

## MODELING FOR PREDICTION OF SPM, NO<sub>x</sub> AND SO<sub>2</sub> FROM EMISSIONS OF A CEMENT FACTORY USING AERMOD DISPERSION MODEL

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### ABSTRACT

Industrial activities are sources of high emission rates of suspended particulate matter, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and other pollutants. The existence of many such industrial plants close to a populated area can have a severe effect on human health (Alexander Cohan et al (2011)). The effects can be even worse when these emissions are added to existing background concentration levels. This paper deals with the case study for the prediction of the SPM, NO<sub>x</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub> pollution caused by industrial activities close to the villages of Tadipatri in Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh state. An atmospheric dispersion model AERMOD 9.1 was used. Meteorological data for one year was processed using AERMET processor (z. mousavi et al (2014)). The model was run for pollutants SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> with different scenarios. Model runs were made for yearly, monthly, averaged emission scenarios. The output files for the parameters Suspended particulate matter (SPM), Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) were evolved for all the months of the study period from January 2014 to December 2014. The isopleths were plotted for the same and these concentration contours are very important in determining the spatial distribution of Suspended particulate matter (SPM), Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) over the modeled area. For the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, the predicted concentrations were found to be in good agreement with the measured data. For AERMOD model, values of coefficient of determination R<sup>2</sup> are in the range 0.79 to 0.90. The model outputs were compared with NAAQS, 2009 norms. It may therefore be inferred that AERMOD model gives better results. The results demonstrated that the AERMOD model can be applied to study the dispersion of criteria air pollutant concentrations and that the predictions are of reasonable accuracy and may be used for any other industry in its vicinity up to 50 km Diameter.

**KEYWORDS:** Pollutant, Dispersion, Impact, Modeling, Isopleths

### INTRODUCTION

The cement industry contributes significantly to the imbalances of the environment; in particular air quality. The key environmental emissions are nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and grey dust. Industrial plant smokestacks from cement and construction companies are some of the biggest contributors to poor air quality, especially in urban developments. The principal aim in pollution control in the cement industry is to minimize the increase in ambient particulate levels by reducing the mass load emitted from the stacks, from fugitive emissions and from other sources (SandeepZade et al (2015)). The World Health Organization states that 2.4 million people die each year from causes directly attributable to air pollution. Epidemiological studies suggest that more than 500,000 people die each year from cardiopulmonary disease linked to breathing fine particle air pollution (WHO, 2007).

## Study Area

Ultra Tech Cement Ltd (UTCL) Andhra Pradesh Cement Works is located at Bhogasamudram, 16 km from Tadipatrimandal in Anantapur district Andhra Pradesh, India. The latitude  $15^{\circ} 01' 13''$  N and longitude  $78^{\circ} 01' 54''$  E

Cement plant is located at the hill top (351.5 m. MSL) and the packing plant & wagon tippler are located down the hill (266.0 m. MSL). The plant is located at the border line between Kurnool & Anantapur districts, 70 km from Anantapur city. The nearest railway station is "Juturu" between Tadipatri & Gooty on the Guntakal-Chennai line. The grinding unit is located in Arakkonam in the Tamilnadu state. This unit is not producing the clinker and it is taking the clinker from APCW and manufacturing OPC and PPC. Ultra Tech Cement Limited is one of the India's largest cement producers with state-of-the-art dry process plants incorporating pre-calcination technology; advanced instrumentation systems, computerized, process control and online quality control by X-ray ensure consistent production of high quality cement.

UTCL has five integrated cement plants one among is APCW, which has as an installed capacity of 2.3 Million Tonnes per annum, and is situated in Tadipatri, Andhra Pradesh. This plant has one grinding unit installed in Arakkonam, Tamilnadu.

## METHODOLOGY

### Air Dispersion Modelling Using AERMOD

AERMOD is a steady-state plume model designed for short-range (up to 50 kilometers) dispersion of air pollutant emissions from stationary industrial sources. The AERMOD modeling system consists of one main program (AERMOD) and two pre-processors (AERMET and AERMAP). The major purpose of AERMET is to calculate boundary layer parameters for use by AERMOD. The major purpose of AERMAP is to calculate terrain heights and receptor grids for AERMOD. Both AERMET and AERMAP require observational data to parameterize the growth and structure of the atmospheric boundary layer. AERMOD uses terrain, boundary layer and source data to model pollutant transport and dispersion for calculating temporally averaged air pollution concentrations.

