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Research Article

Study atmospheric pollution to develop a process for calculating the isolation safe distance for livestock activities: Applied in Ho Chi Minh City

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Abstract

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) is the largest city in Vietnam, with the highest economic growth rate and the most populous density in the country. By the year 2019, HCMC currently has 8.99 million people with 24 districts. Ho Chi Minh city has robust industrial and service development; therefore, this city focuses on developing large-scale livestock facilities with a large number of pigs and limiting small livestock facilities. According to statistic data, HCMC has a total of 275,000 pigs in 2019. These livestock facilities are mainly built in Cu Chi, Hoc Mon, Binh Chanh, Can Gio, and Nha Be districts. These livestock facilities in HCMC have inefficient waste treatment systems located interleaved with residential areas. So that, environmental issues are also a big challenge for the city's government because of the great influence of odor on the surrounding environment causing by the wind direction. The main purposes of this study are (i) calculation of odor emissions from livestock facilities, (ii) simulation of the odor from livestock facilities, and (iii) development of the safe distance of odor for livestock facilities in HCMC. The study results show that 230m and 650m is the minimum distance from the livestock facility with capacity from over 500 to 1,000 pigs and over 1,000 pigs to the residential area, respectively. The procedure for calculating the odor isolation distance developing in this study could apply for other livestock facilities in other provinces, cities.

Keywords: Livestock, Atmospheric pollution, TAPM model, AERMOD model, Ho Chi Minh city.

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1. INTRODUCTION

As the largest city in Vietnam, HCMC has a high growth rate of economics and service, culture and society, science and technology. The gross regional domestic product (GRDP) growth rate of HCMC in 2018 reached 8.3%. In which, the average growth rate in 2017 of service, industry - construction, and agriculture was 7.38%, 7.17%, and 5.93%, respectively (Committee, 2019). Along

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with the highest economic development, HCMC is facing a serious environmental problem, especially in air pollution. The pollutants emit from factories, industrial zone using old technology or from transportation causing by high traffic density, expired transport means, and the undeveloped road network. The agricultural sector, especially the livestock activities in the HCMC, has also caused serious environmental problems such as odor pollution because these livestock facilities are located alternately in the residential area and do not have a hygienic animal waste treatment system.

According to data from the general statistics office, the total pigs in Vietnam are 28,151,948 in 2018 increasing 2.7% over the same period in 2017. In which, the total number of pigs in HCMC are 290,152 raised at 1,145 livestock facilities with a scale of 50 or more pigs. On 17 February 2020, HCMC People's Committee issued decision No. 545/QD-UBND about on Restructuring livestock activities in HCMC stage 2020-2025. According to this decision, the target by 2025 is maintaining a total of 200,000 pigs with an average capacity of 200 heads/livestock facility, focusing on the districts of Cu Chi, Hoc Mon, Binh Chanh, Can Gio and Nha Be.

In livestock activities, odor arises primarily from the digestion of food and manure. H₂S, CH₃SH, and NH₃ from livestock activities are one of the substances that cause odor pollution in the ambient air. Nowadays, most of these livestock facilities in HCMC are in Binh Chanh, Hoc Mon, Cu Chi district and integrating with residential areas, but most of them do not have the treatment system from livestock activities. Therefore, odor from these livestock facilities is a challenge for local environmental management agencies. The Vietnam Livestock Department has issued Decision No. 397/QĐ-CN-MTCN about Environmental protection guidance plans in concentrated livestock activities. This decision clearly states that: for livestock activities, it must be built separately, away from hospitals, schools, markets, offices, crowded residential areas, inter-provincial and inter-district roads at least 100m. This decision only regulates the minimum distance but not regulate the number of pigs in livestock facilities. It is well known that the emission load from livestock facilities with 100 pigs is very different livestock facilities with 1,000 pigs. Moreover, the safe distance about odor of each livestock facility depends on not only the number of pigs but also wind speed, livestock facilities location, etc. In Vietnam, there have been studies to evaluate and propose solutions to reduce the pollution of wastewater and solid waste generated from livestock activities (Truong Thanh Canh 1998, Canh, 2010, Hoa, 2017, Ho Minh Dung, 2019). However, no study on odor simulation to build a safe distance procedure for livestock activities has not been found in the literature. Therefore, this study was conducted to aims at (i) Calculation of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ emissions from livestock facilities; (ii) simulation of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ concentration from livestock activities by TAPM – AERMOD system model; (iii) and development of the odor isolation distance for livestock facilities.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Emission calculation

Nowadays, there has been a lot of methods to calculate emissions inventory over the world. However, each method depends on the conducted time, financial capacity, and human resources. For example, for the point source, data from continuous emissions monitoring are required. This is the best method for emission inventory; however, due to limited human and financial resources, it is difficult to implement in Vietnam in particular and other developing countries in general. Meanwhile, other inventory methods require fewer input data. Therefore, the methods may vary depending on the data available. A reasonable approach to calculate for livestock facilities, emission factor approach, was used in this study.

