National Outlook for December 20-21

Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI Levels in Minneapolis-St. Paul

**Thursday, December 20 - Friday, December 21:** In the East, surface high pressure over Ohio will produce generally light winds, limiting pollutant dispersion and allowing pollutants to build up. In addition, high humidity throughout the region will enhance particle production. As a result of these conditions, widespread Moderate AQI levels are expected throughout the Midwest, the Mid-Atlantic states, and the Northeast. Furthermore, a strong temperature inversion over Minneapolis-St. Paul on both days will limit vertical mixing and trap pollutants near the ground. Therefore, AQI levels in the Twin Cities are expected to reach Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels on both Thursday and Friday.

In the West, surface high pressure over the Four Corners region will lead to light winds and limited pollutant dispersion. These conditions will result in Moderate AQI levels in isolated cities in Arizona and New Mexico. In addition, moisture ahead of a low pressure system moving through southern California will enhance particle formation, resulting in Moderate AQI levels in that region on Thursday. Behind the system, light winds will lead to Moderate AQI levels for some sites in the San Francisco Bay area on Friday.