### Dispersion Modelling Along With Necessary Model Inputs which are as Follows

**AERMET:** calculates boundary layer parameters for input to AERMOD

**Model inputs:** wind speed; wind direction; cloud cover; ambient temperature; morning sounding; albedo; surface roughness; Bowen ratio

**Model outputs:** wind speed; wind direction; ambient temperature; lateral turbulence; vertical turbulence; sensible heat flux; friction velocity; Monin-Obukhov Length

**AERMAP:** calculates terrain heights and receptor grids for input to AERMOD

**Model inputs:** DEM data [x, y, z]; design of receptor grid (pol, cart, disc.)

**Model outputs:** [x, y, z] and hill height scale for each receptor

**AERMOD:** calculates temporally-averaged air pollution concentrations at receptor locations for comparison to the NAAQS

**Model inputs:** source parameters (from permit application); boundary layer meteorology (from AERMET); receptor data (from AERMAP) (Noorpoor et al (2015)).

### **Meteorological Data for Aermom**

AERMET requires as input;

- Surface characteristics in the form of albedo,
- Surface roughness and
- Bowen ratio plus standard meteorological observations.

Planetary boundary level parameters such as;

- Friction velocity,
- Monin-obukhov length,
- Convective velocity scale,
- Temperature scale,
- Mixing height and
- Surface heat flux are then estimated by AERMET.

AERMET basic input data includes following items:

- Hourly surface data
- Upper air data
- Location of the pertinent site
- Sectors and Surface data.

These are explained below,

### **Hourly Surface Data Requirements Include Below Listed Parameters**

- Cloud covers (tenths)
- Ceiling height (m)
- Dry bulb temperature (OC)
- Global horizontal radiation (whm-2d-1)
- Relative humidity (%)
- Precipitation amount (hundredths of inches).
- Station pressure (mb)
- Wind direction (deg)

- Wind speed (m/s)

### Upper Air Data

Estimating upper air data is by upper air estimator.

### Upper Air Estimator

Estimates upper air data from hourly surface data Location of the pertinent site, sectors and surface data: There are specific values assigned for albedo, Bowen ratio and surface roughness depending upon the land use types. Albedo is the proportion of sunlight that is reflected back into space without absorption. Albedo values range from 0.1 for thick deciduous forests to 0.9 for fresh snow. Bowen ratio indicates amount of moisture available to drive turbulent processes. It is the ratio of sensible heat flux to latent heat flux. During day time, Bowen ratio attains a fairly constant positive value ranging from 0.1 over water to 10 over desert at mid-day.

Surface roughness length is an indicator of amount of drag the ground surface exerts on the wind. It is related to the height of obstacles to the wind flow and is in principle the height at which the mean horizontal wind speed is zero. Values range from less than 0.001m over calm water surface to 1m or more over a forest or urban area.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The AERMOD model used in this study requires input information on emission sources at the cement industry site-specific meteorological data. The input data that describe both the emission source and meteorology provide a comprehensive set of information which can be used to run the AERMOD model and thus simulate the ground level concentrations of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPM), Sulfur Dioxides (SO<sub>2</sub>), and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) from stationary sources of a cement industry.

The emission source information that needs to be input into the model is restricted to the physical stack dimensions (height, location, internal diameter) as well as the velocity and temperature of the released gas, and the SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, and NO<sub>x</sub> emission rates. In addition the model requires the site-specific meteorological information as input data. The data were collected from India meteorological department and from the website [www.metcheck.com/IN/](http://www.metcheck.com/IN/) National solar research satellite data.

It should be noted that the AERMOD model requires meteorological data to be used on an hourly basis format.

Typical meteorological file developed AERMOD format is shown in **figure 1**.

