

2.1 Suspended Particulated Matter (SPM) Particulate matters exist naturally and also from manmade activities, such as from motor vehicles exhausts, traffics, industries. They can cause respiratory problems as well as visibility disturbance.

Results from Office of National Environment Board monitoring network of 1983-1986 shows that particulate matter levels of all stations are above, or very near the ambient air quality standards for SPM (0.10 mg/cu.m for annual average). The results indicate seriousness of the SPM problem in Bangkok Metropolitan area.

Hourly samples of SPM are also monitored and it is found that SPM level is always highest in the early morning when there is heavy traffic and calm wind condition.

Complaints from SPM problem also arise from activities such as tapioca loading and manufacturing, steel smelting and constructions, especially in the central and eastern provinces.

2.2 Lead Lead in the air usually comes from lead in the gasoline used as the antiknock agent. During combustion, lead is emitted with the exhaust gases into the air. Lead is a highly toxic substance which can cause gastrointestinal disturbances as well as effects on the nervous systems.