MORE CASTNET BACKGROUND INFO From EPA website

Purpose of CASTNET

The Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) is a national long-term environmental monitoring program administered and operated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service. The network was developed from the National Dry Deposition Network (NDDN) which was established in 1987. CASTNET was established in 1991 under the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. The network was formed to assess trends in air quality, atmospheric deposition, and ecological effects that result from air pollutant emission reduction regulations, such as the Acid Rain Program (ARP) and NOx Budget Trading Program (NBP). CASTNET has since become the nation’s primary monitoring network for measuring concentrations of air pollutants involved in acidic deposition affecting regional ecosystems and rural ambient ozone levels. Additionally, CASTNET provides data needed to assess and report on geographic patterns and long-term temporal trends in ambient air pollution and dry atmospheric deposition. As of January 2011, meteorological parameters are measured at only four of the EPA-sponsored CASTNET sites: PAL190, TX; CHE185, OK; BVL130, IL; and BEL116, MD. CASTNET monitors air quality and deposition in cooperation with the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (including the National Trends Network, Mercury Deposition Network, Atmospheric Mercury Network, and Ammonia Monitoring Network), the Canadian Air and Precipitation Monitoring Network, and Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE).