

Sitting Criteria

- purpose of site, i.e., atmospheric or ecological
- influence of local sources
- meteorological parameters availability
- gas and aerosol measurements

Chemical analysis methods

- analysis techniques and their limitation
- intercalibration
- priority and analysis

Shipment and storage

- time of storage and shipment
- method of shipping
- storage procedures

Quality assurance

- well define program
- outside reviewers

All of the above impinge to some degree on the final data a network produces.

4. Trends in Precipitation Chemistry Data

The obvious question that is asked in connection with the acid rain problem is whether we can see increasing (or decreasing) trends in precipitation acidity. Especially one would expect an increase of acidity with the corresponding increase in emissions of SO₂ and NO₂ (Figures 1 and 2). To evaluate the severity of the problem, researchers constructed areal acidity distributions from the historical data (Cogbill and Likens, 1979, Likens et al.,