Supporting Information

Understanding the Primary Emissions and Secondary Formation of Gaseous Organic Acids in the Oil Sands Region of Alberta, Canada

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Methods.

Transformation Flights.

Transformation flights were designed as Lagrangian experiments such that air parcels in plumes were repeatedly sampled at different times (1 hour apart), by flying virtual screens (at multiple altitudes) up to 120km downwind of the OS. There were no industrial emissions between the screens such that pollutant differences between screens can be ascribed to a combination of photochemistry, dilution and deposition. Meteorological parameters associated with the transformation flights are given in Liggio et al., 2016. In the current work, the secondary formation of organic acids and their evolution over time is investigated using primarily F19 (but also F20) as it was the most successful Lagrangian experiment, having the best agreement between air parcel transport times and aircraft flight times at each plume intercept (Liggio et al., 2016).

HR-ToF-CIMS Measurements.

The HR-ToF-CIMS sub-sampled air through a rear-facing (0.635 cm O.D., 0.580 I.D., 3 meter length) PFA Teflon (PFA) tube externally heated to 50 ℃ and into the ion-molecule reaction (IMR) region of the CIMS via a critical orifice (1.7 L min^{-1}). Acetate ions were generated by passing 10 mL min^{-1} of N_2 over the headspace of a diffusion vessel containing acetic anhydride, followed by dilution with N_2 and ionization via a Po^{210} source. To reduce the residence time in the overall sampling manifold, the total flow was maintained at >15 L min^{-1}, resulting

in a residence time from the inlet to the HR-ToF-CIMS of less than 0.4 seconds. The IMR pressure was maintained at 60 mbar by constantly modulating the volume of air provided to the ambient pressure side of the IMR pump. Instrumental backgrounds were performed 3-5 times per flight for a duration of 5 minutes each, by diverting the sample flow through a pair of acidic gas traps. These traps were comprised of nylon wool coated in a saturated

5   solution of sodium bicarbonate, followed by activated carbon. The effective use of bicarbonate as an acid scrubber has been demonstrated previously (Veres et al., 2008;Yuan et al., 2016).

During sampling and calibrations, a constant flow of 1 mL min^{-1} containing a known gaseous concentration of isotopically labelled formic acid (C^{13}) was also introduced into the HR-ToF-CIMS to correct for any dynamic fluctuations in response factors. The detection limits for various organic acids was estimated to be approximately 2 –

10   10 pptv (2σ level noise), with a 2 second time response. At higher altitudes ($> \approx 1500$ m), the pressure of the IMR could not be reliably controlled due to pumping limitations, resulting in portions of the data at altitude being invalidated. The HR-ToF-CIMS was not operational during F7.

Other Supporting Measurements.

15   Refractory black carbon (rBC, also referred to as BC) measurements were conducted with a Single Particle Soot Photometer (SP2; Droplet Measurement Technologies, Boulder, CO, USA.). Extensive descriptions of the principles of operation and its use in this and other aircraft applications have been given previously (Moteki and Kondo, 2010;Schwarz et al., 2006). Briefly, single BC particles were irradiated with an intra-cavity pump laser (1064 nm), heating the BC particles to >4000°C and resulting in BC incandescence which was monitored in the

20   visible band (λ= 300-550 nm) and calibrated with regal black particles during this study (Cheng et al., 2017).

An extensive set of 154 volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including C_2-C_8 alkanes, branched alkanes, alkenes, C_6-C_{10} aromatics and halogenated hydrocarbons, were measured via on board canister sampling with subsequent offline analysis. Air samples were collected during flight into pre-cleaned and passivated 3L stainless steel canisters. Each canister was sampled for 20 seconds, with 20-65 integrated samples collected in a given flight

25   mostly in plumes. The canisters were analyzed by off-line gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis. Full details with respect to canister sampling is described elsewhere (Li et al., 2017).

Nitrogen oxides (NO and NO_2) were measured with separate chemiluminescence-based NO/NO_x instruments (TECO 42i-TL; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). One instrument was equipped with a photolytic converter (Air Quality Design Inc.) to selectively convert NO_2 to NO followed by detection of NO. Data

30   was recorded with a 1 second time resolution, and instrument zeros were performed 3-5 times per flight for a duration of ~5 minutes using in-line air purifiers. The conversion efficiency of the photolytic converter was experimentally determined to be ~60%, which was applied to the final data. Ozone was measured with an absorption based O_3 instrument (TECO 49i; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

Topdown Emission Rate Retrieval Algorithm (TERRA).

For estimating primary emissions, the TERRA algorithm resolves air mass balance within the virtual box and determines the mass fluxes across the walls to derive an emission rate for a pollutant based on the Divergence Theorem. The emission rate is determined using the following equation

$$E = E_H + E_{HT} + E_V + E_{VT} + E_{VD} - E_M \qquad (1)$$

where the individual terms represent fluxes due to horizontal advection into and out of the box, horizontal turbulence, vertical advection, vertical turbulence, dry deposition, and air mass density change over the flight duration.

