Near-Real Time Data

Although the web site states the data shown is two hours old, the data is actually current. There are several reasons for this discrepancy:

1. Our system collects data in Pacific Standard Time (PST). We do this because we are required to report the data to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in PST. This causes a one-hour time difference when we move our clocks ahead in the spring for daylight savings time.

2. To meet EPA requirements, our system labels data from what we call the “beginning hour.” For example, the system averages data collected between 8:00 and 9:00, but labels it as being collected at 8:00. So, at 9:00 we have a data value that is an hourly average for the time between 8:00 and 9:00. This is very close to being real time. This accounts for the second hour difference.