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**Investigating
sources of gaseous
oxidized mercury**

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Investigating sources of gaseous oxidized mercury in dry deposition at three sites across Florida, USA

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Abstract

During 2009–2010, the State of Florida established a series of air quality monitoring stations to collect data for development of a statewide total maximum daily load (TMDL) for mercury (Hg). At three of these sites, located near Ft. Lauderdale (DVE), Pensacola (OLF), and Tampa Bay (TPA), passive samplers for the measurement of air Hg concentrations and surrogate surfaces for measurement of Hg dry deposition were deployed. While it is known that Hg in wet deposition in Florida is high compared to the rest of the United States, there is little information on Hg dry deposition. The objectives of the work were to: (1) investigate the utility of passive sampling systems for Hg in an area with low and consistent air concentrations as measured by the Tekran[®] mercury measurement system, (2) estimate dry deposition of gaseous oxidized Hg, and (3) investigate potential sources. This paper focuses on Objective 3. All sites were situated within 15 km of 1000 MW electricity generating plants (EGPs) and major highways. Bi-weekly dry deposition and passive sampler Hg uptake were not directly correlated with the automated Tekran[®] system measurements, and there was limited agreement between these systems for periods of high deposition. Using diel, biweekly, and seasonal Hg observations, and ancillary data collected at each site, the potential sources of Hg deposited to surrogate surfaces were investigated. With this information, we conclude that there are three major processes/sources contributing to Hg dry deposition in Florida, with these varying as a function of location and time of year. These include: (1) in situ oxidation of locally and regionally derived Hg facilitated by mobile source emissions, (2) indirect and direct inputs of Hg from local EGPs, and (3) direct input of Hg associated with long range transport of air from the Northeastern United States. We also suggest based on the data collected with the Tekran[®] and passive sampling systems that different chemical forms of GOM are associated with each of these sources.

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1 Introduction

Annual Hg wet deposition ($\mu\text{g m}^{-2}$) reported for Florida and along the Gulf Coast are often the highest in the United States (National Atmospheric Deposition Program, 2012). The potential sources of Hg in precipitation to Florida have been studied by many groups over the past 15 yr and have been suggested to be local and anthropogenic, regional with inputs from the marine boundary layer, and global, derived from air transported in the free troposphere (cf. Dvonch et al., 1999, 2005; Guentzel et al., 2001; Landing et al., 2010; Engle et al., 2008, 2010). Several modeling efforts have also focused on unraveling the sources of Hg in wet deposition (cf. Selin and Jacob, 2008; Holmes et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2012), with observations best simulated using an OH/O₃ oxidation mechanism in the GEOS-CHEM model (cf. Selin and Jacob, 2008).

An alternate explanation for the higher Hg wet deposition in Florida, is simply higher precipitation amounts in this region relative to the rest of the conterminous US (Prestbo and Gay, 2009) since this area has a similar proportion of anthropogenic Hg sources as the Midwest and Northeastern United States (Butler et al., 2008). Comparing precipitation amounts and Hg wet deposition measured over several years, using data from the Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) and National Trends Network (NTN) of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP), wet deposition is not necessarily correlated with higher precipitation amounts relative to sites along the eastern seaboard. Additionally, the suggestion that Hg deposition is derived from the marine boundary layer is not supported by data from other coastal locations with high amounts of rainfall such as Washington State (5 to $7 \mu\text{g Hg m}^{-3}$ versus 16 to $23 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$). Lastly, Butler et al. (2008) (years 1998–2005) and Prestbo and Gay (2009) (years 1996–2005) found that deposition and concentrations measured in the southeast did not decline as coal combustion facilities implemented Hg control technologies as was found in other regions. One explanation for the lack of a trend in Florida is that implementation of Hg control technologies on other major sources (medical waste incinerators and municipal waste combustion) occurred prior to this time (Prestbo and Gay, 2009). Despite the

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many years of study, the source of Hg in wet deposition in Florida remains a topic of debate.

The forms of Hg believed to dominate dry deposition are gaseous oxidized Hg (GOM) and particle bound Hg (PBM) (Lindberg and Stratton, 1998). Currently the chemical forms of GOM are unknown, and the potential mechanisms important for formation are uncertain (cf. Ariya et al., 2009; Hynes et al., 2009; Lin et al., 2006; Subir et al., 2011, 2012). Forms thought to be dominant include HgCl_2 , HgBr_2 , and HgO (Feng et al., 2004; Schroeder and Munthe, 1998; Seigneur et al., 1994), and others have been suggested such as HgS , HgSO_4 , HgSO_3 , $\text{Hg}(\text{NO}_2)_2$, and $\text{Hg}(\text{OH})_2$ (Feng et al., 2004; Lindberg and Stratton, 1998; Seigneur et al., 1994). That said, the contribution of GEM to deposition also needs to be considered given the predominance of this form in the atmosphere (Gustin, 2012; Zhang et al., 2012).

In 2009, the State of Florida, along with the Southeastern Aerosol Research and Characterization (SEARCH) network, put in place a series of monitoring stations to collect data that would provide the basis for formulating a statewide Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Hg and load allocations for point sources within the policy mandates of the Clean Water Act (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/merctmdl.htm>). Within the framework of this project, and only through significant cooperation, the University of Nevada-Reno (UNR) deployed surrogate surfaces for the measurement of gaseous oxidized mercury (GOM) dry deposition (GOM_{ss}) (Lyman et al., 2007, 2009a), passive samplers for determining air concentrations of GOM (GOM_{ps}) (Lyman et al., 2010), and passive samplers for determining air concentrations of total gaseous mercury (TGM) (Gustin et al., 2011). The goal of this study was to test the utility of these simple, cost-effective methods for estimating air Hg concentrations at three sites across the state, estimate dry deposition, and develop a framework for understanding sources. The first two objectives were addressed in Peterson et al. (2012) showing that dry deposition estimates using a bi-directional atmospheric resistance model and Tekran[®] analyzer derived Hg concentrations were lower than surrogate surface derived dry deposition primarily at DVE and TPA, and was similar to that measured at OLF except in the

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spring. Some spatial and temporal trends in surrogate surface and passive sampler data were not seen in the Tekran[®] instrument observations, and they suggested that the passive samplers may be collecting form(s) of GOM or Hg(II) not collected by the Tekran[®] system.

Because of these observations, information gained from the automated and passive systems are utilized together here to investigate sources of Hg in dry deposition. Criteria air pollutant concentrations and detailed assessment of wind directions are applied to provide a more robust platform for interpreting observed trends. This work also expands upon previous work investigating potential sources of Hg in dry deposition to two SEARCH network sites, one in Florida and Georgia (Lyman et al., 2009a; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2011). Although dry deposition is thought to contribute only 5–15% of the Hg input annually to the Southeastern United States (Lyman et al., 2009a; Peterson et al., 2012), our working hypothesis was source tracking during dry periods would be simpler given the complexity of rain events.

2 Methods

2.1 Measurements

Passive samplers and surrogate surfaces were co-located with a SEARCH, and two Florida Department of Environmental Protection managed locations. A transect was formed by these sampling sites across the State with Davie, near Fort Lauderdale (DVE; Lat. 26.085° N, Long. 80.240° W) in the southeast; a central location near Tampa (TPA; Lat. 27.913° N, Long. 82.375° W); and a site in the northwest on the panhandle at Outlying Landing Field near Pensacola (OLF; Lat. 30.550° N, Long. 87.374° W). All sites are influenced by marine air with the Gulf of Mexico being south of OLF (29 km) and west of TPA (48 km), and the Atlantic Ocean 14 km to the E of DVE (Fig. 1). Additional site information is provided in Peterson et al. (2012).

