Reviewer’s report

Title: Spatial variability in levels of benzene, formaldehyde, and total BTEX in New York City: a land-use regression study

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2012

Reviewer: Rob Beelen

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript has improved a lot and most of my comments/questions have been answered in a satisfied way.

The only comment that I still have is about the model development procedures. The model development has been made more clear now, i.e. raw unadjusted concentrations were used as the dependent variable and the reference mean as a covariate, in contrast to most other studies in which temporally adjusted concentrations are regressed on spatial covariates. In their answers the authors explain what the advantage of this method is, but I cannot find this explanation in the manuscript while it is interesting because different from most other LUR papers. The authors could include some text in the Discussion section about this.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests