

Air Quality September Report

Volume 1, Number 3

Published Monthly by the Air Quality Program

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Contact Information

Air Quality Program Information

City of Albuquerque Environmental Health
Department Director - (505) 768-2712

Ambient Air Monitoring (505) 768-1966

- National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Enforcement and Compliance - (505) 768-1972

- Facility Inspections
- Fugitive Dust Control Permit Applications
- Asbestos Abatement Notifications
- Woodburning Exemptions

Permitting & Emission Inventories - (505) 768-1948

- Review of Permit Applications for Major and Minor Sources
- Air Dispersion Modeling
- Open Burn Permits
- Issuance of Health Alerts (smoke, dust, and ozone)
- Weather Forecasting for Special Events (i.e. Balloon Fiesta and Senior Olympics)

Control Strategies - (505) 768-2660

- Air Quality Planning
- Air Quality Regulation Development
- State Implementation Plan Development
- Air Quality Control Board Support

Quality Assurance - (505) 768-1963

- Reporting to EPA
- Review & Data Validation
- Air Quality & Seasonal Pollen Trends Analysis

Vehicle Pollution Management - (505) 764-1110

- Vehicle Emissions Testing
- Station Certification
- Inspector Training
- Failed Test Resource Center
- Smoking Vehicles

Public Health Initiatives—311

- Air Quality Complaints
- Outdoor Air Quality

Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board Members & Staff

Lauren Meiklejohn (City), Chair
Maxine Paul (City), Vice Chair
Judy Calman (County)
Dr. Elis Eberlein (City)
Dr. Johnnye Lewis (County)
Elizabeth Reitzel (City)
Kitty Richards (County)
Ken Miller, Acting Liaison

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Director's Message for September



This month I want to use this forum to provide an update on the open Title VI discrimination complaint against the Air Quality Program and the Air Quality Control Board. I have been in regular contact with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over the past few months to discuss the Complaint. Our meetings have addressed EPA's latest environmental justice initiatives and the Program's progress towards addressing the impacts of air pollution on our vulnerable communities. Although the discussions are confidential settlement discussions, I want to assure the Air Board and the community that the City is committed to finding a resolution to the allegations in the complaint.

Currently, the City is devoting increased resources and time to compliance with Federal civil rights laws to perform its duties under all applicable laws and regulations in a nondiscriminatory manner. EHD has had numerous meetings with members of the public regarding environmental justice concerns, including cumulative impacts. Additionally, EHD is funding a facilitator for the Air Board's Cumulative Impacts Committee, and EHD staff are providing support to the Committee with research and presentations. Staff have also been present at Committee meetings to answer questions and share information about the Program's processes.

Most recently, after a brief hiatus to respect the desire for a community-driven approach, the City has resumed actively working on a plan to address environmental justice concerns and the cumulative impacts of air pollution. We applaud the progress made by the Committee and believe the Program can help advance the dialog further. The Program's objective is to analyze the disproportionate impacts certain communities in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County bear when it comes to air pollution, and develop a process to address them by considering equity and environmental justice concerns in the Program's air quality planning, permitting, and enforcement processes. Preparation of the plan will include means for continued robust and thoughtful community engagement, which the Program greatly values, and more details will be shared soon. In the meantime, anyone interested in this process should contact Ken Miller, Control Strategies Manager, at kjmillercabq.gov.

I look forward to providing the Air Board with more updates on the City's efforts to address environmental justice concerns and cumulative impacts as they become relevant.

Director's Message Continued



New Air Quality Program Leadership

I also want to take this opportunity to announce the recent hiring of Deputy Director Albert C.S. Chang and Associate Director Chris Albrecht to oversee the Air Quality Program.

Albert is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from the Evans School of Public Affairs, a bachelor of science in chemical engineering from the University of Washington, and professional engineering licenses in both Washington and New Mexico. Prior to joining the Department, Albert served as an Assistant City Attorney for the Air Quality Program. He also previously worked as an environmental regulator with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. Albert is committed to public service and looks forward to working closely with all stakeholders to protect and enhance the community's air quality and public health.

Chris has over 34 years of experience in the air quality and environmental fields and has dedicated his career to protecting air quality and environmental resources. Prior to joining the Department, he served as the environmental and sustainability program manager for the Albuquerque International Sunport and Double Eagle II Airport, where he was responsible for all environmental regulatory compliance and coordination within the Aviation Department, tenant facilities, construction projects, and contractors in the areas of air quality, aircraft noise, storm water pollution prevention, underground storage tanks, hazardous waste management, spill prevention control and countermeasures, and sustainability. Chris also previously worked as an air quality consultant and served in both supervisory and managerial roles in the Air Quality Program's permitting, enforcement and compliance, emissions inventory, and regulatory development divisions. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in biology and ecology from the University of New Mexico.