The secondary organic acid formation rate (RF_{OrgAc}; for any single species) between any two virtual screens (in the absence of any other primary emissions downwind), can be derived as the transfer rate (R_{OrgAc}) difference between the screens,

$$RF_{OrgAc} \approx R_{OrgAc}(t_2) - R_{OrgAc}(t_1) \qquad (2)$$

Where t represents the time associated with the various screens. Eq (2) ignores dry deposition, which implies that it is a lower limit to the actual organic acid formation rate during the measurement period. An estimate of the total LMWOA formation rate corrected for dry deposition is provided below. The total organic acid production rate (RF_{OrgAc}) for any measured species in these flights is taken to be the transfer rate (R_{OrgAc}) through the final screen after having removed the contribution to the transfer rate from primary organic acid emissions described above. This contribution is typically small as described in section 3.2.1. The spatial extent of the oil sands plume (and the organic acid formation within these plumes) across any given screen is defined within TERRA using BC measurements which are known to originate from mining activities in the oil sands, and whose background levels are negligible. The edge of the OS plume is approximately defined as where the BC concentration returns to background levels (≈ 0.05 μg m^{-3}). The total organic acid production over the course of the transformation flight is further extrapolated to a photochemical day (ie: tonnes/day) by scaling to the available OH radical, in a manner described previously (Liggio et al., 2016).

Modifications to the MCM for organic acids.

Organic acids are included in the MCM as photochemical products of various VOC precursors. In addition to the native MCM reactions, additional modifications were applied for formic and acetic acids. Specifically, previous recommendations with respect to formic acid were applied here (Yuan et al., 2015). These include updated yields from the ozonolysis and OH radical reactions of alkenes, aromatics, isoprene, terpenes, glycoaldehyde and

hydroxyacetone, formation from vinyl alcohol oxidation and reaction of CH_3O_2 with OH, and the various branching ratios as reported previously (Yuan et al., 2015). Additional changes with respect to the acetic acid mechanism were also made to the MCM following the approach of Yuan et al., 2015. Specifically, the acetic acid yield from the ozonolysis of propene was increased from 7.4% to 9.6% (Paulot et al., 2011), an acetic yield of 8% from OH

5   reaction of hydroxyacetone was added (Butkovskaya et al., 2006) as a proxy for the yield from isoprene (Yuan et al., 2015), and a 7.5% yield from $\Box$-pinene ozonolysis was added based on the work of Paulot et al., 2011. While yields of formic acid from OH reactions of aromatic species have been reported and hence added to the MCM (Yuan et al., 2015), similar acetic acid yields are not readily available with the exception of one study for a single aromatic (TMB) (Wyche et al., 2009). However, several laboratory studies have since attributed much of the acetic acid

10   signal detected in laboratory experiments to chamber wall off-gassing and/or fragmentation from larger molecular weight species (Müller et al., 2012;Praplan et al., 2014). Given the uncertainty in using the quantified yield value from a single study we have chosen not to include it here. The mechanisms for all other organic acids in the MCM 3.3 were not altered, primarily due to the lack of experimental data on specific yields from various precursors.

15   **Upscaling hourly measurements to Daily Emissions.**

The hourly primary emissions of LMWOAs derived in Figure S-7 must be scaled up to a daily emission rate for comparison to daily VOC emissions estimates (Li et al., 2017) in Figure 7. However a simple 24 hour scaling factor may overestimate the total daily emissions. Hence, the approach of Li et al., 2016 is used to estimate the daily emissions of LMWOAs. This approach is simplified here, as the emissions are considered solely from

20   mine fleet emissions. As shown in Li et al., 2016, the TERRA derived hourly emission rates are converted to daily emission rates based on the diurnal changes in bitumen production. For mining trucks the hourly emission rate ($\mathbf{R_m}$) is related to the average hourly emission rate ($\overline{R_m}$), the hourly bitumen production q at the hour of measurement and the 24-hour production p.

$$R_m = 24 * \overline{R_m} \left(\frac{q}{p}\right)$$

Since production is accompanied by SO_2 emissions, the ratio $\mathbf{q/p}$ may be derived as

$$\left(\frac{q}{p}\right) = \frac{R_{SO_2}}{\sum R_{SO_2}}$$

25   where R_{SO_2} is the hourly emission rate during aircraft measurement, and $\sum R_{SO_2}$ is the daily SO_2 emission rate. Thus, a factor $\mathbf{C}$, for converting hourly to daily emission rates, can be expressed as

$$C = 24 * \frac{q}{p} \sum_{m=1}^{n} f_m = \frac{24 * R_{SO_2}}{\sum R_{SO_2}} \sum_{m=1}^{n} f_m$$

Where f_m is the fractional contribution of the various sources in the facility to the total which scale with production. In this case, $f_m = 1$ (and $n = 1$) as only the mine fleet emissions are considered as the source of LMWOAs. Using continuous emission monitoring (CEMS) data for SO_2 from the facilities, the conversion factor **C** is derived as 0.92 ± 0.18, 1.01 ± 0.17, and 0.75 ± 0.24 for Syncrude-ML, Suncor-MS, and CNRL-HOR respectively. For other facilities no CEMS data for SO_2 were available, and the average of production terms above is used to calculate **C** (0.9 ± 0.2). Thus, a factor of $24/$**C** is multiplied with the TERRA hourly emission rates to obtain the daily emission rates shown in Figure 5.

Accounting for LMWOA deposition losses during transformation flights.