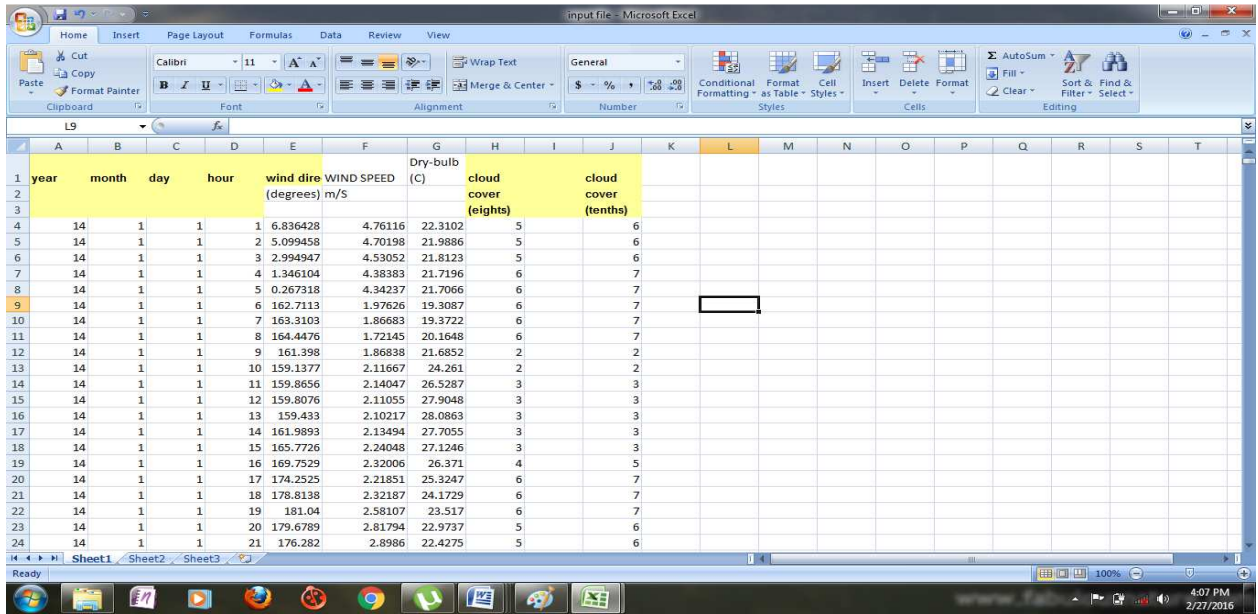


Figure 1: Typical Meteorological Data File Developed AERMOD Format

There are two basic types of inputs that are needed to run the AERMOD model. They are:

- The surface file, and
- The profile file.

The Typical profile file of AERMOD format is shown in figure 2

The Typical surface file of AERMOD format is shown in figure 3

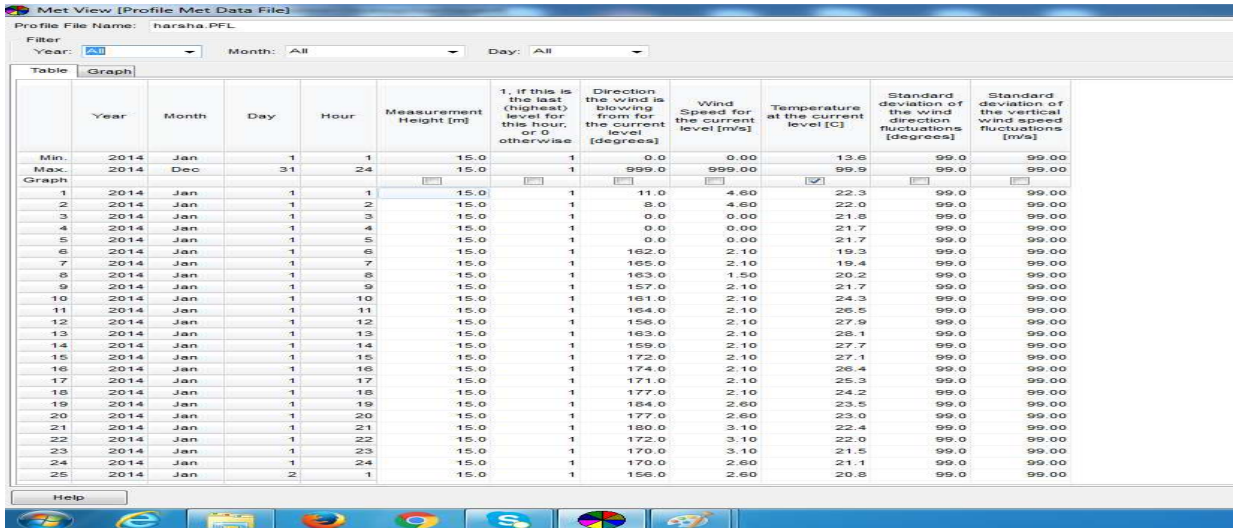


Figure 2: Typical PROFILE File of AERMOD Format

Figure 3: Typical SURFACE File of AERMOD Format

With MET data processed through AERMET processor and providing input for sources and receptors along with terrain features, dispersion model was prepared using AERMOD 9.1. The model was run for pollutants SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>

- One year met data.
- Monthly

The MODEL was run for SPM, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>.

