

# Air Quality November Report

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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 - (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) 768-1966

- 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

Lauren Meiklejohn (City), Chair  
Maxine Paul (City), Vice Chair  
Judy Calman (County)  
Dr. Elis Eberlein (City)  
Dr. Johnnye Lewis (County)  
Kitty Richards (County)  
Vacant (City)

## Board Contact Information

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airboard@cabq.gov

# Director's Message for November



For this month's message I want take a few moments to thank all the Air Quality Control Board members for their courage and dedication. I truly appreciate you taking time off from your own lives to serve the Air Quality Program as our quasi-legislative and quasi-adjudicatory body.

I have served as Director of the Environmental Health Department for roughly eight months. In those eight months, we have pushed the envelope and have accomplished much. With the Air Board's support, we have accomplished one of the most important things that any Environmental Program can do – giving the communities that have not had a voice in decades a platform to be part of the process. While we have much more to do, I am sure that you will agree that our collective efforts will yield a great outcome for the Department and our communities. This will only be possible through your continued commitment of time and effort, which is especially notable given your normal life responsibilities.

We are very close to meeting Mayor Tim Keller's vision and the Air Board's, of an inclusive and environmentally responsible permitting program. Based on my many years of experience, I am not ignorant of the obstacles we face as we strive to change long standing injustices and single-minded processes. We are short on resources, staffing and time. However, what we do possess is a strong will, a team of dedicated people, and a collective desire to make change. My father once told me that change happens not through opinions, but through work and being an example. Thank you for your work and your example.

Respectfully,  
Angel Martinez Jr., Director  
Environmental Health Department

# Control Strategies Report



## **Staffing Update**

EHD is excited to announce the selection of a new Air Quality Control Board Liaison in October. The hire request is currently going through the approval process, with a target start date in early November. We hope to be able to introduce the new Liaison at the November Board meeting.

## **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**

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 their SIPs in time for hearings before the Air Quality Control Board and Environmental Improvement Board in late 2023, well before EPA's September 29, 2024 deadline to approve the plans or issue a Federal Implementation Plan.

## **Other Upcoming Submittals**

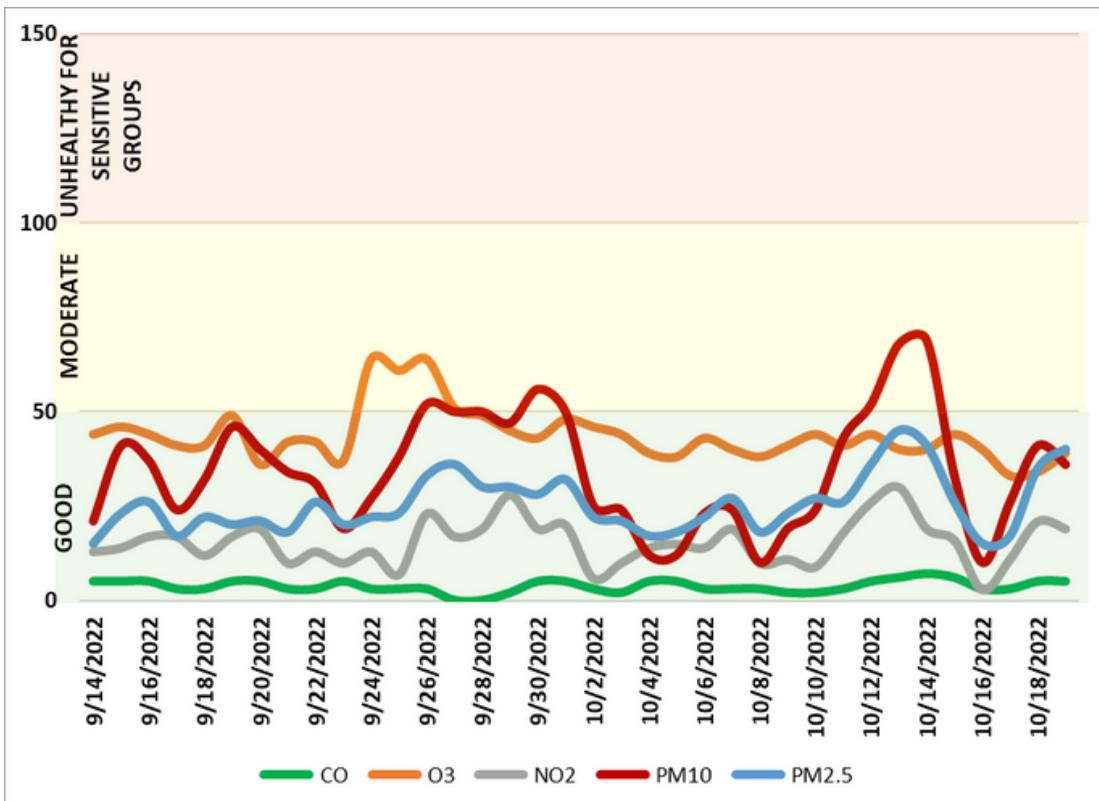
In May 2022, EPA determined that Bernalillo County has frequently recurring PM10 (coarse particulate matter, or dust) exceedances due to high winds and that the Air Quality Program must develop a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD has until May 2024 to submit its plan to EPA.