The Air Quality Program is fortunate to have two individuals as experienced as Albert and Chris to lead it through the many challenges that lie ahead.

Control Strategies Report



Regulatory Updates

- On August 12, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended the public comment period on its proposal to amend the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for gasoline distribution facilities and New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for bulk gasoline terminals. EPA is accepting comments on the proposed amendments for an additional 30 days, through September 12. The Control Strategies Division continues to monitor this proposal in anticipation of needing to amend 20.11.63 NMAC (New Source Performance Standards for Stationary Sources) and 20.11.64 NMAC (Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Stationary Sources) to incorporate the new federal amendments.
- The Control Strategies Division also continues to monitor EPA’s recent proposal to remove emergency affirmative defense provisions from 40 CFR Part 70 (State Operating Permit Programs). These provisions allow sources to assert an affirmative defense in civil enforcement cases when noncompliance with certain emission limitations in operating permits occurs because of qualifying “emergency” circumstances. If EPA finalizes this proposal, the Program will likely be required to remove similar provisions from 20.11.42 NMAC, Operating Permits, as well as from all Title V permits. The public comment period on the proposed rule ended on May 16, 2022. EPA is currently in the process of reviewing comments received.

Approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittals

On August 29, EPA approved a SIP revision submitted by EHD on October 17, 2016 in response to EPA’s June 12, 2015 national SIP call concerning excess emissions during periods of startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM). The approved revision removes 20.11.49 NMAC, Excess Emissions, from the SIP entirely to correct the deficiencies identified in the 2015 SIP call, namely the inclusion of affirmative defense provisions in the SIP that were inconsistent with the fundamental requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

Control Strategies Report Continued



Pending State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittals

In July 2021, EHD and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) submitted good neighbor SIP certifications for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) to EPA demonstrating that New Mexico does not cause or contribute to nonattainment or interfere with maintenance of the 2015 ozone NAAQS in any other state. EPA is currently evaluating these SIP submittals and has not proposed any action on them yet.

Upcoming SIP Submittals

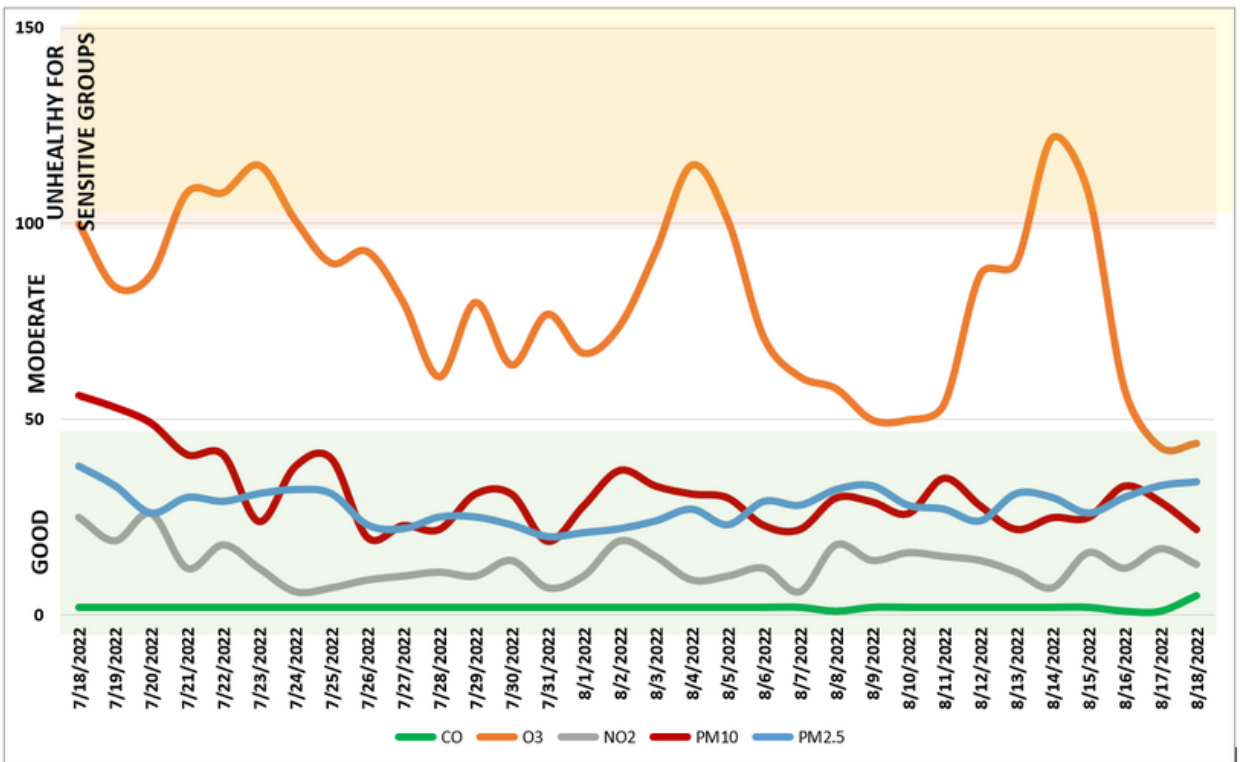
On August 30, EPA issued a finding that 15 states, including New Mexico, have failed to submit regional haze SIPs for the second planning period (2018-2028), which were due on July 31, 2021. The finding was prompted by a lawsuit filed in April by a coalition of environmental organizations and starts a two-year clock for EPA to either approve SIPs submitted by the affected states or issue a federal implementation plan (FIP) for each state. EHD and NMED continue to work collaboratively on their regional haze SIPs for the second planning period and are in regular communication with EPA regarding their progress. The agencies anticipate completing draft SIPs by the end of this year, formal consultations with federal land managers early next year, and hearings before the Air Quality Control Board and Environmental Improvement Board in mid- to late 2023, well before EPA's deadline to approve the plans or issue a FIP.

