

February 2006

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the international Network for the Detection of Stratospheric Change (NDSC) was formed to provide a consistent standardized set of long-term measurements of atmospheric trace gases, particles, and physical parameters via a suite of globally distributed research stations. Officially formalized and operational since 1991, the NDSC was set up during the late 1980s in response to the need to document and understand worldwide stratospheric perturbations resulting from increased anthropogenic emissions into the atmosphere of long-lived halogenated source gases with strong ozone-depleting and global-warming potentials.

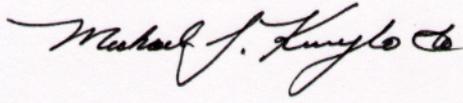
The initial objective of the NDSC was to monitor, from pole to pole, the temporal evolution of the stratosphere, including its protective ozone layer, and to understand the causes (i.e., natural versus anthropogenic, chemical versus dynamical) of the observed changes and their impacts on the troposphere and at the ground. This dual goal of long-term global measurement and understanding has led to the implementation of a ground-based network of “primary” and “complementary” NDSC stations equipped with a suite of remote-sensing instruments, allowing the quasi-simultaneous study of a large number of chemical compounds and physical parameters. Because of its worldwide dimension, the NDSC has been recognized as a major component of the international atmospheric research effort. As such, it has been endorsed by national and international scientific agencies, including the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the International Ozone Commission (IOC) of the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Physics (IAMAP). It also has been recognized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as a major contributor to its Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme.

While the NDSC remains committed to monitoring changes in the stratosphere, with an emphasis on the long-term evolution of the ozone layer (its decay, likely stabilization, and expected recovery), its priorities and measurement capabilities have broadened considerably to encompass:

- detecting trends in overall atmospheric composition and understanding their impacts on the stratosphere and troposphere,
- establishing links between climate change and atmospheric composition,
- calibrating and validating space-based measurements of the atmosphere,
- supporting process-focused scientific field campaigns, and
- testing and improving theoretical models of the atmosphere.

Many members of the atmospheric science community have noted that this expanded emphasis is not adequately reflected in the name of the Network and, in fact, that the word “Stratospheric” has led to a mistaken impression that the focus of NDSC activities is that of a “solved problem” (i.e., stratospheric ozone depletion). Hence, to better reflect the free tropospheric and stratospheric coverage of Network measurement, analysis, and modeling activities, as well as to convey the linkage to climate change, the Steering Committee voted to change the name of the network to the Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change (NDACC). The NDSC web site soon will be changed to <http://www.ndacc.org>.

We look forward to your continued participation and support of NDACC.  
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Kurylo in black ink on a light pink background.

Dr. Michael J. Kurylo, Co-Chair  
NDSC Steering Committee

Handwritten signature of Geir O. Braathen in black ink on a light pink background.

Dr. Geir O. Braathen, Co-Chair  
NDSC Steering Committee