While dry deposition of particles has been estimated to be small on these experimental time scales (Liggio et al., 2016), it is expected that LMWOAs will be more severely dry deposited during the transformation flights than particles or non-oxygenated hydrocarbons, likely due to their higher water solubility which increases their potential to deposit to the surface (Nguyen et al., 2015). Reported deposition velocities for LMWOAs are highly limited; however regional modelling exercises have used a value of approximately 1 cm s^{-1} (Grosjean, 1992) for LMWOAs and recent measurements also indicate a value of $\approx$ 1 cm s^{-1} for formic acid over forest canopies (Nguyen et al., 2015). These estimates are comparable to that of SO_2 (Wu et al., 2016). Hence, in order to account for the dry deposition of LMWOAs here, their depositional loss is scaled to measured total sulfur loss (dominated by SO_2) measured between the flight screens of F19 and F20. Using concurrent total sulfur (TS) measurements, the maximum dry deposition of total S over the region was estimated to be approximately 24 ± 12 % hr^{-1} for F19 and 16 ± 6 % hr^{-1} for F20, derived from the differences in the total S mass transfer rates across their respective screens. We assume that this relative rate of deposition of TS is applicable to LMWOA, which is then propagated through the calculation of the hourly (and hence total) LMWOA formation as described previously (Liggio et al., 2016) and in section 3.2.1. Accordingly, the daily LMWOA formation rate including deposition is estimated to be 288 ± 58 and 226 ± 45 tonnes day^{-1} for F19 and F20 respectively. Given the uncertainties associated with attempting to indirectly derive a depositional loss for LMWOAs, these values are not discussed further or included in the associated figures. However, this estimate indicates that total formation neglecting deposition, as depicted in Figure 7, should be considered a lower limit.

Table S-1: Emission flights associated with specific surface mining OS operations

