued efforts and support of the AMoN program!

All the best,

*Chris*

Christopher Lehmann, AMoN Liaison
National Atmospheric Deposition Program
Telephone: 217-265-8512; Fax: 217-333-0249
Toll-free: 1-800-952-7353
Email: clehmann@illinois.edu