# Recent 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. “For each pollutant an AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to an ambient air concentration that equals the level of the short-term national ambient air quality standard for protection of public health.” [AirNow](#), [Air Quality Index \(AQI\) Basics](#). This allows reporting on an easily understandable direct comparison measure for all pollutants instead of individually based on national ambient air quality standards, which have differing forms and averaging times.

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](#).

## Bernalillo County AQI Values, September 14 – October 18, 2022



# Recent Air Quality Data Continued

## Health Alerts Issued

The Air Quality Program issued one health alert for blowing dust during the month of October. 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.

## DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

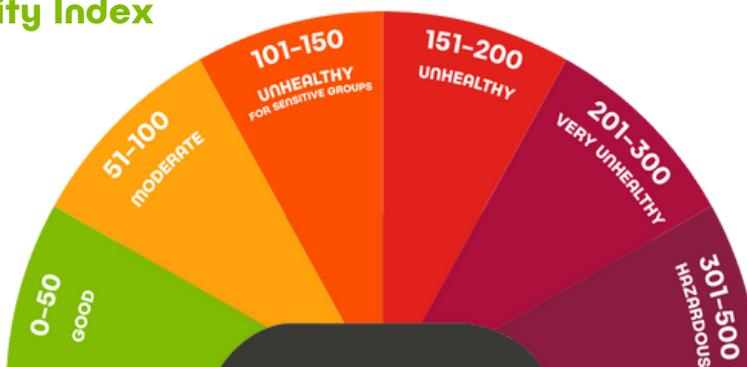
EHD is still awaiting a final report from EPA on the DART monitoring trial conducted by EHD, EPA, and NMED earlier this year. Once EHD receives the report, it will provide an update in a future Air Quality Program Report.

## Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Trailer

EHD continues to work to bring the mobile monitoring trailer currently parked in the San Jose neighborhood fully online. The trailer has been collecting particulate matter data (PM10 and PM2.5) since mid-April, volatile organic compound (VOC) data since mid-June, black carbon and woodsmoke data since early September, carbon monoxide (CO) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) data since mid-September, and ozone data since mid-October. Supply chain problems continue to delay the acquisition of calibration gas needed to bring the nitrogen dioxide (NO2) monitor online, and repairs to the pneumatic meteorological tower are still pending.

EHD continues to evaluate how to make the data from the trailer publicly available. The quantity of raw data makes it difficult to present in a comprehensive and meaningful way, in particular the VOC data. Once EHD determines how best to provide the data, it will provide an update in a future Air Quality Program Report. [Learn more about the trailer and why it is located in the San Jose neighborhood.](#)

## Air Quality Index



# 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

In the month of October, the Permitting Division received air quality permit applications from the following:

- SMI Vassar Care Center (Crematory)
- University of New Mexico Hospitals – Lambertson Facility, Ophthalmology, Psychiatric Center, and Research Incubator Building
- UniFirst

## Update on Certain Applications Under Review

### **GCC Rio Grande, Inc. – Tijeras Plant**

The application from GCC Rio Grande, Inc. to renew the Title V permit for its Tijeras plant was deemed complete October 12, 2022. As of the end of October, the Permitting Division had not started its technical review of this application.

### **University of New Mexico Hospitals – Main Campus**

The application from the University of New Mexico Hospitals was deemed complete on August 22, 2022, and the public comment period ended on September 28, 2022. In October the Permitting Division started its review of the modeling files submitted with the application.

## Permits Issued/Denied

The Permitting Division did not issue or deny any air quality permits in October.