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Automated GEM, GOM and PBM data were collected by the Tekran[®] system at 5 to 6 m above ground level (a.g.l.) (detection limits 0.1 ngm⁻³, 1 pgm⁻³, and 1 pgm⁻³, respectively; E. Edgerton, personal communication, 2011). It is important to note that variability between co-located instruments has been reported to be on the order of 0.3 to 20 % for GEM, 9 to 40 % for GOM, and up to 70 % for PBM (Gustin and Jaffe, 2010; Steffen et al., 2012). Criteria air pollutants (O₃, CO, SO₂, NO_y and NO) and meteorological parameters were measured at 10 m a.g.l. (cf. Peterson et al., 2012). For all data, hourly means were time stamped by the end of the hour. For GOM and PBM, this represents the previous two hours of sampling due to a one hour sampling and analyses cycle.

Surrogate surfaces for GOM dry deposition (ngm⁻²h⁻¹) and passive samplers, an indirect measure of GOM (pgh⁻¹) concentrations, were placed at 3 to 5 m a.g.l. (Peterson et al., 2012). These were shipped and deployed over 13 months ($n = 28$ bi-weekly samples), from July 2009 through July 2010, by State of Florida and SEARCH personnel. Surrogate surfaces were deployed in triplicate over two weeks with two field blanks per site. Passive samplers consisted of triplicate membranes and one membrane blank deployed simultaneous for each 2 week period. Samplers and membranes were deployed, collected and analyzed using a protocol developed by Lyman et al. (2009a, 2010). Details regarding quality control for this study are reported by Peterson et al. (2012). The surrogate surface methods have also been applied by Castro et al. (2012) and recently, in a 2 yr study in the Southwestern United States at 6 locations (Mark Sather, US EPA Region 6, personnel communication, 27 April 2012).

Seasonal mean air Hg, trace gas and meteorological data were averaged using hourly reported values. Data was bulked seasonally, where Spring represents March to May, Summer (June–August), Fall (September–November) and Winter (December–February). Statistical analyses were done using Minitab[®]15 and Origin[®] with a significance level of $p < 0.05$ applied.

2.2 Regional emissions inventories

Sources of criteria air pollutants at all three sites are mobile and stationary. In order to support a population of 19×10^6 , the State of Florida has ~ 90 EGPs with an output greater than 25MW (11 coal fired). The impact of these on data collected at each site will depend upon wind direction, energy production, fuel type and general proximity. Each site is within 15 km of an electrical generation unit (EGP) producing greater than 1000 MW and with significantly greater SO_2 emissions relative to other facilities in the vicinity (Table 1; Fig. 1).

The population of the area will influence the density of mobile sources. The DVE site, situated in the South Florida Metropolitan area, hosts 5.6×10^6 people, and was in close proximity to US Interstate 595, the Florida Turnpike and the Port Everglades Expressway. The TPA location (population base of 4×10^6) was centered between major routes in and out of the city (i.e. US Interstate 75 and 4). The OLF site is located to the northwest of Pensacola (population 0.45×10^6) and just south of US Interstate 10, a major route across Northern Florida (Fig. 1). The population of Florida increases seasonally during the winter and spring when tourism is a major industry. In 2008, there were an estimated 82.5×10^6 visitors to the State (<http://www.floridatransportationindicators.org>).

For our data analyses annual SO_2 and NO_x emissions inventories for EGPs in Florida were obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection website (<http://webapps.dep.state.fl.us/DarmReports/eaor/fads/search.do>), and daily values from the US EPA Clean Air Markets Division website (<http://camddataandmaps.epa.gov/gdm/index.cfm>) (Table 1). NO_x/SO_2 ratios for each facility were determined from reported output in tons by converting to moles using the molar mass for SO_2 and NO_2 , and then calculating the ratio NO_x/SO_2 .

Mercury emissions for EGPs that were not coal fired were estimated using data from the 2002 EPA NEI (<http://camddataandmaps.epa.gov/gdm/index.cfm>). For the coal burning utilities, emission data for 2009 were obtained from the Florida Division of

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Environmental Protection (G. White, Florida Division of Environmental Quality, personal communication, 2011). The latter were from the Florida Electric Power Coordination Group, Inc. and were based on the US EPA Clean Air Markets Division (CAMD) hourly heat input data and Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) correlation coefficients for percent removal for 2009. Based on these, total Hg and GOM emissions for Plant Crist were by far the largest for any single facility. However, a flue gas desulfurization (FGD) system came online at the site in December 2009 and as such; the inventory values do not reflect those for the entire study. It is important to note for the incinerators and oil based facilities, it is unclear whether emission estimates are based on empirical data (Table 1).

2.3 Classification of GOM data

Following the approach outlined in Weiss-Penzias et al. (2011), GOM concentration enhancement “events” are defined as time periods when at least one GOM concentration measurement from the Tekran[®] system was greater than the 97th percentile based on all concentrations at each site (31, 11, and 16 pgm⁻³ for DVE, OLF and TPA, respectively). The duration of the event was then designated as the time over which the Tekran[®] derived GOM concentrations were at or above the annual mean for each site (Table S1; Table S2). Events were then classified as “1”, “2”, or “Unclassified” based on SO₂ concentrations and wind directions during the peak GOM concentrations. Class 1 events include those when SO₂ concentrations were greater than the mean of peak SO₂ values for all events at each site, and when concurrent wind directions were from the closest large EGP: 70 to 110° for both DVE and OLF, and 160 to 200° for TPA. Conversely, Class 2 events had peak SO₂ concentrations that were less than the mean of all events and wind directions from outside the ranges stated for Class 1 events. Unclassified events met the GOM criteria but not the SO₂ and wind direction criteria for the Class 1 or Class 2 events.

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2.4 Back trajectory analysis

Seventy-two hour back trajectories were calculated using HYSPLIT v4.8 (Draxler and Hess, 1997) for the 5 events with the highest GOM concentrations. Meteorological fields at 40 km resolution from the National Center for Environmental Prediction Eta Data Assimilation System (EDAS) served as input for the procedure. Trajectories were initialized at 6 h intervals during the 24-h period encompassing the peak GOM concentration of each event. The area of initialization was a $0.5 \times 0.5^\circ$ grid of 9 starting locations evenly spaced around each site. Four starting altitudes were used: 500, 1000, 1500, and 2000 m above modeled ground level. This generated 144 back trajectories for each event. Each hourly location of a trajectory is denoted as a “trajectory point”.

Gridded frequency distributions (GFDs) were generated by averaging the number of trajectory points in $1 \times 1^\circ$ grid cells over the domain of interest (Weiss-Penzias et al., 2009, 2011). GFDs were also generated to show only those grid cells that contained a high proportion ($> 90\%$) of the trajectory points that were at altitudes greater than the HYSPLIT modeled boundary layer height, and the distribution of precipitation along the trajectory paths. The location probability represents the fraction of trajectory points in a given cell relative to the number of trajectory points in the most populated cell. Uncertainties in the three-dimensional locations of trajectories (the horizontal uncertainty is roughly 20% of the distance traveled) were minimized by calculating trajectories at the nine locations and four altitudes around each sampling site, thus creating a data set with sufficient statistical power to overcome the major limitations of the computational procedure (sub grid processes, turbulent flow, and convection; Stohl, 1998; Stohl et al., 2003).

2.5 Meso- and synoptic scale wind patterns in Florida

When interpreting trends in air pollutants, one must consider the meso- and synoptic-scale meteorological conditions impacting each site. On the synoptic scale during the cooler seasons, the near surface flow in Florida is dominated by passing cold fronts.

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This is especially true for Northern Florida since not all fronts reach South Florida. The winds typically are from the west or northwest after frontal passage and then shifts to the south after several days with the approach of the next frontal systems. In the middle and upper levels of the atmosphere, the cooler season flow is dominated by passing troughs and ridges. The flow generally is from the southwest ahead of a trough and from the northwest after the trough passes (before the next ridge arrives). Once again, this is most pronounced for North Florida.