Surface Mining Facility	Flight Numbers
Syncrude - Mildred Lake **(ML)**	F2,F3,F4,F6,F12,F18
Syncrude - Aurora **(AU)**	F4,F15
Suncor - Millenium/Steepbank **(MS)**	F3,F4,F5,F6,F10,F14,F15
CNRL – Horizon **(HOR)**	F3,F8,F13,F17
Shell - Muskeg River/Jackpine **(MR/JP)**	F4, F9,F15,F21
Imperial - Kearl Lake **(KL)**	F21
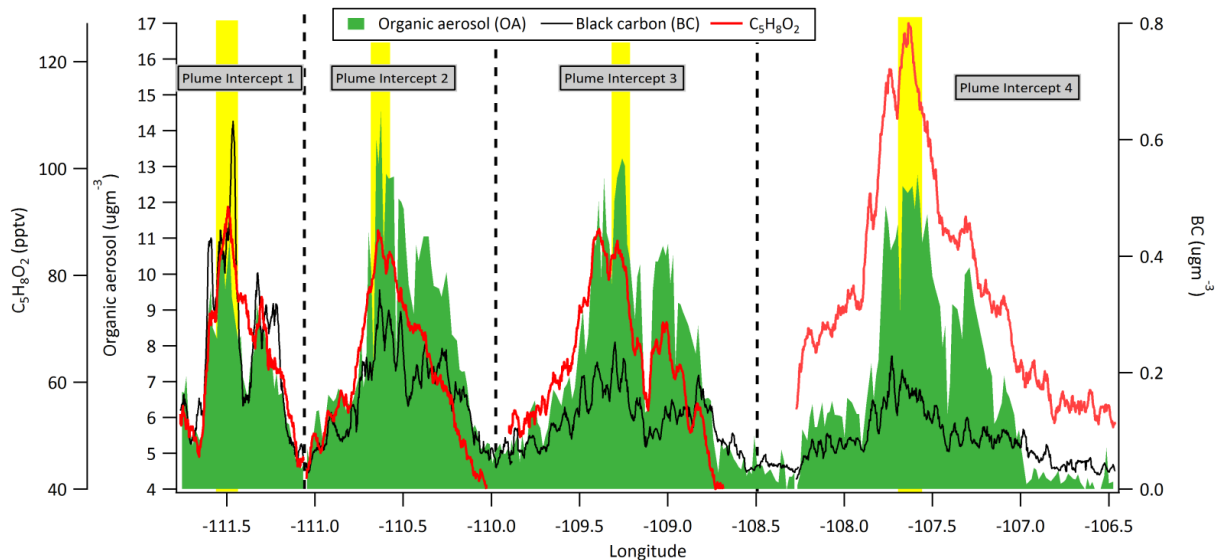
Figure S-1: Lagrangian plume intercepts of flight 19 used in subsequent box modelling. The Yellow shaded area for plume intercepts 1 – 4 represent the same parcel of air sampled within approximately 1 minute of its arrival time based on the average wind speed, and approximately 1 hr apart. Various chemical species are