With livestock facilities, US EPA's emissions inventory guidelines - AP 42, EMEP / EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook-2019 were used to calculate the emission. The emission factor in this study is referenced from the research results of Ho Minh Dung, 2018.

The emission from livestock activities is calculated by the formula:

$$E = AR \times EF \times (1 - ER/100) \tag{1}$$

Where: E: Emission rate (g/day); EF: Emission factor (g/pig.day); AR: Activities rate (the number of pig in livestock facilities), (pig); ER: emission reduction efficiency (%).

Type H ₂ S NH ₃	CH₃SH
Pig 0.149 0.800	0.086

Table 1: H₂S, NH₃, CH₃SH emission factor for livestock activities (g/pig.day).

Source: (Kenneth D. Casey 2006, Ki Youn Kim 2007, Wen Xu 2014)

In addition, 12 livestock facilities were investigated to calculate and simulate the odor emission based on Taro Yamane's formula with a 97% confidence level:

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N \times e^2)} \tag{2}$$

Where: n: sample size; N: total livestock facilities from over 50 pigs/livestock facilities; e: is the level of precision.

Based on the actual statistical data five types of livestock facilities were conducted and the number of each type presented in Table 2. In each facility, the coordinates, the number of pigs, the odor treatment system, and the distance from this facility to the surrounding area were collected.

N ⁰	Capacity livestock facility	Total of pig	Total livestock facilities	Number survey	of
1.	From 50 to 200 pigs			3	
2.	Over 200 to 500 pigs	186.20 5		3	
3.	Over 500 to 1,000 pigs		1.145	3	
4.	Over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs			2	
5.	Over 10,000 pigs			1	

Source: General Statistics Office 2019.

2.2 TAPM model

The TAPM model, a three-dimensional prognostic meteorological and air pollution model, was developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia for use in air quality studies on a local, regional or inter-regional scale (Hurley, 2008). Recently, an enhanced version of TAPM called TAPM-CTM was also developed by CSIRO to include options to use the Lurman, Carter, and Coyner (LCC) or the Carbon Bond 4 and 5 (CB4, CB5) photochemical mechanisms (Cope, 2009). The original TAPM only has the simplified Generic Reaction Set (GRS) photochemical component, which was based on smog chamber studies. The meteorological component of TAPM is an incompressible, optionally non-hydrostatic, equation model with a terrain-following vertical coordinate for three-dimensional simulations. Cloud/rain/snow micro-physical processes, turbulence closure, urban/vegetative canopy and soil, and radiative fluxes are modeled and parameterized in equations. The model solution for winds, potential virtual temperature, and specific humidity, is weakly nudged with a 24-hour e-folding time towards the synoptic-scale input values of these variables.

Global reanalysis meteorological host data such as ERA-interim or NCEP (National Centers for Environmental Prediction) can be adapted to be used with TAPM. TAPM model simulated by nested grid cells, in this study, there are four domains from D1 (biggest) to D4 (smallest) were selected to simulate. The innermost domain (D4) is this study area with dimensions of 100km x 100km and grid resolution of 40cells x 40cells, the dimension of one cell is 2.5km x 2.5km.

2.3 AERMOD model

The AERMOD Model - The AMS/EPA Regulatory Model (AERMOD) is designed to support the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) management program. The model consists of three components: AERMOD (AERMIC Scattering Model), AERMOD (AERMOD Terrain Tool), and AERMOD (AERMOD Meteorological Tool). Since 1991, the AERMOD model has been developed by the Meteorological Agency and the US Environmental Protection Agency. A team of scientists (AERMIC) has teamed up to build the AERMOD model. AERMOD was officially used on December 9, 2005 after 14 years of research and development.