The results in terms of concentration contours were represented in this chapter along with its interpretation. Output also includes pollutant concentration at key receptors locations (Villages) as well as nearby locations within a boundary of 15 km.

The model was run for one year met data the receptors concentrations were obtained for 2 hr ,6 hr, 12hr, 24 hr average (daily) , monthly and Annually ,based upon NAAQS, 2009 norms. Results were compared with NAAQS, 2009 to check any violation of norms by the industry.

The Model was run with spm, so<sub>2</sub>, no<sub>x</sub> pollutants and MET data for one year.

- 2 Hr Average- One year MET data
- 6 Hr Average- One year MET data
- 12 Hr Average- One year MET data
- 24 Hr Average- One year MET data
- Annual Average- One year MET data

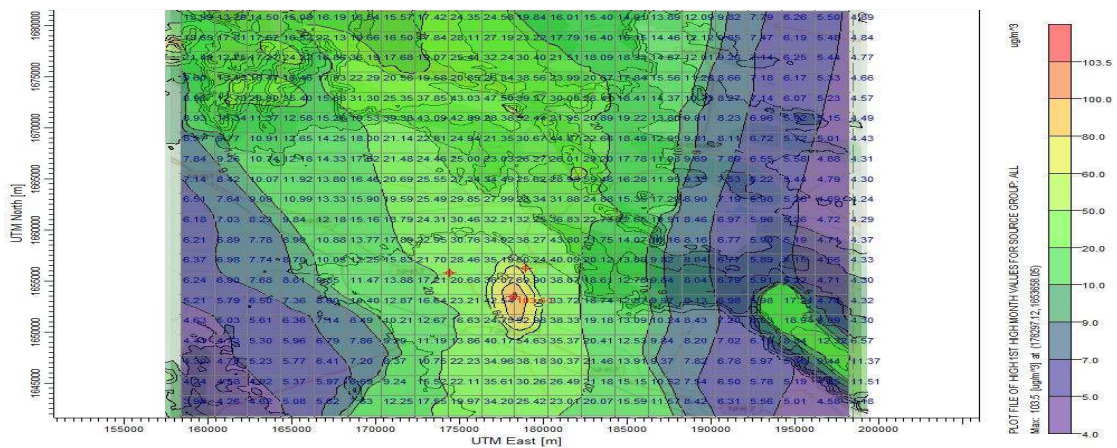
**Key Assumptions in the Model**

- The emission rate is constant.
- Dispersion (diffusion) is negligible in the downwind (x) direction
- Horizontal meteorological conditions are homogenous over the space being modeled.

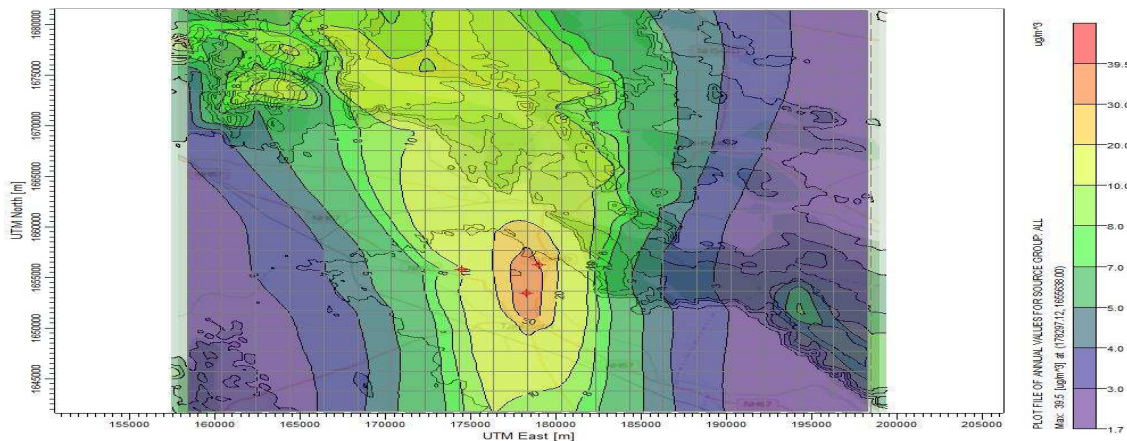
**For Each Hour Modeled**

- An average wind speed is used
- Wind direction is constant
- Temperature is constant
- Atmospheric stability class is constant
- Mixing height is constant
- Pollutant are non-reactive gases or aerosols
- The plume is reflected at the surface with no deposition or reaction with the Surface
- The dispersion in the crosswind (y) and vertical (z direction) take form of Gaussian distributions about the plume centerline.