shown during these intercepts, including a typical organic acid ($C_5H_8O_2$), Black Carbon (BC), and organic aerosol as measured by the AMS.
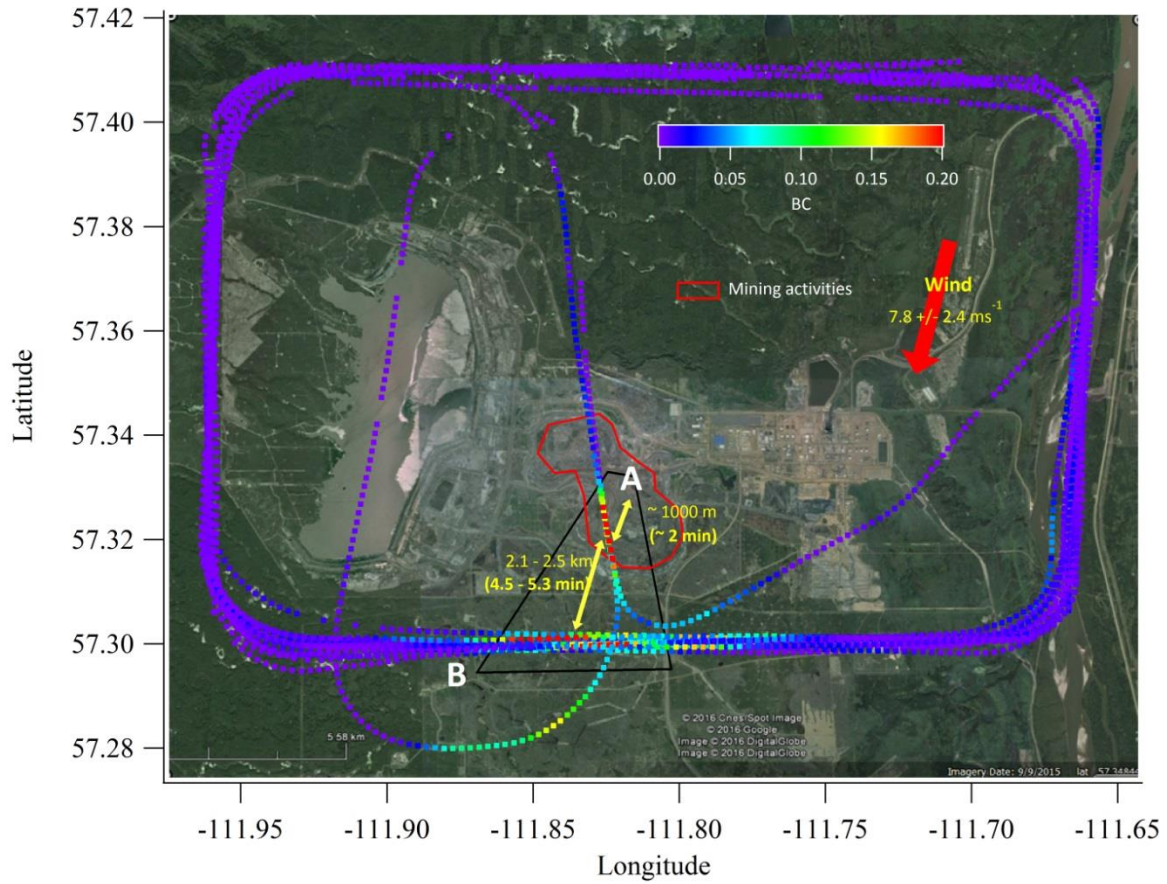
Figure S-2. Concentration of BC during emission flight 17 (CNRL) showing a transect (A) within the box and closest to the mining emission source (red box). Time in brackets represents the approximate time between the horizontal transects (A – B) or from the approximate center of the mine to the closest transect. The time is calculated based upon the average wind speed during this portion of the flight. The range in values is based upon differences in time calculated from the northern and southern most legs of transect B.