During the summer, synoptic patterns in Florida are dominated by the Bermuda/Azores high, and a lobe of high pressure that sometimes forms over the Gulf of Mexico. Depending on the location of the Bermuda high and whether there is a Gulf of Mexico lobe, both the surface and upper level winds can range from east, to south, to west, and occasionally, have a component from the north. Summer is the sea breeze season in Florida, and the three sampling sites experience a regular diel variation of this meso-scale circulation, i.e. onshore flow during the day (sea breeze) and weaker offshore flow at night (land breeze) (Fig. 2). The direction and strength of the large scale flow greatly affects the intensity and strength and inland penetration of the sea breeze (H. Fuelberg, Florida State University, personal communication, 2012).

3 Results

3.1 Summary of observations and interspecies correlations

As summarized by Peterson et al. (2012), annual GOM concentrations as measured by the Tekran[®] system at DVE were significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher than those measured at OLF and TPA (Table S1). Annual GEM concentrations were also significantly higher at DVE. PBM concentrations were higher at OLF relative to the two other sites ($p < 0.05$).

Mean annual and seasonal ozone (O_3) concentrations were highest at OLF, with those measured at DVE and TPA being similar to each other. Highest O_3 values were observed at all sites in the spring. Mean seasonal and annual CO concentrations were

highest in the winter and lowest in the summer at all sites, and highest at TPA relative to the other sites. Seasonal mean CO values are at or above the upper limit of those considered ambient values for remote areas of 50 to 150 ppb (Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000). The highest NO and NO_y values were observed in the winter and fall, and the lowest in the spring. DVE and TPA had comparable mean NO and NO_y concentrations in the spring and winter, that were significantly higher than observations at OLF. At all sites, annual and seasonal mean SO₂ concentrations were higher than values reported for clean continental and marine air (~ 100 ppb, Finlayson-Pitts and Pitts, 2000) and in general highest at TPA. The TPA site did not often receive air that passed over the local EGP. There was a slight peak in SO₂ concentrations in the morning at all sites concurrent with observed CO and NO concentrations suggesting a contribution from mobile sources (Fig. 3a).

Trends in air Hg and criteria air pollutant concentrations reflect the chemistry of the air as impacted by local emissions, air transported into the area associated with synoptic patterns, and the general meteorological conditions (i.e. temperature, light, relative humidity) that influence chemical processing. Since NO is a short lived pollutant, the highest concentrations at DVE reflects nearby EGPs and mobile source outputs, while the higher NO values at DVE and TPA relative to OLF are due to the greater mobile source density at these two locations. Since winter and spring are drier (Fig. 3b-RH) this would create a setting more conducive for photochemical oxidation reactions. These are also the time periods when the population density of the State increases due to the influx of people. NO_y and CO concentrations were also higher during these seasons. Higher O₃ concentrations, observed at all sites in the spring, as well as drier air (Fig. 3a and Table S1), and lower NO concentrations, suggest the input of upper troposphere air in the spring. Higher PBM concentrations were observed in the spring at OLF. Engle et al. (2008) also observed that fine particulate matter Hg concentrations were highest in January through March of 2006 in this area. Deposition to the surrogate surfaces was also high across all sites at this time (see discussion below).

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GOM and PBM were combined for linear regression analyses with criteria air pollutants (Table S2). At DVE on an annual time and seasonal time step, GOM + PBM was correlated with SO₂, RH (negative) and O₃ (positive) with the best coefficients for the latter in the winter and spring data. At OLF on an annual time step, correlations were strongest for RH, O₃ and SO₂. But similar to DVE, the r^2 values for RH and O₃ are strongest for winter and spring, followed by fall, and lowest in the summer. The correlation with SO₂ is best in the summer and fall for this site, when wind directions from the east are prevalent. At TPA correlations are not as clear with only RH being well correlated on annual and seasonal time steps, and best correlated in the spring. O₃ was similarly correlated with GOM + PBM for spring, summer and fall for this site. These trends suggest that dry conditions are an important characteristic of air masses with GOM.

3.2 Diel cycles

GOM concentrations were highest at DVE with values increasing at ~ 08:00 local time, peaking between 12:00 LT and 16:00 LT and then declining (Fig. 3b). During spring, summer and fall over the course of the day, wind came from the general direction of EGPs (Fig. 2). The fact that GOM exhibited a diel pattern of continually increasing concentrations over the course of a day, coinciding with increases in wind speeds, which would theoretically result in decreased concentrations, suggests that GOM was being gradually produced by photochemical reactions over the course of the day and not directly emitted from the EGPs. Alternatively, this pattern could reflect mixing of GOM containing air down to the surface as the planetary boundary layer expands over the course of a day. It is noteworthy that during the winter, the same pattern in GOM concentrations was observed during the day when the mean prevailing wind direction was from the northwest (not the general direction of an EGP) (Fig. 2). Dvonch et al. (2005) suggested using volume weighted Hg concentrations and trace elements in precipitation that at DVE the “feed air” incorporated local urban emissions.

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At OLF, the diel maximum in GOM concentrations (1) occurred in the morning in the fall; (2) was bimodal in the spring and summer, occurring in the morning and afternoon; and (3) consisted of a broad peak in the winter. In the winter, seasonal mean winds were derived from the NW coming from the general direction of I-10. In the spring, summer and fall, based on mean airflow patterns, transport to the site was from vicinity of Plant Crist (00:00 to 09:00 LT), and then shifted to the south from Pensacola (Fig. 2). The early morning increase of GOM concurrent with SO₂ concentrations suggests that a component of the GOM measured was directly or indirectly associated with emissions from Plant Crist (cf. Edgerton et al., 2006; Engle et al., 2008). However, the afternoon peak in the spring, winter and summer when transport was in general not from the EGP, suggests that there is an additional source or process responsible for formation GOM.

At TPA, GOM concentrations measured across all seasons increased starting at ~ 08:00 LT, building up over the course of the day and then declining at night similar to observations at DVE (Fig. 3b). Based on mean seasonal patterns, air coming into this site from 10:00 to 12:00 LT had the potential to be influenced by emissions from the Big Bend facility (Fig. 2). However of the three sites, the correlation between SO₂ and PBM+GOM at TPA was the lowest.

As suggested by Engle et al. (2008), the afternoon GOM maxima observed in Florida could be explained by photochemical production of GOM, entrainment from the free troposphere, and/or transport onto the land as local winds bring air from the marine boundary layer onto the continent. We suggest here that in situ oxidation of GEM associated with mobile source pollutants is an additional factor to consider as a mechanism for production. This could be associated with reactions with primary and secondary pollutants. For example, sulfur is an important component of diesel emissions, as are volatile organic compounds and reactive oxygen species that are converted over the day to less reactive secondary organic aerosols (Biswas et al., 2009). Naturally produced oxidants could also be important given the subtropical setting. It is possible that the OH radical could play a role in GOM formation (cf. Pal and Ariya, 2004) indirectly, since Calvert and Lindberg (2005) suggested inhibition of this reaction in the

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real atmosphere. Additionally, if GOM was produced directly by the OH radical a more symmetrical curve in GOM around midday would be expected (cf. Lyman and Gustin, 2009). Reactions with O_3 should also not be ruled out for: (1) this oxidant is available at 1000 times the concentration of GEM, and (2) Peterson et al. (2009) showed, using the Pal and Ariya (2004) reaction rates and O_3 concentrations similar to those measured in Florida, that 5 to 10 pgm^{-3} HgO could be produced per hour. Based on the change in Tekran[®] derived GOM concentrations over the course of the day, GOM measured with this method could be accounted for by this production rate.

