

## **"A R I A" - Air Resources Information Access Bulletin Board System**

### **Introduction**

One of the goals of the Air Resources Branch is to provide technical support to the Ministry's regional offices, and to distribute information to industries, stakeholders, public interest groups and individuals interested in air quality issues.

To meet this goal, the Air Resources Branch has developed the Air Resources Information Access Bulletin Board System (ARIA BBS) as a communication tool for the exchange of information relating to air resources management.

### **What Is the ARIA BBS?**

The ARIA BBS is a user-friendly computer system readily accessible from anywhere in the world. It is a useful tool for speedy information exchange over long distances amongst individuals in government, local agencies and the private sector who are involved in air pollution control activities.

Access is easy and free of charge, to encourage this information exchange. Users can scan files and message boards, retrieve items of interest or leave information on the message board.

### **Contents of the ARIA BBS**

Some of the information and files currently held in the system include:

- air quality dispersion models and programs;
- smoke management models;
- model tutorials;
- model documentation and model changes;
- modelling guidelines;
- air quality modelling alerts;
- digitized terrain (contour maps) for model use;
- ambient air quality summaries;
- emission criteria;
- stratospheric ozone data;
- air quality monitoring and reporting;
- tables of contents of scientific journals;
- Air Resources Branch (ARB) news; and
- ARB special projects.

The Air Resources Branch will continue to expand the contents of the BBS, and as its use grows, the number of input lines will be increased. Additional ways to access the system will also be examined.

## Features of the ARIA BBS

ARIA also provides all standard features for transferring files and messages from the network to the user and vice versa. The primary features are file downloading and uploading, viewing of text files, and teleconferencing. Utility functions available on the network include communication with the systems operator, user registry search, on-line users, recent callers and system information.

## Accessing ARIA BBS

To access the ARIA BBS, a user needs a computer (preferably PC compatible), a modem and communication software capable of communicating at up to 9600 baud. The following parameters need to be set in the user's communication program:

Tel. #- (604) 387-7952  
Data bits - 8  
Parity- No  
Stop bit- 1

Questions about the user's computer will also need to be answered. A User's Guide is available upon request from the system operator.

First time callers will be asked their identity through a short questionnaire. At this point, access will be restricted to browsing some sections of the system or leaving a message for the system operator (SYSOP) until the caller's registration has been reviewed. This is intended to safeguard the system from unauthorized users. It will take at least a day for the SYSOP to assign a new user an ID with a privileged level of access. Once an ID has been assigned, the user is registered and has access to all available files.

The system is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, excluding Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. when the system is down for maintenance. A voice help line is also available to communicate with the systems operator from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Pacific Standard Time, at (604) 387-9943.

For further information on the ARIA BBS, or to receive a copy of the User's Guide, contact:

ARIA BBS System Operator  
Air Quality Assessment Section  
Air Resources Branch  
BC Environment  
777 Broughton Street, 2nd floor  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8V 1X5

or call the voice help line at (604) 387-9943.

*Addendum*

*Telnet - address*

*142.36.4.5 port = 2522*