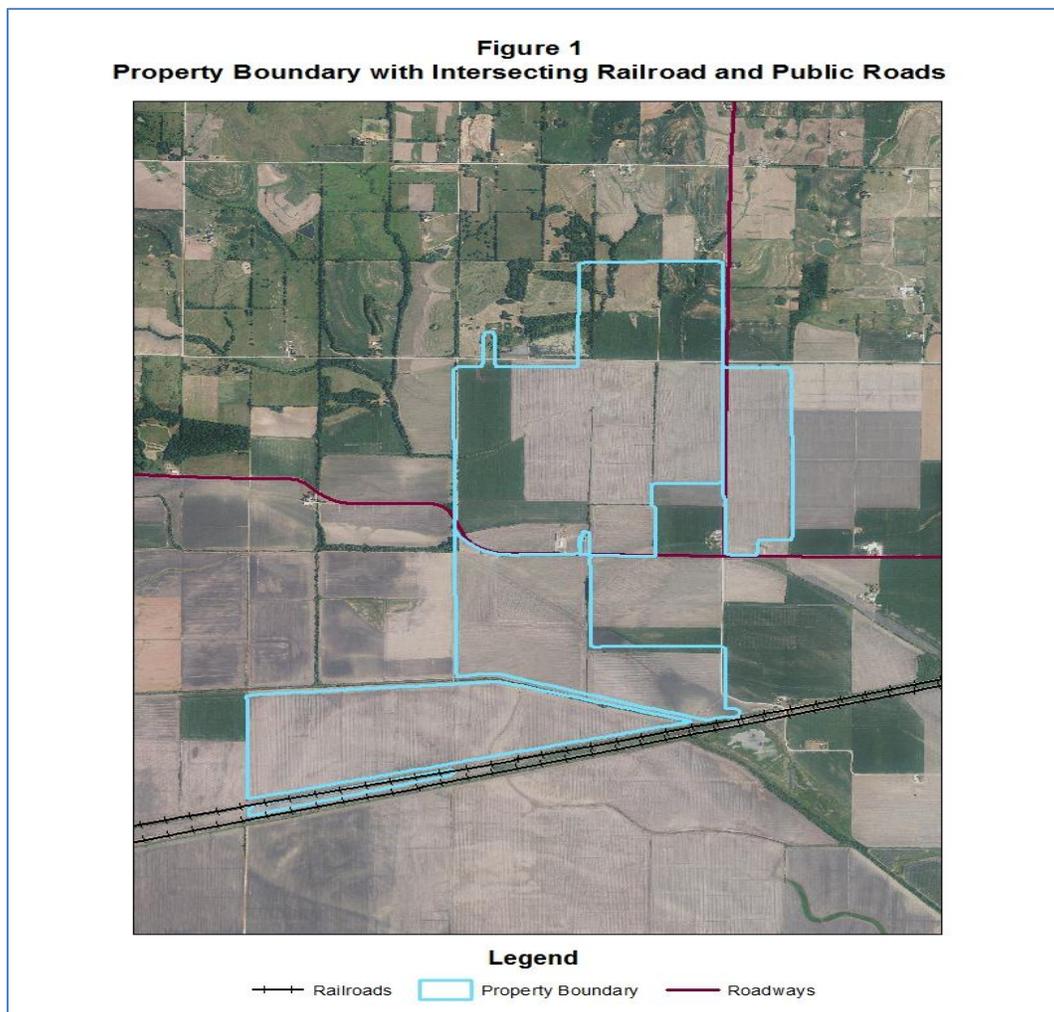


Property Boundaries & Ambient Air Determinations

“Ambient Air” is defined according to 40 CFR Part 50.1(e) as “the portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings to which the general public has access”. Ambient air starts at the applicant’s property line. It does not include the atmosphere over land owned or controlled by the source and to which public access is precluded by a fence or other physical barriers. An applicant does not have to consider on-site impacts of air pollution on their property from their own sources. When creating a receptor grid for modeling purposes, receptors only need to be placed in ambient air locations. If a publicly accessible road, water body or rail line intersects property owned by a facility; those areas are considered ambient. For example if a public rail line intersects the property owned by the applicant to where the applicant does not have control over access to the rail line then the rail line is considered ambient air. If the applicant does control access to the rail line such as in the instance of a rail spur, than the applicant can consider the air over their spur part of their property. Figure 1, entitled “Property Boundary with Intersecting Railroad and Public Roads” graphically depicts a proposed property boundary with many sections to account for ambient air along public roads and a main railway.





Property Boundaries & Ambient Air Determinations

It should be noted that any prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permit applicant will be required to fence or preclude access to any property claimed in their modeling files by permit condition. A fence is defined as three strands of barbed wire. Examples of precluding access are a natural physical barrier such as a steep bluff, video surveillance, or an actual human patrol of the area. Any of the options other than the fence must be approved by the Air Pollution Control Program before permit issuance.

Typically, in the case where an applicant leases land from another source and they are considered two separate installations where each controls and precludes access to the other, they are ambient to each other. Leasing scenarios can vary and can become very complex, such as when access to each other's property is not limited. These scenarios will be considered on a case by case basis in consultation with the permit granting authority and/or staff from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For guidance on ambient air please consult EPA's Policy & Guidance Database [NSR Policy and Guidance Database | Region 7 | US EPA](#) but for more specific information on ambient air when leasing land, please refer to the June 22, 2007 memo providing additional clarification, "[Interpretation of "Ambient Air" In Situations Involving Leased Land Under the Regulations for Prevention of Significant Deterioration \(PSD\).](#)"