**Spatial Distribution of Concentrations of CRITERIA POLLUTANT**



**Figure 4: Isopleths of SPM Concentration Contours 24 Hr Average (One Year Met Data)**



**Figure 5: Isopleths of SPM Concentration Contours Annual Average (One Year Met Data)**

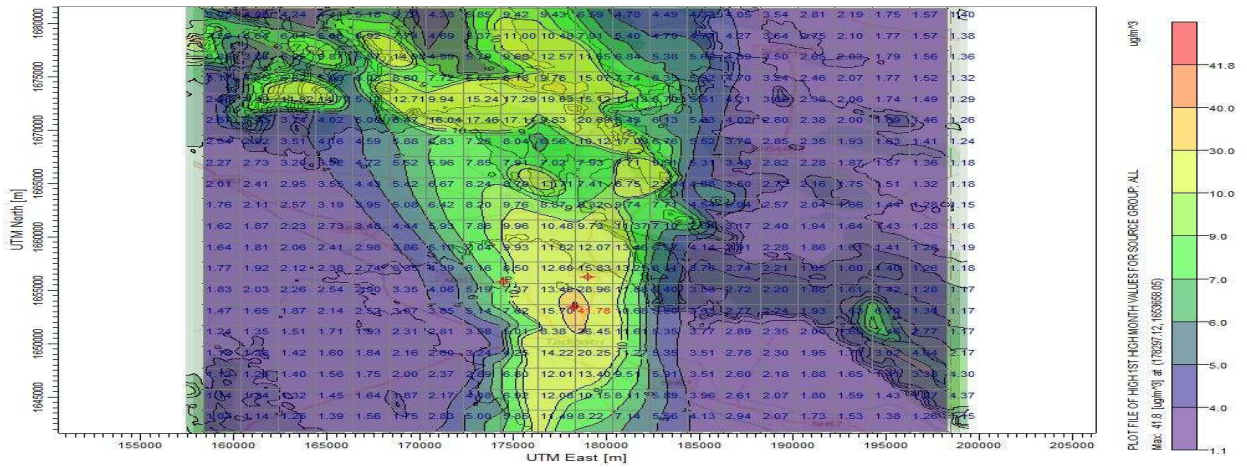


Figure 6: Isopleths of NO<sub>x</sub> Concentration Contours 24Hr Average (One Year Met Data)

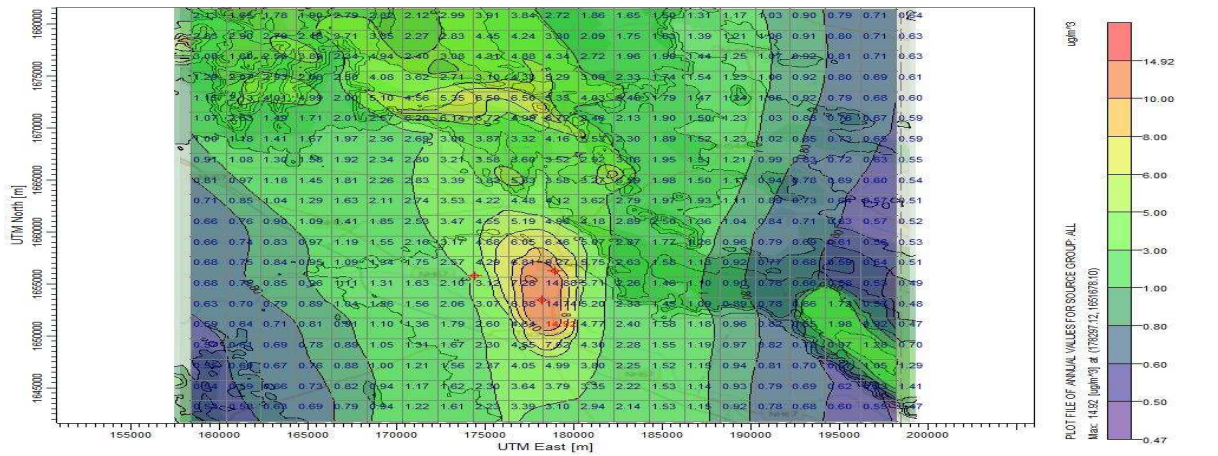


Figure 7: Isopleths of NO<sub>x</sub> Concentration Contours Annual Average (One Year Met Data)