Other Upcoming Submittals

On May 12, the EPA gave notice in the Federal Register that it had finalized a list of additional areas subject to the mitigation plan requirements in the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. The Exceptional Events Rule requires areas that experience recurring exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards due to "exceptional" events, such as high winds or wildfire, to develop mitigation plans in order to protect public health. EPA has determined that Bernalillo County has frequently recurring PM10 (coarse particulate matter, or dust) exceedances due to high winds and that the Air Quality Program must develop a mitigation plan for windblown dust. EHD has until May 2024 to submit its plan to EPA and has only done preliminary work on it to date.

Air Quality Data

Air Quality Index (AQI) values indicate how clean or polluted ambient air is. The higher the value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. The AQI in Bernalillo County is measured for five nationally regulated air pollutants: Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O3), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Coarse Particulate Matter (PM10), and Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5). [Learn more and see the Daily Air Quality Update.](#)



Air Quality Data Continued

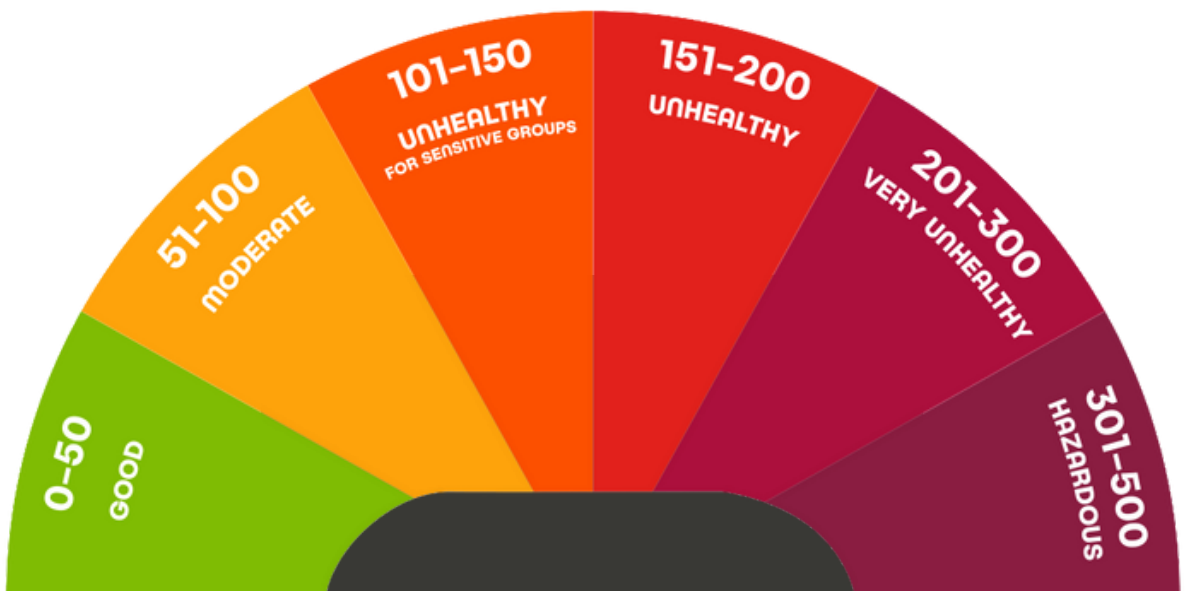
Health Alerts Issued

The Air Quality Program issued five (5) health alerts for ozone during the month of August. The Program issued eight (8) health alerts for ozone in July.

Opt-in for real time health alerts via text message by texting “ABQHEALTH” to the number 226787 to opt into the English language list, or “ABQSALUD” to opt into the Spanish language list. These lists are intended for general health alerts that may affect the entire community, at a high priority level, including high levels of air pollutants, including smoke, blowing dust, and ozone.

Air Quality Index

- Hazardous >300
- Very Unhealthy 201-300
- Unhealthy 151-200
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150
- Moderate 51-100
- Good 0-5



Air Quality Permitting Report

Links to pending applications for new or modified stationary sources of air pollution and a list of applications under preliminary review and not yet deemed administratively complete are available [here](#).

Sign up to receive public notices regarding pending applications for construction and/or operating permits by electronic mail [here](#).

Permit Applications Received

The Permitting Division has not received any new applications in the month of August 2022 (as of August 19).