PBM concentrations were highest in the winter at DVE and TPA, when temperatures are cooler. For OLF PBM concentrations were highest in the spring. Recent modeling work by Amos et al. (2012) showed, using empirical data across 5 sites that the gas phase fraction of Hg(II) could range from 90 % in warm air to 10 % in cold air with high aerosols.

Diel GEM concentrations were the most variable at DVE, differing by up to 30 % in the summer (Fig. 3b). GOM + PBM as measured by the Tekran[®] system cannot account for this difference. At OLF, GEM increased over the course of the day across each season by 0.05 to 0.1 ngm^{-3} with higher values in the spring and winter. Observations at TPA were fairly constant over the course of a day and higher in the winter and spring.

3.3 Trends in passive sampler Hg deposition and uptake

The GOM_{ss} measures potential dry deposition ($\text{ngm}^{-2}\text{h}^{-1}$) that is a function of the chemical form's deposition velocity, and the turbulence observed at the site. Since the surrogate surface is open to the air, Hg bound to aerosols could be collected. Additionally, the surface could be a site where heterogeneous oxidation and reduction reactions of GEM and GOM occur, respectively. Lyman et al. (2009) investigated the impact of wind velocity on surrogate surface deposition versus Tekran[®] derived GOM concentrations, and found that there was little impact of wind speed on the correlation.

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In contrast, the GOM_{ps} sampler is designed to be diffusion driven and is a surrogate measure of concentration. Passive sampling systems are based on Fick's Law that states that the rate at which a substance diffuses through another of a similar phase is directly proportional to the concentration gradient. If uptake ($pg\ h^{-1}$) is higher, then the air concentration is higher. Based on comparison of empirically derived sampling rates with theoretical sampling rates, this sampler has a slight wind effect (Lyman et al., 2010). Site settings and wind speeds across seasons were similar between locations during the study. However, in the spring at all sites and in the winter at TPA wind velocities were higher by $\sim 1\ ms^{-1}$.

Some items to consider when assessing the GOM_{ss} data include: (1) Peterson et al. (2012) reported deposition velocities, calculated using surrogate surface measured deposition and bi-weekly Tekran[®] GOM concentrations (that were fairly constant), of 0.1 to $7\ cms^{-1}$ and suggested this reflected different forms of GOM being present at these three sites; (2) based on limited tests, some GOM (15 %) could be lost from the surrogate surfaces when sampling over two weeks, and as such, actual deposition could be higher than recorded; and (3) bi-weekly deposition data was adjusted for the associated field blanks and a factor of $0.2\ ng\ m^{-2}\ h^{-1}$. The latter was based on the assumption that when the Tekran[®] system is measuring less than $1\ pg\ m^{-3}$ GOM, the Hg on the membrane is contamination from the mount (cf. Lyman et al., 2009). However, no holding tests have been done to verify this, and if this factor is not warranted, then deposition would increase for all sites (Peterson et al., 2012).

As pointed out in Peterson et al. (2012), using data from all three sites GOM_{ps} and GOM_{ss} data were statistically significantly correlated ($r^2 = 0.15$). The low correlation coefficient likely reflects the fact that the former is a surrogate for concentration and the latter a measure of potential deposition. Using the data from all three sites over the entire year of study both of these were significantly correlated with bi-weekly measurements made by the Tekran[®] system (r^2 values of 0.19 and 0.25, respectively). However, on a site specific basis, at OLF, GOM as measured by the Tekran[®] system was significantly correlated with the GOM_{ss} and GOM_{ps} ($r^2 = 0.37$ and 0.34), while at

TPA data was correlated only for GOM_{ss} data ($r^2 = 0.31$). If one assumes that the passive systems are accurately recording Hg(II), then one explanation is that the Tekran[®] system, as configured, is best measuring the form(s) of Hg(II) that are prevalent at OLF when compared to the other sites. The form of GOM at OLF exhibited, in general, the lowest overall deposition velocities (cf. Peterson et al., 2012).

For all three sites, mean GOM_{ss} measured deposition was highest in the spring and lower in the summer (Fig. 4). The higher spring values are associated with a change in synoptic wind patterns, as supported by the criteria air pollutant data, and this was the time with the highest mean wind speeds at DVE and TPA but not OLF (cf. Peterson et al., 2012). The lowest values in the summer reflect the fact this time period is when the highest precipitation occurs and thus, less dry conditions (cf. Butler et al., 2008).

At DVE, the summer deposition rate was $0.1 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$, while the total deposition over the year of study was 180 ng m^{-2} and 448 ng m^{-2} for the data with and without the $0.2 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ factor, respectively (Peterson et al., 2012). Deposition rates double in the fall, a time period with higher SO₂, NO and NO_y and lower RH (Fig. 3a). The latter would promote conditions for photochemistry and increase the lifetime of GOM.

GOM chemistry and concentration, and atmospheric turbulence will affect deposition. For the former, Lin et al. (2006) found the deposition velocity for HgO (6.86 cm s^{-1}) was two-fold higher than that for HgCl₂ (3.44 cm s^{-1}) using the resistance dry deposition model of Wesley (1989). Deposition and deposition velocities (cf. Peterson et al., 2012) were greatest at TPA, with a mean summer value of $0.16 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$, $\sim 0.2 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ in the fall and winter, and $0.24 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ in the spring. Higher values in the fall and winter may reflect additional traffic during this time. Hg brought into the area by long range transport, based on event data described below and in Weiss Penzias et al. (2011), is likely contributing to the additional deposition measured in the spring (see below event analyses). At OLF, mean deposition was ~ 2 times higher in the spring ($0.11 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$) relative to the winter, summer and fall (0.06 , 0.03 , and $0.03 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$, respectively). The higher summer value at TPA relative to the other sites may be due to the location of the sampling site in an area of high traffic density.

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It is noteworthy here, that Marsik et al. (2007), using a water based surrogate surface positioned over a mixed saw grass and cattail stand in Florida in February to March 1999 and June 2000, obtained dry deposition rates of $0.5 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ and $0.24 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$, respectively, with spring rates being greater. Our values would be more comparable if the $0.2 \text{ ng m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$ adjustment factor was not applied. Also, previous work done in 2007–2008 also showed that GOM_{ss} deposition was enhanced during the spring relative to other seasons at the OLF site and another site near Atlanta (YRK) (Lyman et al., 2009; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2011).

Assuming passive sampler uptake is an indicator of air concentrations, annual averages showed $\text{DVE} > \text{TPA} > \text{OLF}$ with lowest mean value reported for the summer at all three sites. The highest period GOM_{ps} uptake was the winter at DVE; winter and fall at OLF; and winter and spring at TPA. These are time periods associated with increased mobile sources density at all sites, and long range transport at TPA.

Peterson et al. (2012) showed that 2-week integrated Tekran[®]-GOM was weakly correlated with GOM_{ss} , and GOM_{ps} observations for all sites; but on an individual site basis only well correlated at OLF. This is in contrast to previous work (Lyman et al., 2009, 2010; Castro et al., 2012) that showed for rural areas, observations made with these two methods were correlated. Using an inferential model, (Zhang et al., 2012) showed that deposition measured with these samplers was similar to modeled values measured in a rural area in Maryland, USA. In contrast, Peterson et al. (2012) and Lyman et al. (2007) showed using a similar model that surrogate surface deposition was underestimated. Peterson et al. (2012) found the model better simulated deposition measured at OLF relative to TPA and DVE. Lyman et al. (2007) found that the GOM_{ss} deposition was consistently higher than the modeled value and the disparity was not consistent across all seasons. For both models nitric acid was used as a surrogate for GOM; however, Lyman et al. (2007) showed through sensitivity analyses that changes in chemical species dependent values and land use categories could significantly impact model deposition velocities. Based on these observations we hypothesize that

use of one chemical species in a model may not allow for adequate simulation of dry deposition across space and time.