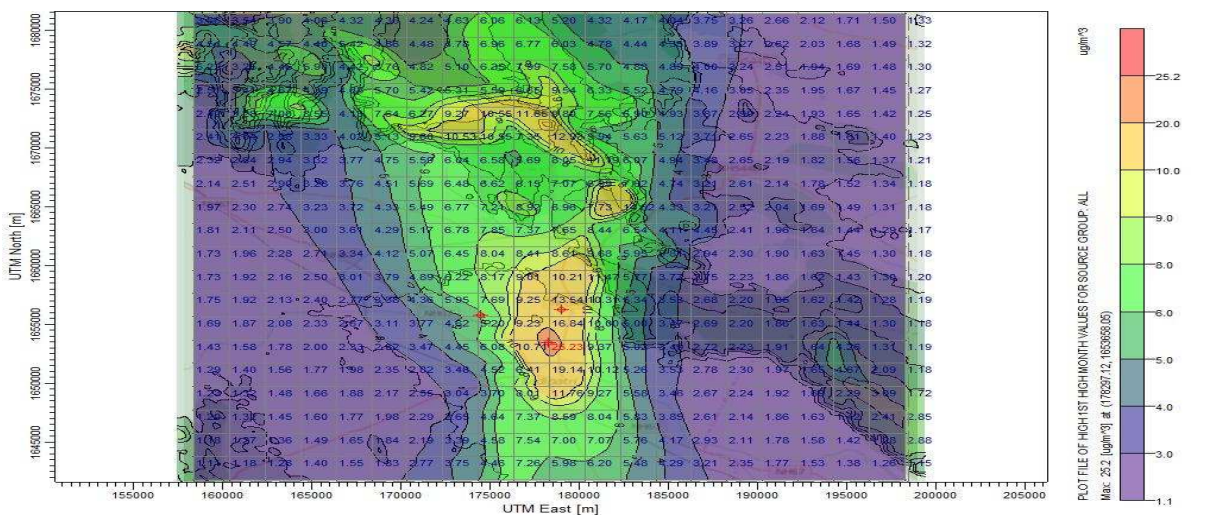


Figure 8: Isopleths of SO<sub>2</sub> Concentration Contours 24 Hr Average (One Year Met Data)



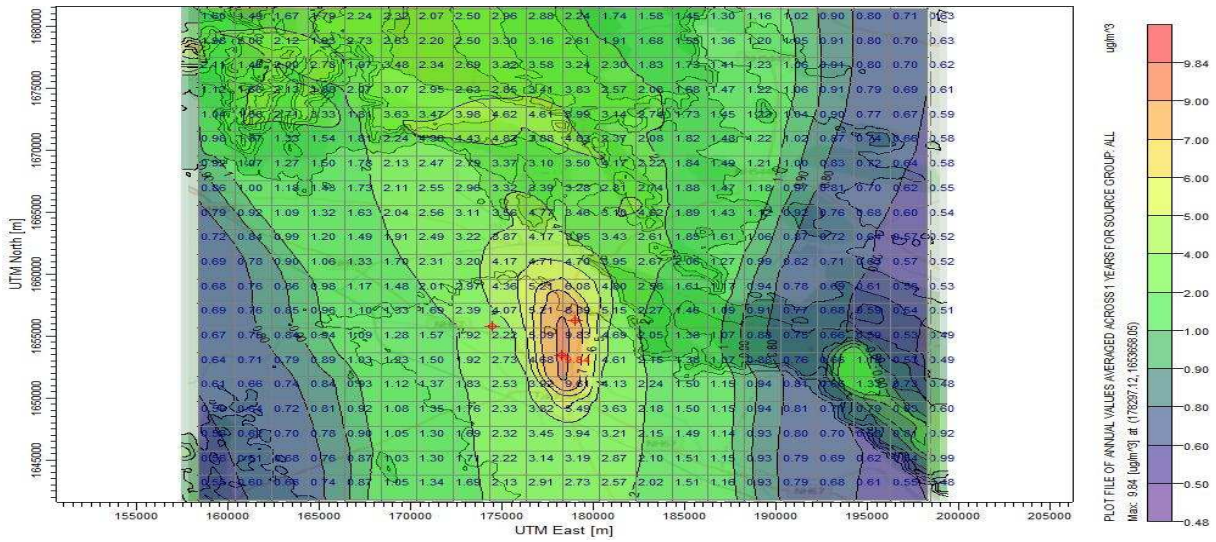


Figure 9: Isopleths of SO<sub>2</sub> Concentration Contours Annual Average (One Year Met Data)