# Vehicle Pollution Management Report

## Program Operations:

The Vehicle Pollution Management Division (VPMD) is responsible for the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program for the Bernalillo County area. For calendar year 2022 through the end of October, our program has conducted 186,036 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center has performed 5,116 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program has certified 371 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.

## Program Highlights:

VPMD is continuing our FY23 annual audit efforts of our certified Air Care Stations for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2022. VPMD has completed audits of 110 of the 127 certified 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.



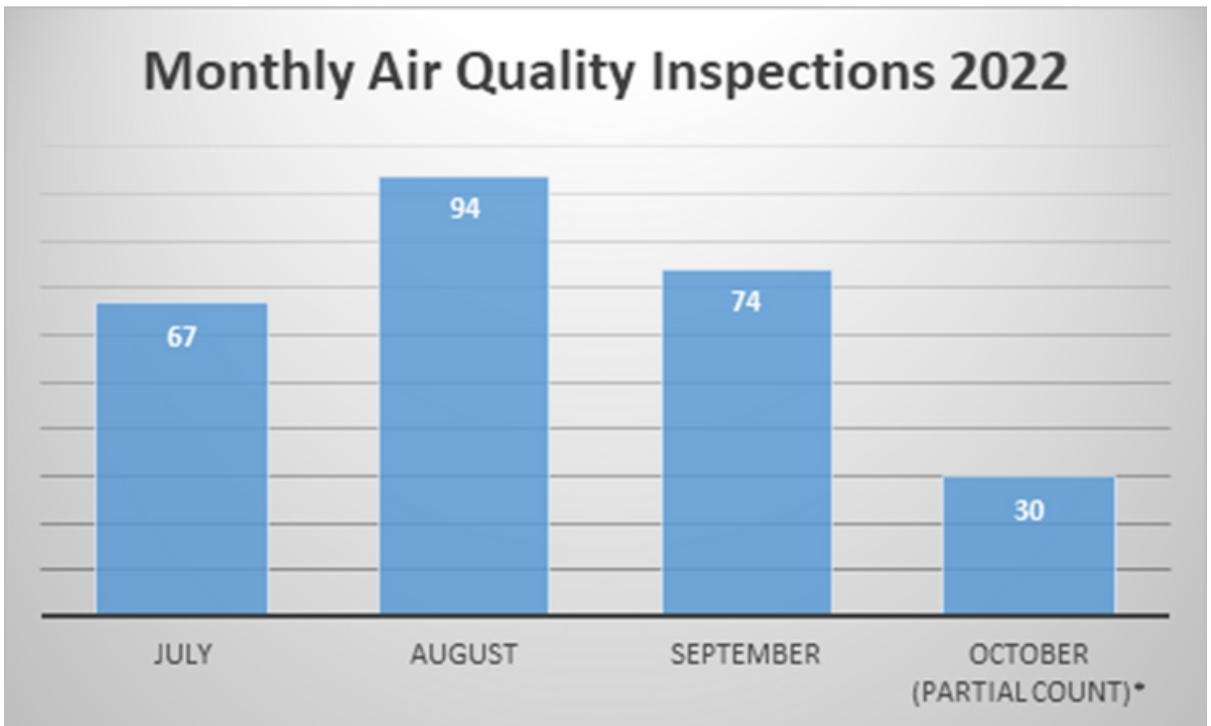
# Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program (AQP) has not issued or settled any Notices of Violation.

Below is a graph showing the number of inspections performed over the past 4 months. Additional information regarding what sites were inspected and when, can be found [here](#).

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



\*In order to provide the Air Program Report to the Air Board a week in advance of its monthly meeting, the Program must begin compiling the data and drafting the report before the preceding month has ended. As a result, the number of inspections shown for October is only a partial count and does not include inspections performed at or near the end of the month. A complete tally of October inspections will be provided in next month's Air Program Report.

# Community Engagement

Our community liaison is collaborating with the Health Equity Council to research low cost air quality monitors and is currently testing out an Air Quality Egg. The model pictured below is calibrated to collect data on the following criteria pollutants: CO and PM (1.0 <, 2.5, and 10). The model also collects ambient temperature, relative humidity and barometric pressure data. Data collected is uploaded to an online portal and can be shared publicly. The monitor can be used indoors or outdoors to monitor air quality. Looks like a great educational teaching tool!

Many thanks to Dwayne Salisbury for providing technical support and answers regarding the air quality monitoring process and data collection!