3.4 Detailed analysis of GOM events

GOM events occurred most often in the late morning and afternoon, with none at night. Most events occurred on different days. With respect to all three types of events, mean GOM concentrations were highest and GEM lowest in association with Class 1 events, while PBM concentrations were highest in Class 2 events (Table 2). Mean T_{dp} was higher in the Class 1 events for all sites, while for Class 2 and unclassified events values were comparable. As specified, Class 1 events had wind directions from the general direction of the EGPs, while Class 2 events were not from this direction and predominantly from the north and south. In general, unclassified events originated from the north.

Using the mean values in Table 2, for DVE and OLF, Class 1 events had lower O_3 and higher NO concentrations than Class 2 and unclassified events, but these were similar across events at TPA. The criteria pollutant concentrations during Class 1 events suggest that pollutants from local source are contributing. Class 1 events tended to occur in the fall at DVE (52 %) and at OLF (50 %), when prevailing wind directions were from the direction of the local EGPs (Fig. 2). The mean peak GOM concentration was $\sim 15 \text{ pgm}^{-3}$ higher for Class 1 versus Class 2 events at all sites. In contrast, the average over the entire event was $\sim 7 \text{ pgm}^{-3}$ higher for DVE and OLF but not TPA. We suggest that during these selected events the EGP are indirectly and directly contributing GOM to the sites. CO was higher in Class 2 and unclassified events at DVE and OLF, but the same at TPA across events. At TPA, NO_y was lower in Class 1 events while NO was consistent across events.

Looking in detail at the NO_y versus SO_2 relationships during Class 1 events (Fig. S3) at DVE, TPA and OLF regression coefficients explain 57, 0 and 14 %, respectively. There is a considerable range in NO_y values at low SO_2 concentrations. At DVE, the slope is similar to the annual NO_y/SO_2 ratio of 0.81 for the nearby large oil based EGP.

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At OLF the slope for the field based NO_y/SO_2 relationship is similar to the annual ratio for the facility (0.64) for 2009 prior to the addition of a FGD scrubber.

The GOM/ SO_2 correlation explains 37, 1 and 43 % of the data at DVE, TPA and OLF, respectively. The slopes of these relationships for the field based data are also lower than that predicted based on the emission estimates. The lesser agreement and lower slope for the GOM/ SO_2 versus the NO_x/SO_2 relationships may reflect: (1) an inaccurate emission estimate; (2) reduction of GOM to GEM in the power plant plume (cf. Lohman et al., 2006); (3) SO_2 measured being derived from another source; or (4) an artifact of measurement the GOM measurement. Data from earlier work at OLF also showed a lower proportion of GOM than expected based on emission inventories (Edgerton et al., 2006; Weiss-Penzias et al., 2011).

Class 2 events occurred primarily in the winter and spring at OLF (13 of 14) and TPA (6 of 8) and were evenly split at DVE between winter/spring (9 of 19) and summer/fall (10 of 19) (see Table S3). Class 2 events were characterized by lower mean dew point temperature (T_{dp}) and higher PBM and GEM concentrations at each site relative to Class 1 (Table 3). Mean NO was lower and O_3 higher in Class 2, versus Class 1 events at DVE and OLF. These trends, as well as those described above, suggest synoptic air patterns were bringing air from outside the area to these two sites. One factor to consider for these events is that the mean GEM/ CO ratios were similar for the Class 2 (6.0, 7.1 and 6.1 $\text{pgm}^{-3} \text{ppb}^{-1}$ for DVE, OLF, and TPA, respectively) and Class 1 (8, 6.7 and 6 $\text{pgm}^{-3} \text{ppb}^{-1}$, respectively) events. The values suggest an input of industrial pollution based on the discussion in Slemr et al. (2009). Higher PBM measured during Class 2 events could be associated with industrial pollution with GOM being attached to aerosols at the colder conditions in the free troposphere. It has also been suggested that higher PBM concentrations are found near the tropopause (Murphy et al., 2006) and GOM is produced in the free troposphere/lower stratosphere (Lyman and Jaffe, 2012). As cool dry air descends from the free troposphere into the planetary boundary layer, the ratio of GEM: GOM: PBM could change.

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Unclassified events occurred predominantly in the winter/spring at DVE (8 of 9) and TPA (12 of 16), but were split between seasons at OLF with most in the fall (6 of 17). Some unclassified events at DVE did originate from the direction of EGPs, but at OLF and TPA they did not. At TPA and OLF, air associated with the unclassified events had a low T_{dp} . Mean NO and NO_y for these events at DVE were less than that measured for other events, but at OLF and TPA these are comparable. Higher mean O₃ concentrations also occurred during these events relative to Class 1 events. These characteristics suggest these events are similar to the Class 2 events but reflect mixing of local air with that descending.

Gridded Frequency Distribution diagrams were generated using trajectories for the five Class 1 and Class 2 events with the highest GOM concentrations at all three sites (Figs. 5–7). Class 1 events used are primarily isolated events (Table S3) except for 7 to 9 October. During these days, a Class 1 event occurred at DVE (16:30 LT) followed by a unclassified event at TPA (17:30 LT), then a Class 1 event occurred at TPA (13:30 LT) and at DVE (14:30 LT), and finally, a Class 1 event occurred at TPA (11:30 LT) with a Class 2 event at DVE (15:30 LT). Mean wind directions during these events suggest these are isolated events with the air not moving directly from one location to the other.

Horizontal locations at all altitudes generally show distinct patterns for the two classes of events (panels a and b in each figure). At DVE (Fig. 5), the differences in class type are the most discernible with transport predominantly from the east during Class 1 events and more rapidly from the northwest during Class 2 events. Removing grid cells that contain trajectory points below the modeled boundary layer height (panels c and d; Fig. 7) shows that chosen Class 2 events have a larger component of transport from the free troposphere compared to Class 1 events at DVE. This is in agreement with the drier conditions that are associated with Class 2 events (Table 3). Class 2 events at DVE also had distinct precipitation patterns (panel f), with most occurring in one transport arm to the WSW suggesting frontal movement across Florida during these events (panel e).

GFDs for OLF show that Class 2 events were associated with less precipitation at the upwind locations (Fig. 6f). During Class 1 events, the most predominant short-range (< 100 km) transport was from the east indicating air coming into the site could have incorporated emissions from Plant Crist. However, long-range transport of emissions still may play a role in Class 1 events as can be seen in Fig. 6, where a subset of trajectories extends to the Northwestern United States. This event had high SO₂, relatively high O₃ and low T_{dp} and occurred on 11 June 2009 (Table S2). This air mass could have entrained air from sources as it passed over the Eastern United States. However the trajectories suggest the potential for longer range transport. The PBM during this event was also relatively high (8 pgm⁻³), as was NO_y (12 ppb) and CO (185 ppb) suggesting an anthropogenic pollution component. The GFDs generated for the TPA events do not point towards a specific source for Class 1 events and the upper troposphere transport across the United States is shown for Class 2 events (Fig. 7).

3.5 Analyses of event trends and data collected using the GOM passive sampler and surrogate surfaces

Comparing the number of Tekran[®] derived events with the passive sampler uptake and surrogate surface deposition shows the best correlation for events recorded at OLF (Table 3). There is a good correlation between the GOM_{ss} deposition and the Class 2 and unclassified events measured at this location, however not for the Class 1 events. The only other correlations are for the GOM_{ss} deposition with number of Class 1 events at DVE and with unclassified events at TPA (Table 3). This indicates that either the passive systems are not recording events or that the Tekran[®] system as configured, is best measuring the form(s) of Hg(II) that are prevalent at OLF and not that at DVE and TPA.