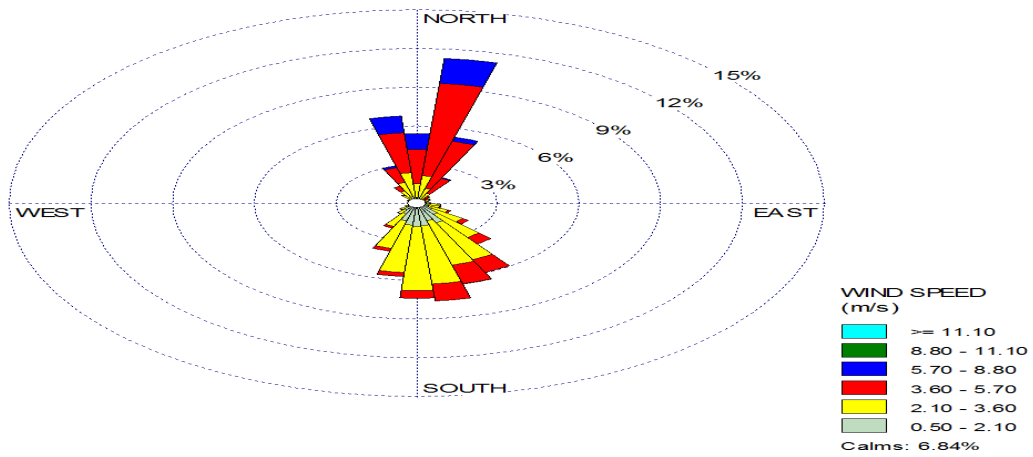


Figure 10: Typical Wind Rose Diagram

Spatial Distribution of Criteria Pollutant as Over GOOGLE MAP of Location

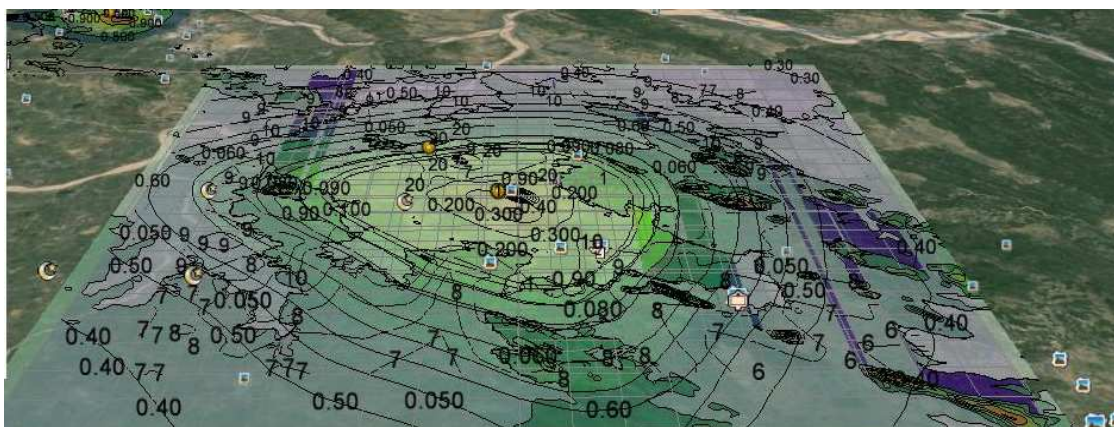


Figure 11: Spatial Distribution of SPM over Study Area

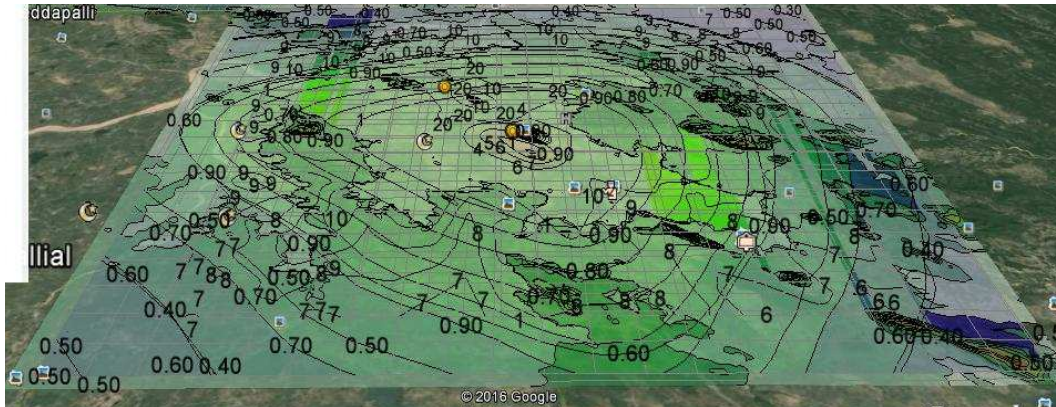


Figure 12: Spatial Distribution of SO<sub>2</sub> over Study Area

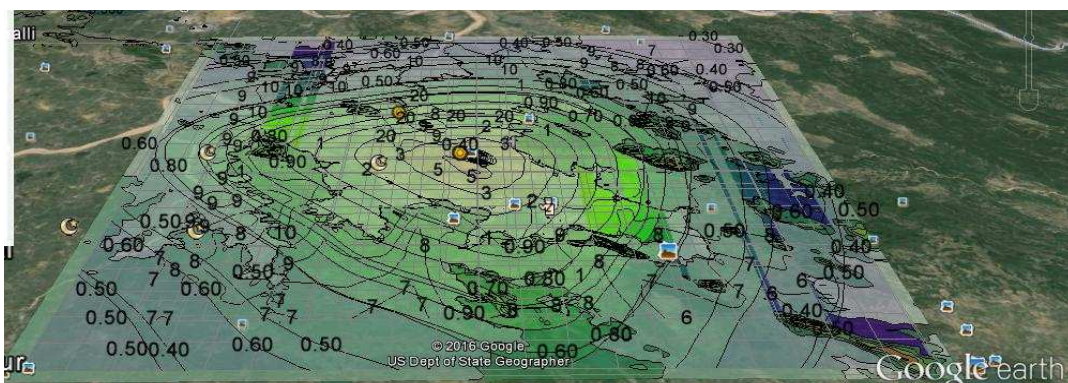


Figure 13: Spatial Distribution of NO<sub>x</sub> over Study Area

**Validation of AERmod**

Andhra Pradesh State pollution control board (APPCB) established two ambient air quality monitoring stations around the source point of ultra tech cement industry. The coordinates of the monitoring stations are identified from the grid map. Details of source and monitoring stations in the study area are shown in the following table 1.

**Table 1: Details of Source and Monitoring Stations in the Study Area**

Source/Monitoring Station	Latitude	Longitude	Coordinates	
			X	Y
AAQMS-1	15.7114	78.4690	178926.58	1662584.17
AAQMS-2	15.7119	78.4642	17894.32	1662553.10

Modeled output values are collected from the output files of the AERMOD model, these values are not included the background concentrations of the site. Predicted (P) values can be calculated by adding the background concentrations to the modeled output concentrations. APPCB provided the measured (M) values from the monitoring stations for the period of January-2014 to December-2014. Validation of modeling is carried out through the predicted and measured concentrations of SPM, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>.