The AERMOD model includes a range of options for simulating air quality impacted by waste streams, building common options for many applications. AERMET manages meteorological data on the surface and on different levels, allowing calculation of atmospheric characteristics according to the Monin - Obukhov model. The meteor file consists of the following two types of files: surface met data file (* .sam) is the observed data recorded per hour including the following data: wind direction, wind speed, humidity, atmospheric pressure, precipitation, cloud cover, solar radiation; The upper air met data file (* .ua) is the data that is monitored twice a day at 0 GMT (7:00 LST) and 12 GMT (19:00 LST) including altitude disturbance data. AERMAP is integrated with models related to the topography, the effect of smoke trail when exposed to hills. AERMET combines data from WebGIS to create terrain files for the model. From the above data, AERMOD will produce simulation results in the form of 2-dimensional, three-dimensional images and exported through Google Earth, making it easy for users to see the effects of emissions to the survey area (Lakesenvironmental, 2013).



Figure 1: The D4 domain used in TAPM model.



Figure 2: Topographic map of the simulation area in this study.

2.4 Calibration and testing TAMP - AERMOD model

Meteorological data used to calibrate and test the TAMP model was collected from Tan Son Hoa meteorological station for April 2017. Similarly, input meteorological data for the TAPM model were also downloaded at the same time from CSIRO website. This is a global meteorological monitor provided by the Australian Meteorological Agency.

After the TAMP model was calibrated with the most suitable parameters, the TAPM model would be run for the study area., Results from the TAPM model would be used as input data for the AERMOD model. Simulation results also would be calibrated with the observed air quality monitoring data at Dong Hiep livestock facility. These following statistical formulas would be used to evaluate the accuracy of the model (MAGE, and R²) (Ho Quoc Bang, 2016, Ho Minh Dung, 2019)

where: Pi: Simulation data, Oi: Monitoring data, N (n) quantity of data.

$$MAGE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\frac{|Pi - Oi|}{Oi} \times 100)$$
(3)

$$R = \frac{\sum (Pi - \overline{P}i)(Oi - \overline{O}i)}{\sqrt{\sum (Pi - \overline{P}i)^2 \sum (Oi - \overline{O}i)^2}}$$
(4)

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3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Odor emission from livestock facility

Odor emission results for each livestock facility are shown in Table 3. This results will be used as input data for AERMOD dispersion model to simulate odor dispersion and calculate odor isolation distance over HCMC. Table 3 shows that oder emissions (NH₃, H₂S and CH₃SH) change very much depending on the size of livestock facilities in HCMC. Specifically, TT12 has 18.000 pigs, but emission rate lower than other livestock facilities with capacity from 200 to 3,000 pigs because the area of TT12 is 250,000 m². TT4 with 231 pigs and $173m^2$ of area, this livestock facility with highest odor emission in this study. Compared to the study of Ho Minh Dung (2018) in Chau Duc district, Ba Ria Vung Tau province, CH₃SH emission rate in this study higher than 10% Ho Minh Dung's study.

3.2 Calibration and testing model

3.2.1 TAPM model

Simulation result from TAPM model was compared with monitoring data from Tan Son Hoa station in April 2017. The testing result is shown in Figure 3. The calibration and testing result for temperature and wind speed from the TAPM model showed that the simulation values were quite good compared to the monitoring results. The strong correlation ($R^2 = 0.82$) between the observed and predicted data of temperature was found (Figure 3). In addition, the average, standard deviation, highest, and lowest value of temperature were almost the same with the error of about $\pm 1^{\circ}$ C. The wind speed simulation results show that the simulation value is quite good compared to the monitoring results, the smallest wind speed in study area close to zero, the monthly average wind speed is about 2 m/s. Standard deviation is about 1 m/s for simulation and monitoring.

		Livestock	Area	Number of	Odor Emission			
N°	Symbol	capacity		pig (pig)	NH ₃	H₂S	CH₃SH	
			(m)		(g/day/m ²)	(g/day/m ²)	(g/day/m ²)	
1.	TT1		4,500	155	0.028	0.005	0.003	
2.	TT2	From 50 to 200	113	100	0.708	0.132	0.076	
3.	TT3	P.90	137	103	0.601	0.112	0.065	
4.	TT4		173	231	1.068	0.199	0.115	
5.	TT5	Over 200 to 500 pigs	252	210	0.667	0.124	0.072	
6.	TT6	F-9-	200	200	0.800	0.149	0.086	
7.	TT7		1,982	991	0.400	0.075	0.043	
8.	TT8	Over 500 to 1.000 pigs	1,680	1,000	0.533	0,099	0.057	
9.	TT9	,	1,035	1,150	0.889	0.166	0.096	
10.	TT10	Over 1,000 to	2,206	2,251	0.816	0.152	0.088	
11.	TT11	10,000 pigs	3,840	2,954	0,.615	0.115	0.066	
12.	TT12	Over 10,000 pigs	250,000	18,000	0.058	0.011	0.006	

Table 3: Odor emission results.