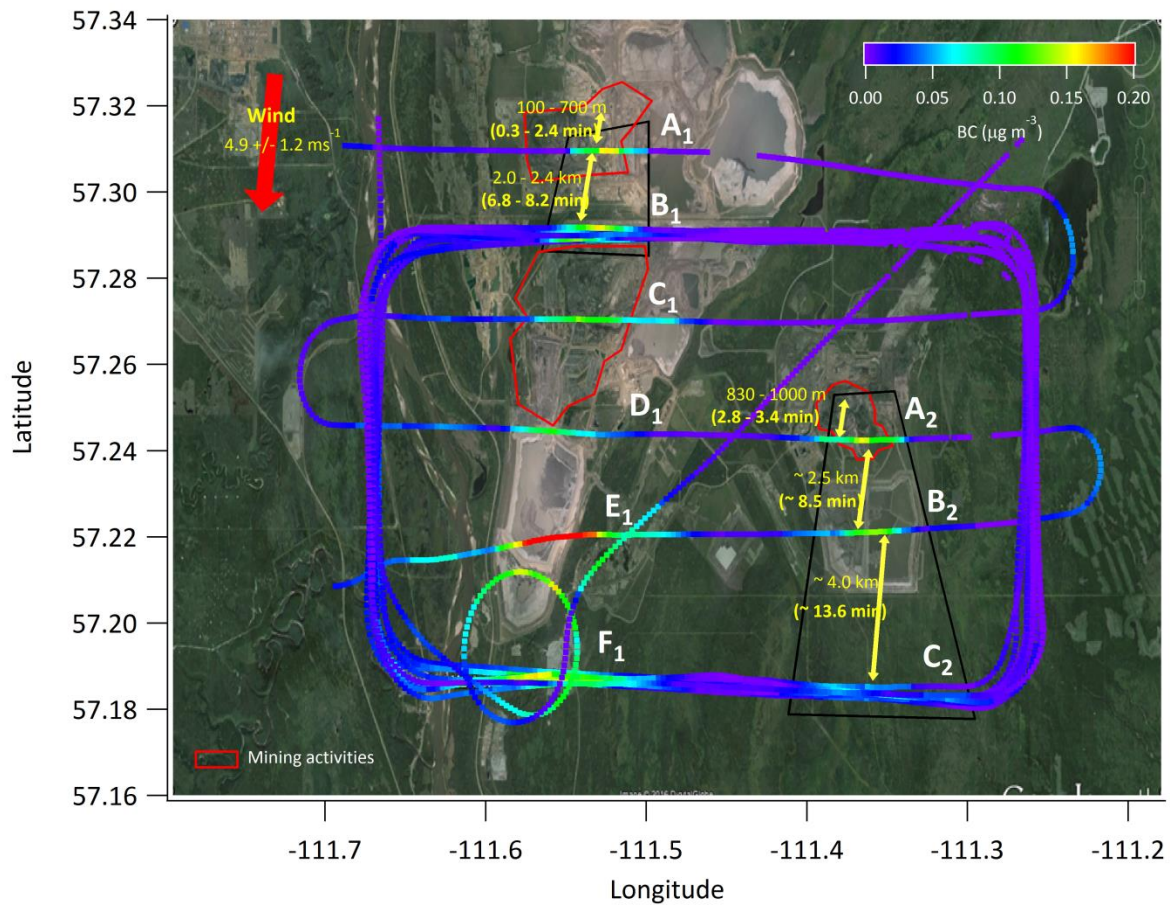
Figure S-3. Concentration of BC during emission flight 21 showing horizontal transects (A1 – F1) within the box and closest to the mining emission source (red boxes). Mine at A_1 = Syncrude-AU; Mine at A_2 = Shell-JP. Time in brackets represents the approximate time between horizontal transects or from the approximate center of the mine to the closest transect. The time is calculated based upon the average wind speed during this portion of the flight. The range in values is based upon differences in time calculated from the northern and southern most legs of transects A_1 – F_1.
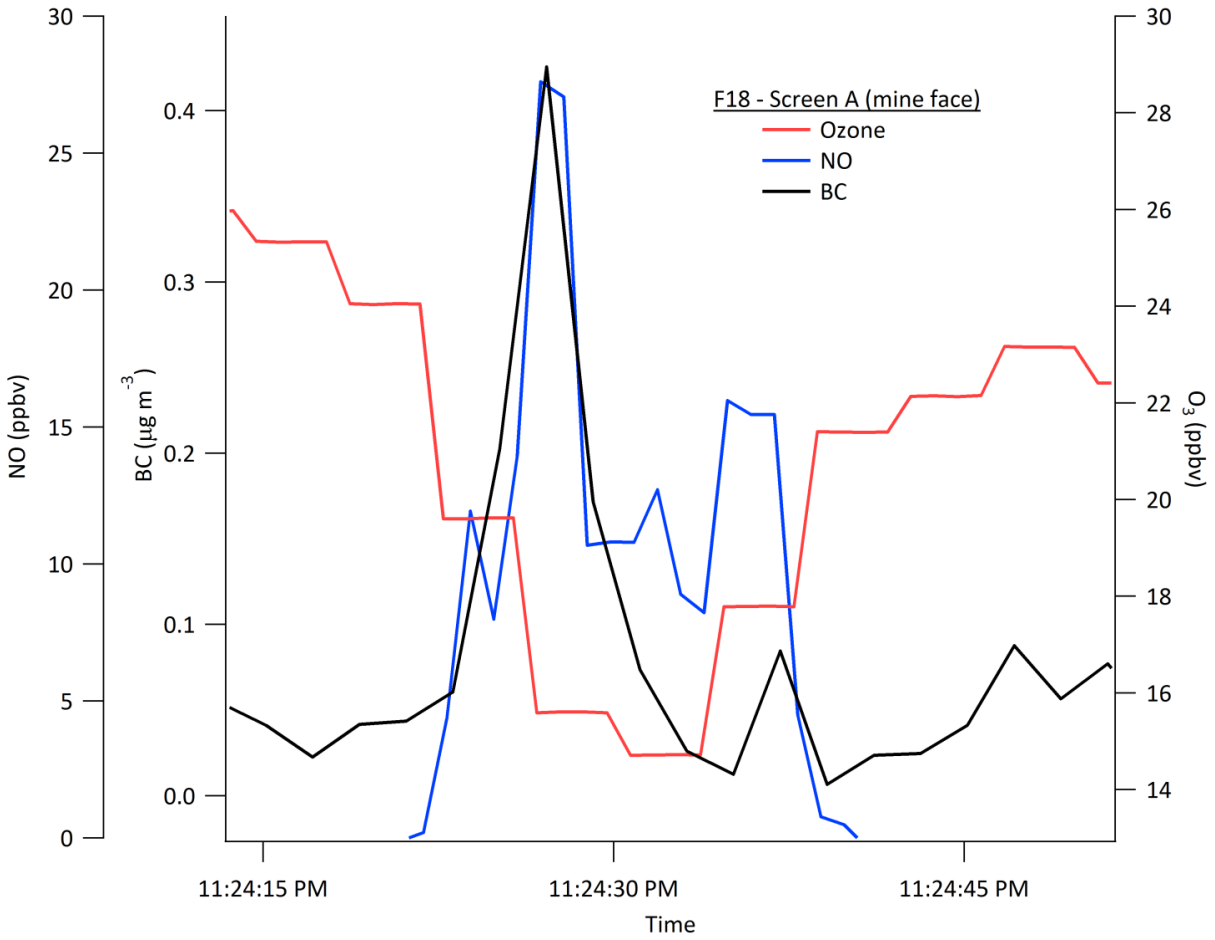