Update on Certain Applications Under Review

UNMH

The application from the University of New Mexico (UNM) Hospitals was deemed complete on August 22, 2022, and the public comment period on this application will end September 29, 2022. The Permitting Division has not yet started the technical review of this application.

Curia

The application from Curia was deemed complete on August 13, 2022, and the public comment period on this application will end September 21, 2022. The Permitting Division has not yet started the technical review of this application.

U.S. Air Force – KAFB 89th Munitions 898th Munitions Squadron Building

The application from the U.S. Air Force -Kirtland Air Force Base was deemed complete on July 29, 2022, and the public comment period on this application ended September 4, 2022. The Permitting Division has not yet started the technical review of this application.

University of New Mexico – Zimmerman Library

The application from UNM for the Zimmerman Library was deemed complete on July 18, 2022, and the public comment period on this application ended August 27, 2022. The Permitting Division has not yet started the technical review of this application.

Permits Issued/Denied

On July 19, 2022, the Permitting Division issued a construction permit to Black Rock Services, LLC for a new hot mix asphalt plant at the northwest corner of the intersection of Carmony Lane NE and Alexander Boulevard NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

On August 5, 2022, the Permitting Division issued a construction permit modification to the City of Albuquerque Aviation Department for the Albuquerque International Sunport.

Vehicle Pollution Management Report

Program Operations:

The Vehicle Pollution Management Division (VPMD) is responsible for the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County area. For calendar year 2022 through the end of July, our program has conducted 142,388 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center has performed 2,783 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program has certified 301 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.

Program Highlights:

In July, VPMD began FY23 annual audits of our certified Air Care Stations. Currently, there are 127 Air Care Stations that are certified to conduct vehicle emissions inspections in the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County area. VPMD has completed audits of about 63 of the 127 stations. The audits consist of a site inspection and compliance evaluation of the emissions gas analyzer. Emissions inspectors and emissions inspection records are also audited continuously throughout the year.