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Using diel, bi-weekly, and seasonal, Hg and criteria air pollutant concentrations, detailed investigation of wind directions, and event analyses, we found that GOM deposited to Florida is site specific and influenced by (1) mobile source derived oxidants, (2) long range pollutant transport, or (3) local EGPs (indirectly or directly). At TPA, the local influence of mobile sources on GOM concentrations and deposition is greatest, while at DVE mobile sources and EGPs are important. At OLF, the most background site, the mobile source impact is lowest, and there does not appear to be a significant dry deposition component from the nearby EGP. Over all the sites, the highest dry deposition occurred in the spring. We suggest that this reflects an additional input of GOM to the area associated with long range transport and free troposphere inputs associated with passing frontal systems. The free troposphere has also been suggested to be an important source of Hg in wet deposition to Florida (cf. Guentzel et al., 2001; Holmes et al., 2009).

Based on GOM_{ss} measured deposition, deposition velocities developed using the surrogate surface data, and Tekran[®] derived GOM concentrations, Peterson et al. (2012) suggested that the chemical forms of GOM varied between these sites spatially and temporally. Annual deposition to the surrogate surfaces at TPA and DVE were more than 2-fold greater than that measured OLF reflecting differences in chemistry, concentration and sources. This work showed that the collective use of information developed during periods of dry deposition in Florida could help understand potential sources of Hg to Florida. However to allocate specific source contributions, the chemistry of the forms of Hg measured by the samplers and Tekran[®] system must be understood.

Supplementary material related to this article is available online at:
[http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/12/18287/2012/
acpd-12-18287-2012-supplement.pdf](http://www.atmos-chem-phys-discuss.net/12/18287/2012/acpd-12-18287-2012-supplement.pdf).

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Table 2. Comparison of mean ± 1 sd values of parameters measured during entire events derived using 2-h data. The local time for each event represents the mean hour of the event peak. Duration is the average number of hours associated with an event.

Site	Class	Count # of events	Duration (h)	Local time	GOM pgm ⁻³	GOM peak pgm ⁻³	PBM pgm ⁻³	GEM ng m ⁻³	SO ₂ ppb	NO ppb
DVE	1	28	13 ± 5	15.6 ± 1.4	28 ± 28	55 ± 28	1 ± 1	1.23 ± 0.17	5.7 ± 11.2	3.4 ± 5.9
DVE	2	19	13 ± 5	15.2 ± 2.2	20 ± 14	40 ± 12	3 ± 6	1.37 ± 0.22	0.5 ± 0.4	1.9 ± 5.5
DVE	Uncl.	10	14 ± 4	15.9 ± 3.3	20 ± 15	41 ± 10	3 ± 2	1.46 ± 0.19	0.8 ± 1.1	0.9 ± 3.6
OLF	1	12	14 ± 4	12.3 ± 2.8	17 ± 23	36 ± 26	4 ± 3	1.20 ± 0.09	6.6 ± 12.9	0.8 ± 1.4
OLF	2	14	13 ± 3	14.4 ± 1.4	10 ± 6.8	17 ± 6	8 ± 5	1.35 ± 0.10	1.0 ± 0.7	0.2 ± 0.7
OLF	Uncl.	18	13 ± 5	12.7 ± 2.9	12 ± 13	23 ± 15	5 ± 3	1.23 ± 0.10	3.9 ± 4.6	0.7 ± 1.5
TPA	1	18	11 ± 4	13.6 ± 2.8	14 ± 14	30 ± 13	2 ± 2	1.27 ± 0.14	4.7 ± 7.5	1.1 ± 2.7
TPA	2	14	10 ± 3	14.6 ± 5.2	12 ± 9	23 ± 8	5 ± 4	1.33 ± 0.15	0.8 ± 0.6	1.3 ± 3.2
TPA	Uncl.	18	13 ± 5	14.6 ± 3.1	15 ± 15	28 ± 18	5 ± 4	1.30 ± 0.22	2.0 ± 2.0	1.4 ± 3.8
Site	Class	NO _y ppb	O ₃ ppb	CO ppb	T °C	RH%	T _{dp} °C	BP mbar	w.spd ms ⁻¹	w.dir deg
DVE	1	12.3 ± 10.2	21.3 ± 12.3	147.1 ± 66.0	28.6 ± 2.6	73.7 ± 8.9	23.3 ± 2.5	1015.4 ± 2.0	2.7 ± 1.2	95.4
DVE	2	12.3 ± 13.5	32.9 ± 17.8	226.0 ± 135.9	25.2 ± 5.0	67.9 ± 14.0	18.5 ± 6.0	1014.7 ± 2.6	2.3 ± 1.2	172.0
DVE	Uncl.	7.8 ± 8.7	44.8 ± 10.6	188.7 ± 74.6	23.1 ± 2.2	65.8 ± 8.6	16.3 ± 2.2	1017.7 ± 2.6	3.6 ± 1.4	97.0
OLF	1	7.0 ± 5.2	39.9 ± 12.7	179.2 ± 60.3	20.3 ± 7.2	61.2 ± 20.6	11.7 ± 10.0	1013.1 ± 3.7	2.5 ± 1.2	98.3
OLF	2	4.7 ± 3.3	50.6 ± 9.4	189.4 ± 23.8	17.8 ± 5.6	48.7 ± 17.2	6.0 ± 6.2	1013.2 ± 3.1	2.6 ± 1.3	199.2
OLF	Uncl.	6.6 ± 5.4	44.7 ± 13.3	190.5 ± 40.9	14.8 ± 6.4	55.5 ± 21.0	5.0 ± 8.7	1012.7 ± 4.3	2.1 ± 1.0	284.3
TPA	1	8.3 ± 8.1	34.8 ± 13.9	198.0 ± 87.7	24.6 ± 5.9	66.4 ± 16.2	17.4 ± 7.0	1014.6 ± 2.9	2.7 ± 1.3	195.3
TPA	2	12.1 ± 12.8	32.3 ± 14.6	217.6 ± 129.3	19.2 ± 6.3	58.3 ± 19.3	9.9 ± 6.7	1017.5 ± 4.9	2.5 ± 1.1	8.1
TPA	Uncl.	10.3 ± 9.1	37.8 ± 17.8	218.9 ± 95.9	19.5 ± 9.2	56.0 ± 19.4	9.5 ± 10.7	1017.3 ± 3.2	2.5 ± 1.2	324.1

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Table 3. Pearson correlation coefficients (r) for 2-week integrated GOM dry deposition to a surrogate surface (GOM_{ss}) and GOM uptake to a passive sampler (GOM_{ps}) with the number of GOM enhancement events occurring during the 2-w period and 2-w mean GOM concentrations at three sites as measured with the Tekran over the entire study. Bold type indicates a significant correlation with $p < 0.05$.