Figure S-4. Ozone, NO and BC through screen A of flight 18 (Figure 3) closest to the open pit mining source showing significant ozone titration via NO. Time in UTC.
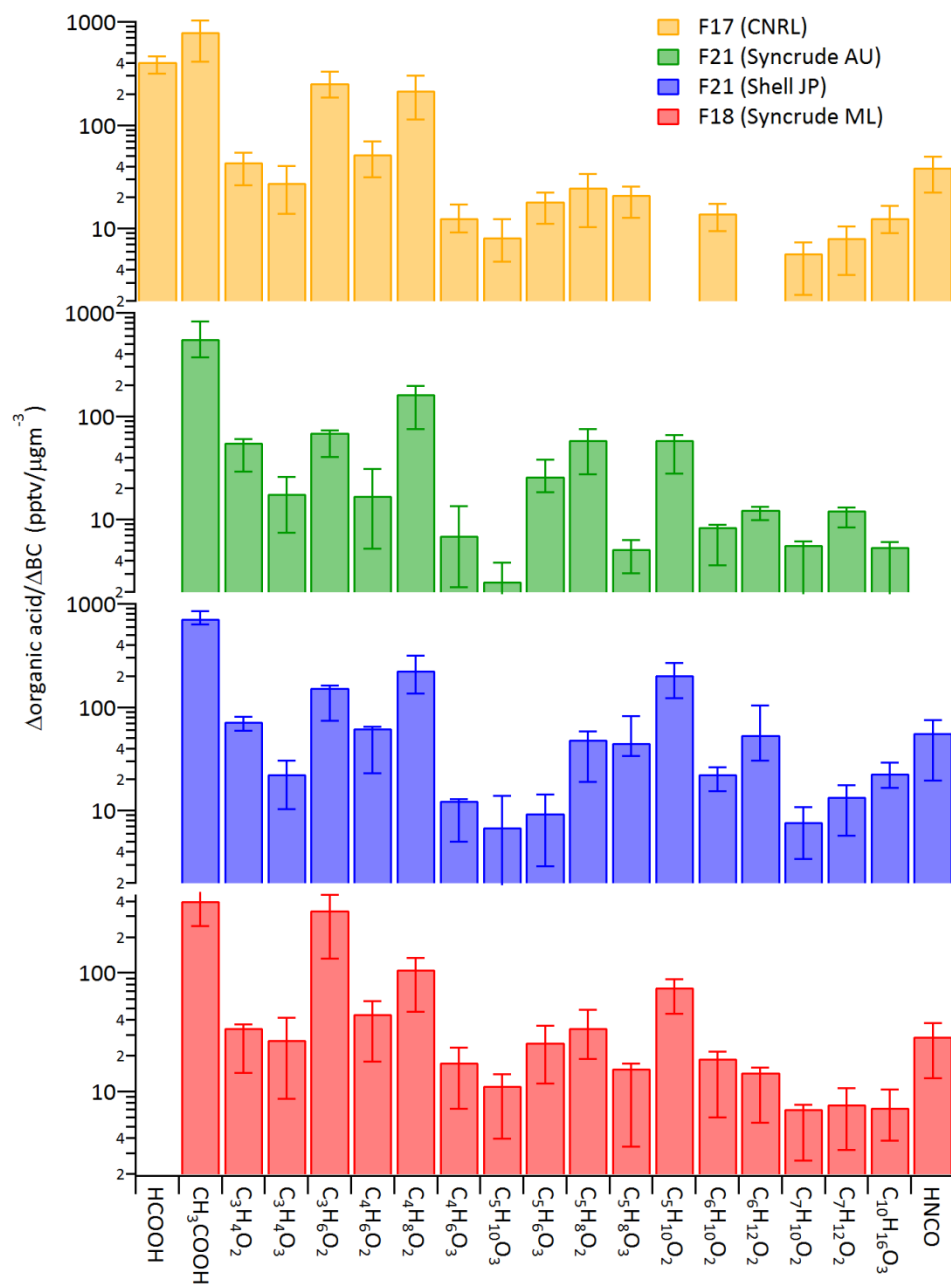
Figure S-5. Individual ΔLMWOA/ΔBC (ie: emission ratios) for the measured organic acids from flights 17, 18, and 21 as depicted in the yellow highlighted region of Figure 4. Error bars represent $25^{th} - 75^{th}$ percentiles of the ratio data. Instrumental issues resulted in no formic acid data for flights 17, 18 and 21 (JP).
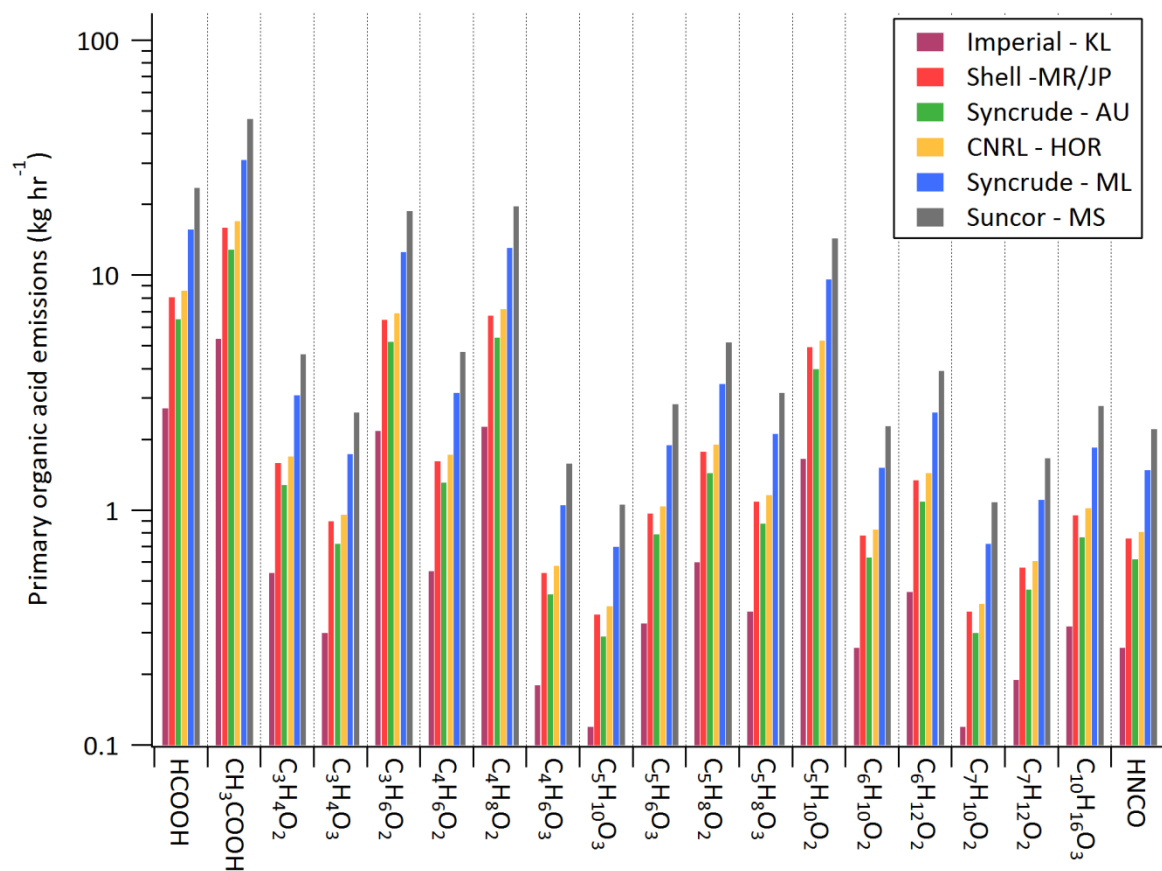