Figure 3: Temperature correlation between simulation value using TAPM model and monitoring at Tan Son Hoa station.

3.2.2 AERMOD model

The results of AERMOD model were compared with monitoring data of Dong Hiep livestock facility, Cu Chi district. As all values of MAPE for H_2S , CH_3SH , NH_3 were within the allowable range \pm 15%, so, AERMOD model is suitable to simulate the odor dispersion of the study area.

Parameter	Livestock facility	MAGE (%)			
	-	NH ₃	H₂S	CH₃SH	Requirement
MAGE	TT12	12.30%	11.10%	10.00%	≤± 15%

Table 4	Testing	result of	AFRMOD	modeli	in the	study	area
	resung	result of	ALINIOD	model		Sluuy	area.

3.3 Odor simulation results

3.3.1 Livestock facility with capacity from 50 to 200 pigs and over 200 to 500 pigs.

Odor simulated results for livestock facility with capacity from 50 to 200 pigs are shown in Figure 4. Generally, the concentration of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ were lower than the permitted levels according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT. The highest values for 1 hour of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ reached 12.2 μ g/m³, 7.04 μ g/m³ và 65.5 μ g/m³, respectively.



Figure 4: Simulated result for H_2S (I), CH_3SH (II), concentrations ($\mu g/m^3$) map of the highest mean 1 hour for livestock facility with capacity from 50 to 200 pigs.



Figure 5: Simulated result for H_2S (I), CH_3SH (II) in concentrations (μ g/m³) map of the highest mean 1 hour for livestock facility with capacity from over 200 to 500 pigs.

Livestock facility with capacity from over 200 to 500 pigs are shown in Figure 5, the concentration of H_2S , CH_3SH , NH_3 are lower than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT. The highest simulated results for 1 hour of H_2S , CH_3SH , NH_3 respectively reached 7.22 μ g/m³, 4.16 μ g/m³ and 38.7 μ g/m³.



3.3.2 Livestock facility with capacity from over 500 to 1,000 pigs



Odor simulated results for livestock facility with capacity from over 500 to 1,000 pigs are shown in Figure 6. The highest values for 1 hour of CH₃SH, NH₃ respectively reached 30.4 μ g/m³ và 42.8 μ g/m³, these results are lower than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT. However, the highest average hourly H₂S simulation result reached 52.8 μ g/m³, 1.3 times higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT (standard allowable 1 hour is 42 μ g/m³).

Odor simulated results for livestock facility with capacity from over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs are shown in Figure 7. The highest values for 1 hour of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ reached 98.98 μ g/m³, 57.1 μ g/m³ and 531 μ g/m³, respectively. These results are higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT, 2.4 times (H₂S), 1.1 times (CH₃SH), 2.6 times (NH₃) (standard allowable 1 hour for H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ are 42, 50 and 200 μ g/m³).

3.3.4 Livestock facility with capacity over 10,000 pigs

Odor simulated results for livestock facility with capacity over 10.000 pigs are shown in Figure 8. The highest value for 1 hour of CH₃SH reached 30.8 μ g/m³, this result is lower than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT. However, the highest average hourly H₂S, NH₃ simulated results reached 106 μ g/m³ and 287 μ g/m³, higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT, 2.5 times (H₂S), 1.4 times (NH₃) higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT (standard allowable 1 hour for H₂S, NH₃ are 42 and 200 μ g/m³).

From simulated results for H₂S, CH₃SH, and NH₃ for each livestock facility at Section 3.3. Odor isolation distance will be calculated as follow QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT and decision No 3733/2002/QD-BYT, odor isolation distance is suitable for each livestock facility were listed as Table 5. With livestock facility capacity from 50 to 200 pigs and over 200 to 500 pigs, the simulated results show that H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ concentrations were lower than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT. With livestock facility capacity over 500 to 1,000 pigs, only simulated concentration of H₂S was higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT, so that, the odor isolation distance was calculated for this livestock facility was at least 230m. With livestock facility capacity over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs, all the simulated results of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ were higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT, and the isolation distance of H₂S, CH₃SH, NH₃ were 600, 650 and 510m, respectively. Therefore, the odor isolation distance for livestock facility capacity over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs, the simulated are 650 and 400m, respectively. Hence, the odor isolation distance for livestock facility capacity over 10,000 pigs was at least 650m.