	No. of all types events	No. of Class 1 events	No. of Class 2 events	No. of unclass. events	2-w mean GOM conc.
DVE SS	0.47	0.47	0.33	-0.16	0.38
OLF SS	0.59	-0.04	0.69	0.40	0.51
TPA SS	0.48	0.13	-0.08	0.66	0.56
DVE PS	0.49	0.06	-0.20	0.33	0.45
OLF PS	0.27	0.51	0.51	0.66	0.59
TPA PS	-0.14	0.26	-0.04	-0.02	0.41

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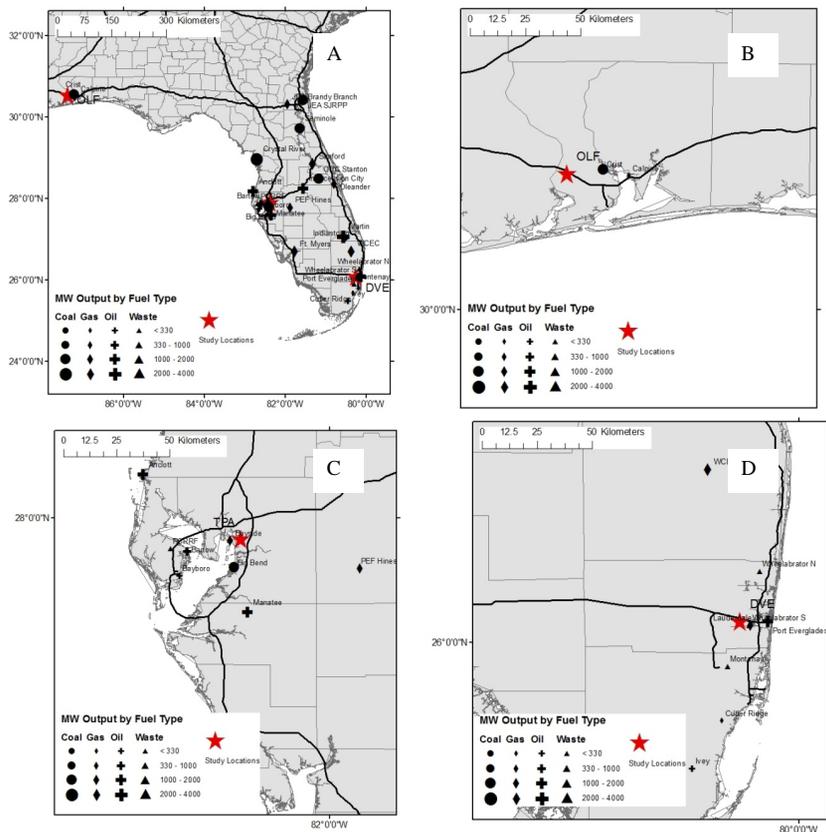


Fig. 1. (A) Map of Florida, located in the Southeastern United States, showing the study locations and Florida electricity generating plants (EGPs) with > 1000 MW output segregated by primary fuel type. Also shown are more detailed maps of area surrounding study sites and all EGUs within a 50 km radius for (B) Pensacola, (C) Tampa and (D) Ft. Lauderdale areas.

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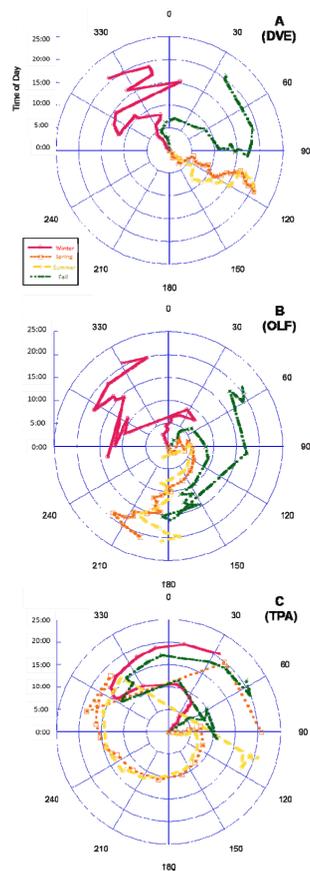


Fig. 2. Prevailing wind direction over the course of 24 h for each season for **(A)** DVE, **(B)** OLF and **(C)** TPA.

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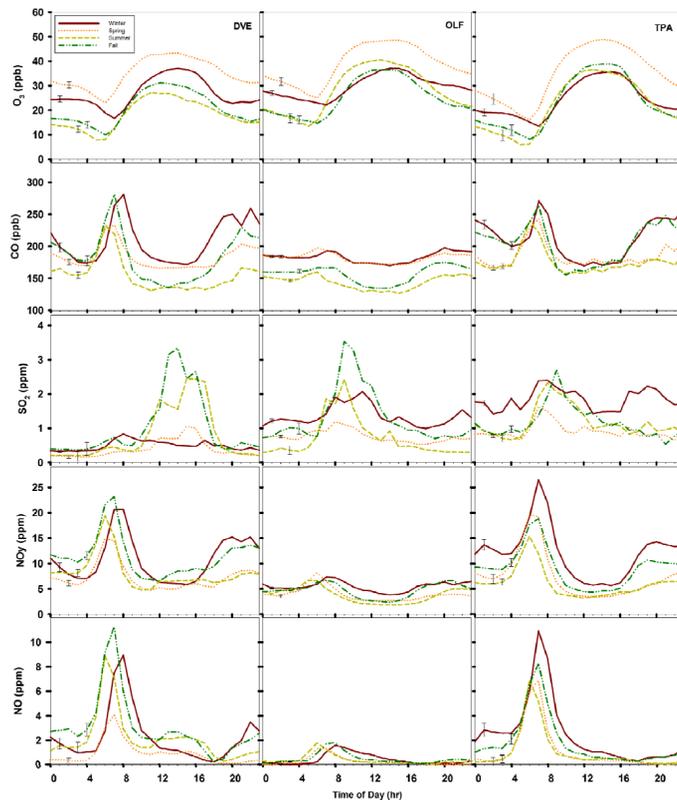


Fig. 3a. Diel bin plots of ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_y and NO) developed using 2-h seasonal means. Error bars represent the standard error associated with the two hour data with the first error bar representing winter values, second bar being spring, the third bar is summer and fourth bar is fall. Panels show data for DVE, OLF and TPA from left to right.

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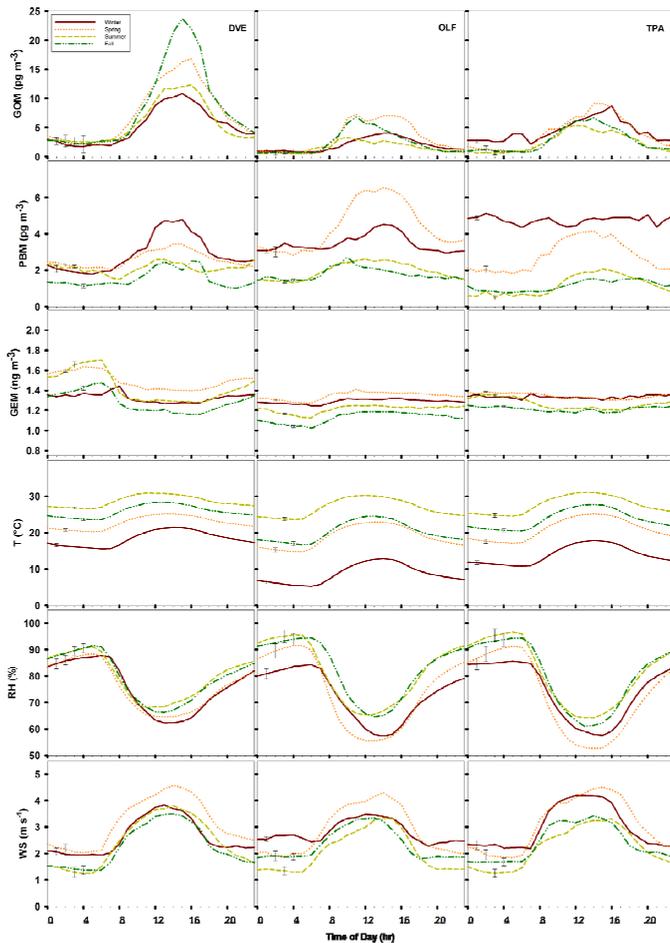



Fig. 3b. Diel bin plots of GOM, PBM, GEM, temperature, relative humidity (RH) and windspeed (WS) also derived using 2-h seasonal means.

