Some Measures for Air Pollution Reduction in Santiago, 1989

Summary:

This study was part of CIAPEP ’89, held in Santiago, Chile, from March to December of that year under the sponsorship of Chile’s National Planning Office (ODEPLAN) and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. The study analyzed two measures aimed at controlling particulate emissions, the pollutant that exceeds air quality standards for the region by the greatest amount. As roadways are the main source of particulate matter, the study looked at street cleaning and paving as pollution reduction measures and developed a methodology to estimate the cost per ton of particulate reduced, which would help generate criteria for prioritizing the streets that would provide the most benefits from cleaning and/or paving.

The study also examined different instruments that could be adopted by the authorities to control emission from different sources and do so in the most efficient way possible. These instruments were classified as Standards, Taxes, and Tradable Emission Permits (TEPs). The analysis concluded that it would be advisable to design an air pollution reduction policy based on a TEP system, applicable to stationary sources, excluding roadways and residential sources. The pollution reduction policy asserted that the price the TEPs obtained on the market would be a signal for deciding to what extent other measures to control pollution needed to be implemented for sources not participating in the TEP system, as well as for deciding which streets to clean and pave.

The study offered a list of issues that would need to be resolved in order to launch an effective TEP system and some ideas for how to address those issues.