Figure S-6. Primary organic acid emissions (kg hr^{-1}) derived using the LMWOA/BC emission ratios of Figure 5 and the quantified BC emissions from the various OS operations of Table S-1.
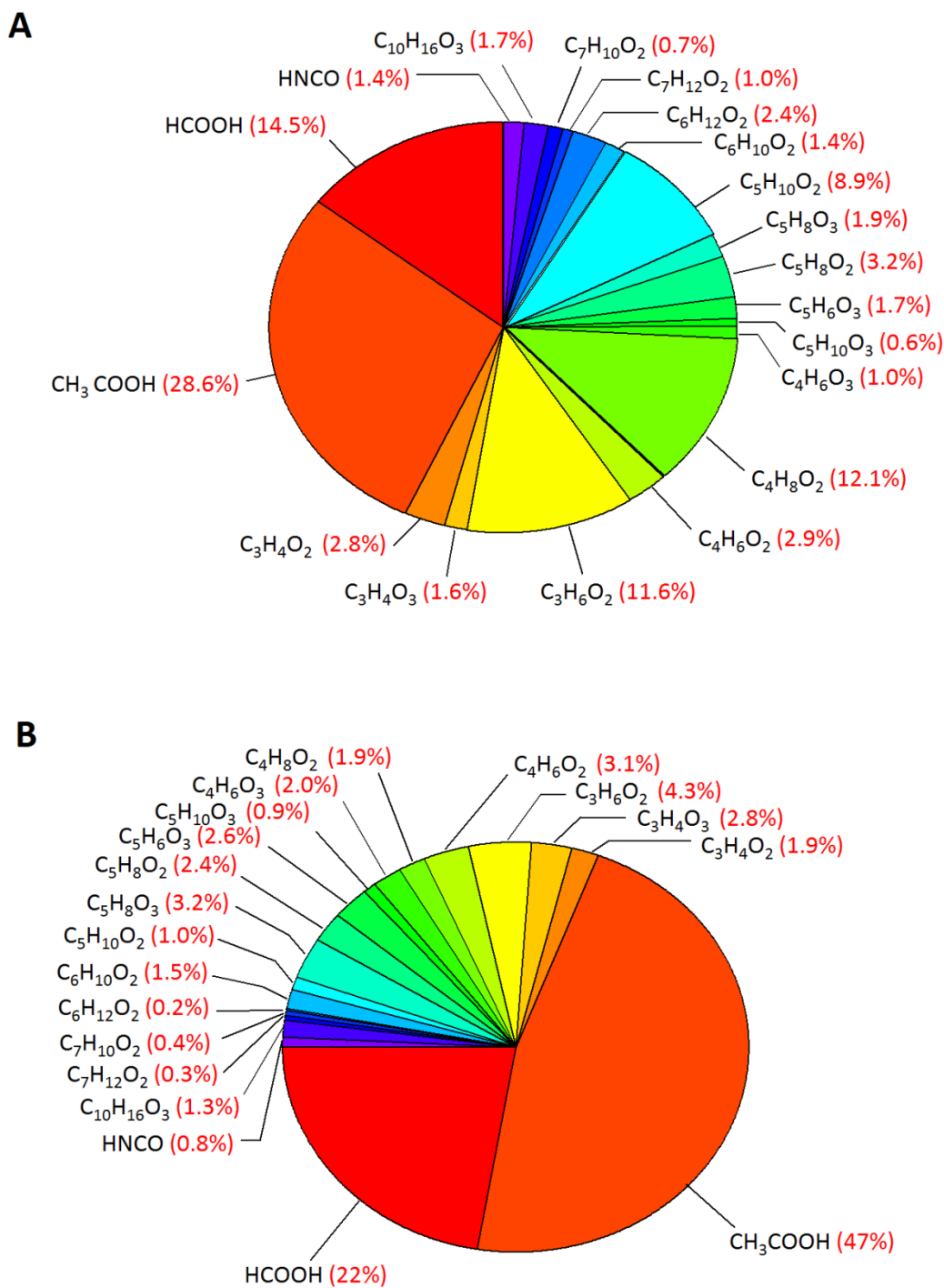
Figure S-7: A. Individual relative contributions to the total measured LMWOA primary mass emission rates summed across all surface mining OS facilities. **B.** Individual relative contributions to the total estimated LMWOA secondary formation rates derived from F19.
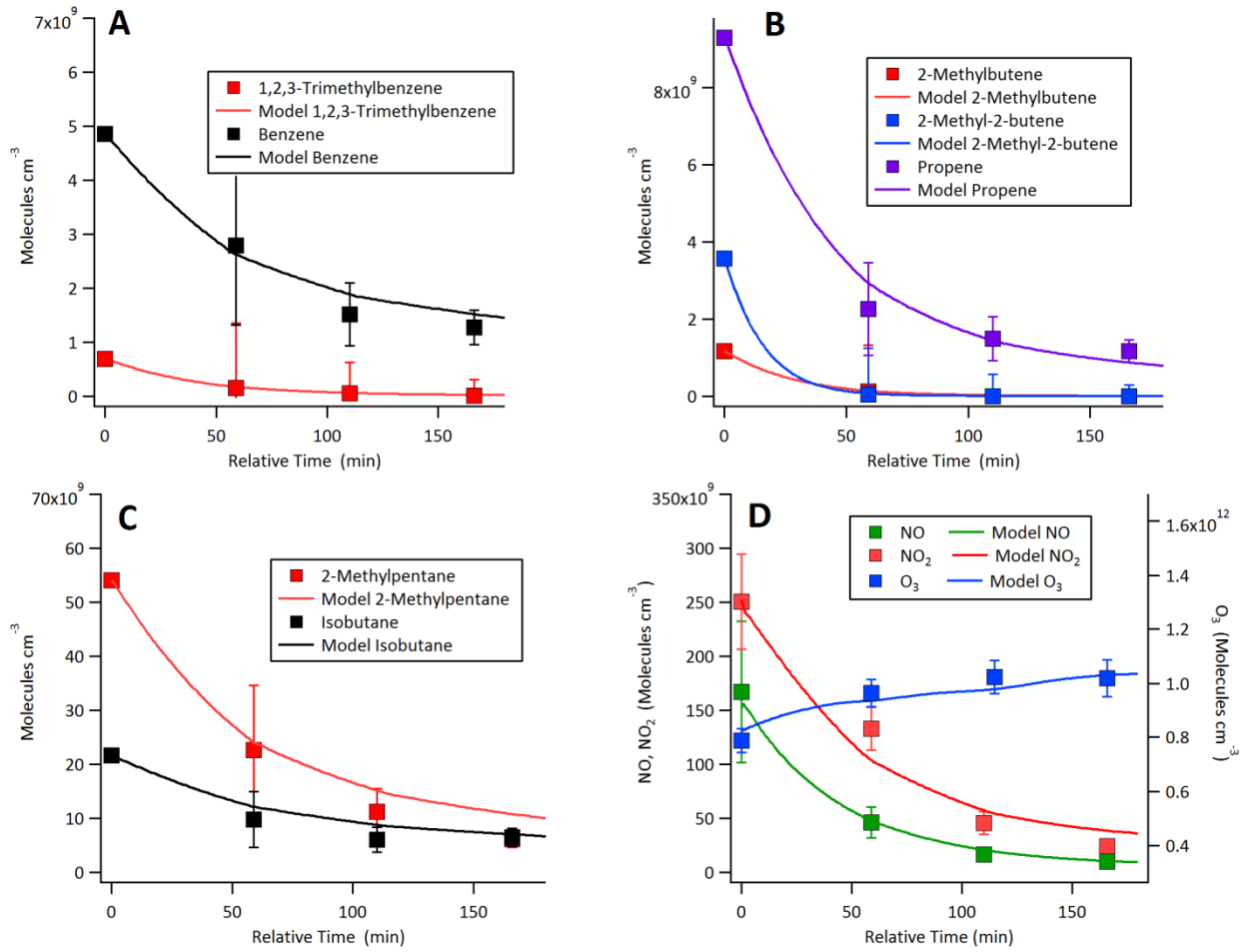
Figure S-8: Lagrangian box model – measurement comparison for select species during F19. **A.** Aromatic hydrocarbons. **B.** Alkenes. **C.** Alkanes. **D.** NOx and Ozone.

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