3.3.3 Livestock facility with capacity over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs



Figure 7: Simulated result for H_2S (I), CH_3SH (II), NH_3 (III) concentrations ($\mu g/m^3$) map of the highest mean 1 hour for livestock facility with capacity from over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs.

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Figure 8. Simulated result for H₂S (I), CH₃SH (II), NH₃ (III) concentrations (µg/m³) map of the highest mean 1 hour for livestock facility with capacity from over 10,000 pigs.

3.4 Developing a process to calculate the odor isolation safe distance

3.4.1 The odor isolation safe distance for livestock facilities

The odor safe distances were calculated based on the National technical regulation on hazardous substances in ambient air QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT. According decision No 3733/2002/QĐ-BYT has defined the hygienic distance is the minimum distance calculated from the source of emission in the house, factory or technological line to the residential area. So that, if simulated results exceeded, the permissible standard, the isolation distances from livestock facilities to the surrounding area were measured from the emission sources to boundary between the exceeding and standard area, as follow Figure 9.

3.5 Procedure for calculating odor isolation distance for livestock facility

From simulation and calculation results of the odor isolation distance between livestock facilities and surrounding residential areas applied to Ho Chi Minh City, this study developed a procedure to calculate the odor isolation distance for each livestock facility as shown in Figure 10. This procedure may be applied to other livestock facilities in Vietnam.



Figure 9: Calculated result of NH₃ isolation safe distance for livestock facility with capacity from over 10,000 pigs.

Livestock facility	Parameter	Average time	Value (µg/m³)	QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT	Minimum odor isolation distance	Matching isolation distance
	NH ₃	1h	0.7 - 65.6	Passed		
From 50 to 200 pigs	H_2S	1h	0.1 – 12.2	Passed		
	CH₃SH	1h	0.07 - 7.04	Passed		
	NH_3	1h	0.4 - 38.7	Passed		
Over 200 to 500 pigs	H_2S	1h	0.07 – 7.22	Passed		
	CH₃SH	1h	0.04 - 4.16	Passed		
	NH ₃	1h	0.4 - 42.8	Passed		
Over 500 to 1,000	H_2S	1h	0.5 - 52.8	Exceeds standard	230m	230m
pigs	CH₃SH	1h	0.04 - 4.16	Passed		
Over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs	NH_3	1h	5.0 - 531.0	Exceeds standard	650	
	H_2S	1h	0.99 - 98.98	Exceeds standard	600m	650m
	CH₃SH	1h	0.6 - 57.1	Exceeds standard	510m	
Over 10,000 pigs	NH_3	1h	3.0 - 287.0	Exceeds standard	400m	
	H_2S	1h	1.0 - 106.0	Exceeds standard	650m	650m
	CH₃SH	1h	0.3 - 30.8	Passed		

Table 5: Odor isolation distance is suitable for each livestock facility.





4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study calculated odor emission and simulated dispersion of odor by TAPM-AERMOD system models. After that, the simulated results were used to calculate odor isolation distance between livestock facility and surrounding area. Simulated results for H_2S , CH_3SH , NH_3 show that: The livestock facilities capacity from 50 to 200 pigs and over 200 to 500 pigs lower than permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT about hazardous substances in ambient air. With livestock facility capacity over 500 to 1,000 pigs, the simulated results show that H_2S concertration is higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT, so that, the odor isolation distance was calculated for this livestock facility is at least 230m. The livestock facility capacity over 1,000 to 10,000 pigs, the simulated results show that H_2S , CH_3SH , NH_3 concertrations are higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT and the odor isolation distance for livestock facility capacity over 1,000 pigs is at least 650m. With livestock facility capacity over 10,000 pigs, the simulated results show that H_2S , NH_3 concertrations are higher than the permitted level according to QCVN 06:2009/BTNMT and the odor isolation distance for livestock facility capacity over 1,000 pigs is at least 650m. From the above reseatch

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results indicate that, the odor isolation distance depends not only on number of pig per livestock facility but also on the livestock facility area and topographic conditions of the study area. So that, a procedure to calculate the distance of odor isolation has also developed. This procedure can also be used to apply to other provinces and cities.

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