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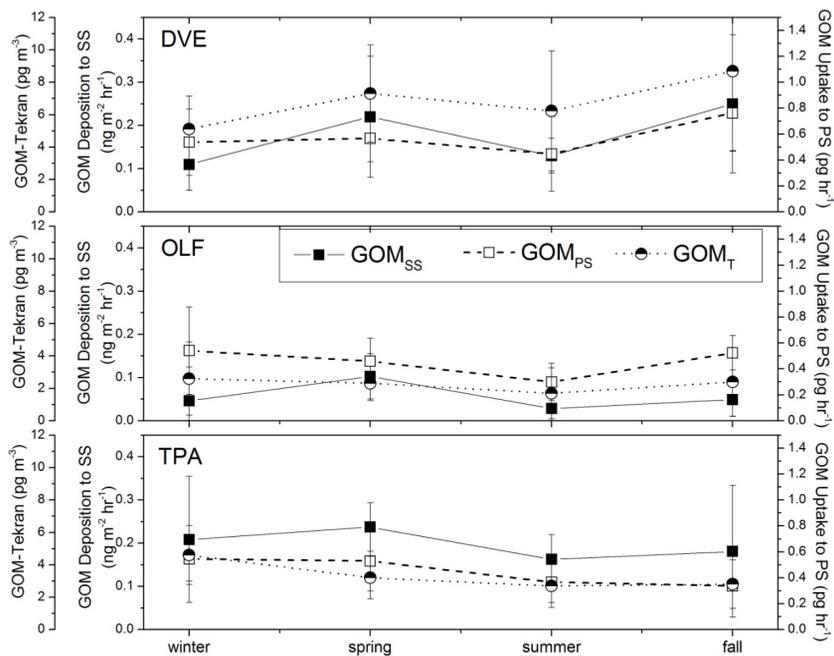


Fig. 4. Seasonal means ± 1 sd of Tekran-GOM air concentration (GOM_t), GOM dry deposition to a surrogate surface (GOM_{SS}), and GOM uptake to a passive sampler (GOM_{PS}) measured at DVE, OLF and TPA.

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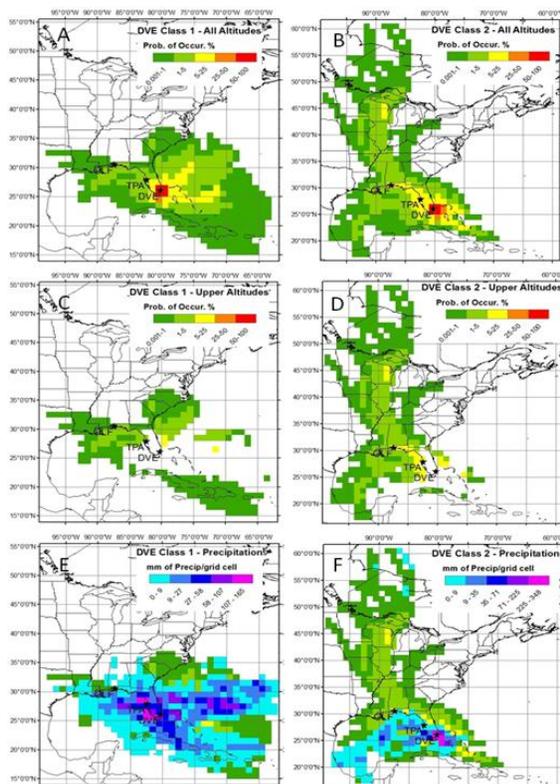


Fig. 5. Gridded frequency distributions of back trajectories for the five highest GOM concentration event days Classes 1 and 2 at the DVE site. **(A)** Horizontal location probabilities for Class 1 events. **(B)** Horizontal location probabilities for Class 2 events. **(C)** Same as **(A)**, but with color removed from grid cells with $> 90\%$ of trajectory points having altitudes below the modeled boundary layer. **(D)** Same as **(C)** except for Class 2 events. **(E and F)** Modeled precipitation distributions for Classes 1 and 2 events overlain on the horizontal location probabilities.

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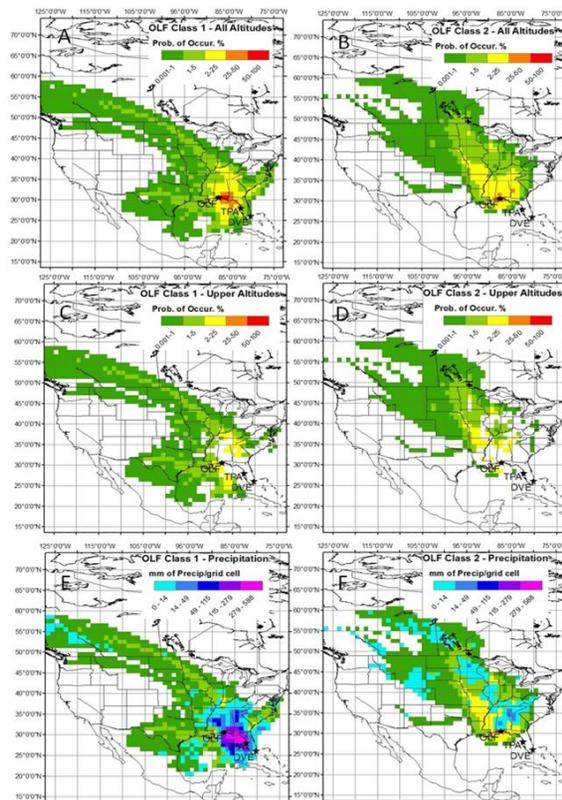


Fig. 6. Gridded frequency distributions of back trajectories for the five highest GOM concentration event days Classes 1 and 2 at the OLF site. **(A)** Horizontal location probabilities for Class 1 events. **(B)** Horizontal location probabilities for Class 2 events. **(C)** Same as **(A)**, but with color removed from grid cells with $>90\%$ of trajectory points having altitudes below the modeled boundary layer. **(D)** Same as **(C)** except for Class 2 events. **(E and F)** Modeled precipitation distributions for Classes 1 and 2 events overlain on the horizontal location probabilities.

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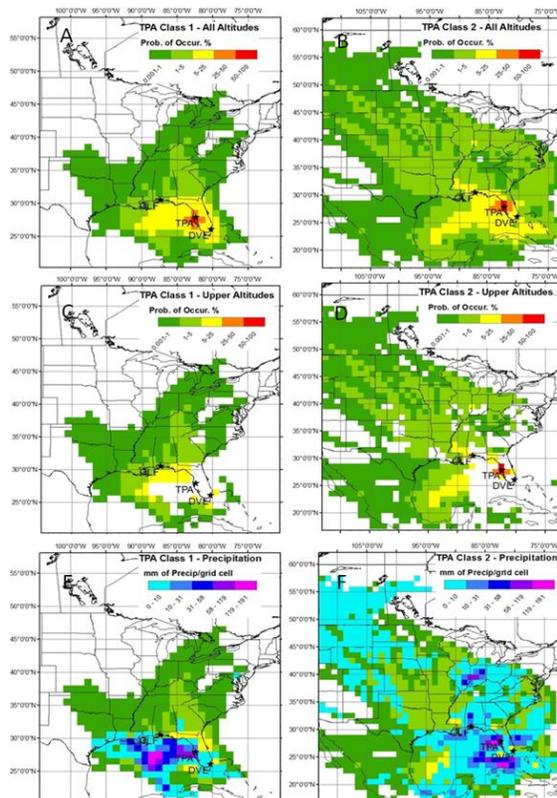


Fig. 7. Gridded frequency distributions of back trajectories for the five highest GOM concentration event days Classes 1 and 2 at the TPA site. **(A)** Horizontal location probabilities for Class 1 events. **(B)** Horizontal location probabilities for Class 2 events. **(C)** Same as **(A)**, but with color removed from grid cells with $>90\%$ of trajectory points having altitudes below the modeled boundary layer. **(D)** Same as **(C)** except for Class 2 events. **(E and F)** Modeled precipitation distributions for Classes 1 and 2 events overlain on the horizontal location probabilities.

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