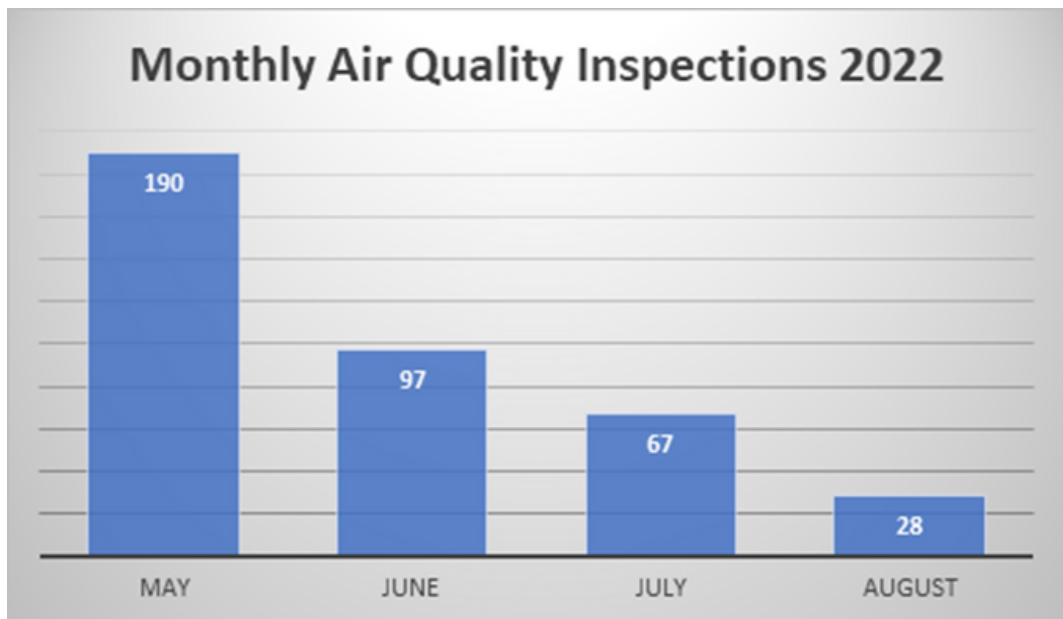
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program (AQP) has issued 1 Compliance Order and settled 2 Notices of Violation.

Below is a graph showing the number of inspections performed over the past 4 months. Due to the Air Program Report submittal deadline to the Air Board, the number for August is only a partial count. Additional information regarding what sites were inspected and when, can be found [here](#).

Search inspection records by facility name or address [here](#).



Community Engagement

At the end of June, the Health Equity Council's Neighborhood Food Hub Project youth interns presented their work to the Health Equity Council's monthly community networking meeting. The youth did a wonderful job!

A brief update on the Citizen Science Air Quality Monitoring Project:

During the month of July, interns unpacked, assembled and learned about the Clarity Node-S air quality monitors.

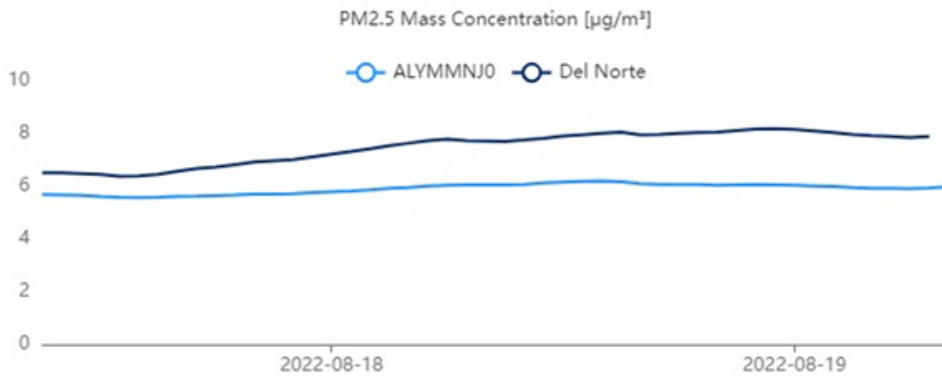
The monitors were then taken to the City of Albuquerque's NCore Multipollutant Monitoring Site at Del Norte High School and mounted for collocation with the City's EPA-certified regulatory monitors. The monitors have been up for about a month collecting data for PM 2.5, PM 10, NO2 and O3. The data collected to date will be used to calibrate the monitors in preparation for installation at the 6 sites in the International District. An additional monitor will remain at the City's stationary site for continued calibration and performance monitoring. The community monitors are scheduled to go out into the community at the end of August and early September. Wilson Middle School Wildcat Blooms Garden is one of the sites where an air quality monitor will be installed. Our Community Liaison visited the summer youth interns to provide an update on the air quality monitors and engage in a conversation about gardens, air quality and asthma.



Community Engagement Continued

Let's get a sneak peek at the data the monitors are collecting!

Comparing the community monitor's performance with City's air quality monitor*



Collocation Time Series: PM 2.5 | 24 Hour Rolling Mean | Mass Concentration

***KEY:**

Light Blue = community monitor

Dark Blue = CABQ monitor

Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting community-led, City of Albuquerque supported project!