**Statistical Performance**

The coefficient of determination, R<sup>2</sup>, is calculated using a Pearson correlation coefficient calculator for predicted concentrations from AERmod and measured values from all the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations. For the best curve fit R<sup>2</sup> must be 1. Table1 provides a Statistical performance measure of AERmod model.

**Table 2: Statistical Performance Measures of AERMOD Model**

Parameter	Monitoring Station	R <sup>2</sup>	Inference
SPM	AAQMS-1	0.84	Strong positive correlation
	AAQMS-2	0.83	Strong positive correlation
SO <sub>2</sub>	AAQMS-1	0.79	Strong positive correlation
	AAQMS-2	0.81	Strong positive correlation
NO <sub>x</sub>	AAQMS-1	0.90	Strong positive correlation
	AAQMS-2	0.88	Strong positive correlation

## CONCLUSIONS

The replication of pollutant (SPM, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>) dispersion from the cement industry was obtained by applying a AERMOD model and the results of predicted values were compared with the measured concentrations at the UTCL site from January 2014 to December 2014 made available by APPCB. For the Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, the predicted concentrations were found to be in good agreement with the measured data. For AERMOD model, values of coefficient of determination R<sup>2</sup> are in the range 0.79 to 0.90. It may therefore be inferred that AERMOD model gives better results. The results demonstrated that the AERMOD model can be applied to study the dispersion of criteria air pollutant concentrations and that the predictions are of reasonable accuracy and may be used for any other industry in its vicinity up to 50 km Diameter.

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