

Air Quality December 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

Valerie Armijo, Board Liaison
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Director's Message for December



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 air quality 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

Valerie Armijo, the new Air Quality Control Board Liaison, joined EHD in November, filling a critical position that had been vacant since June. EHD also selected the first of several new Air Quality Regulation Development Coordinators in November. The hire request is currently going through the City's approval process, with a target start date in mid- to late December. These represent exciting steps towards rebuilding EHD's regulatory development capacity.

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

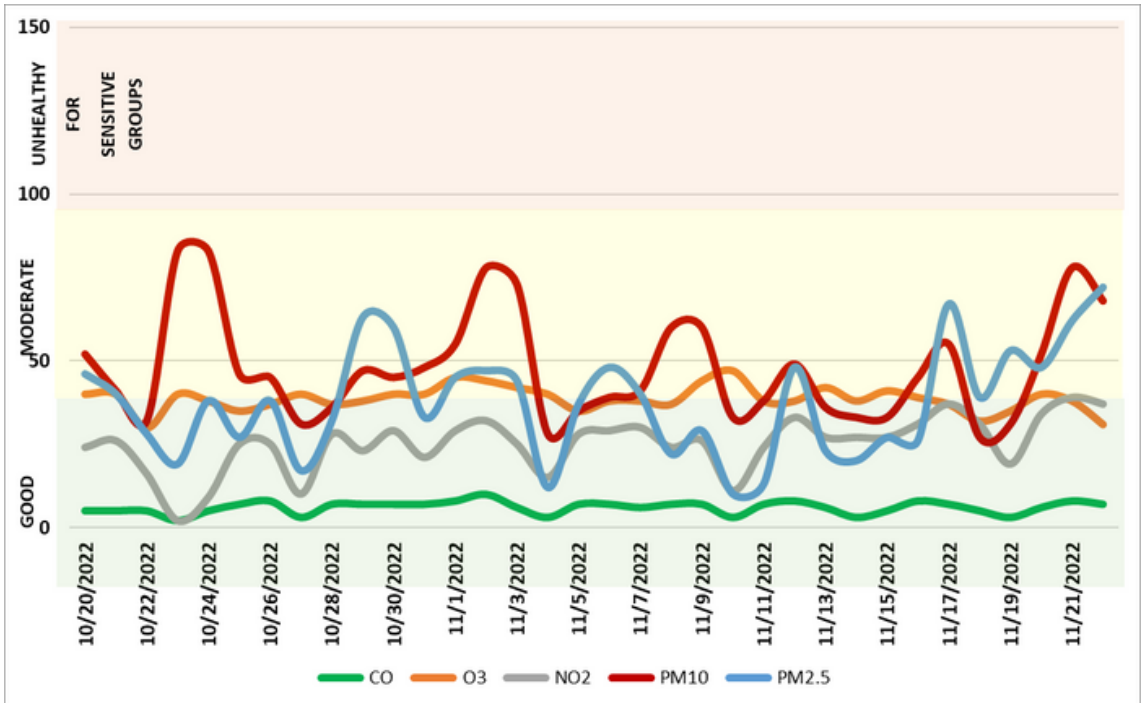
In May 2022, EPA determined that Bernalillo County has frequently recurring PM10 (coarse particulate matter, or dust) exceedances due to high winds and that the Air Quality Program must develop a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD has until May 2024 to 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, October 20 - November 21, 2022



Recent Air Quality Data Continued

Health Alerts Issued

The Air Quality Program did not issue any health alerts during the month of November.

DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

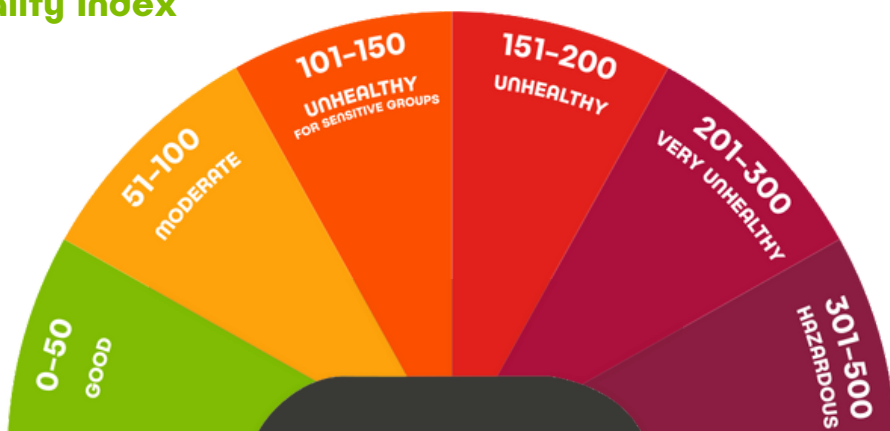
EHD is still awaiting a final report from EPA on the DART monitoring trial conducted by EHD, EPA, and NMED earlier this year. Once EHD receives the report, it will provide an update in a future Air Quality Program Report.

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. In November, EHD brought the nitrogen dioxide (NO2) monitor online and completed repairs to the pneumatic meteorological tower. Repairs to the total carbon analyzer were also completed, and EHD hopes to have it online by early to mid-December.

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

The Permitting Division did not receive any applications subject to public notice as stated in 20.11.41.14(B)(3) NMAC for Air Quality Construction Permits and 20.11.42.13(B)(1) NMAC for Title V Operating Permits in November.

Update on Certain Applications Under Review

Sumco Phoenix Corporation – Albuquerque Facility

The application from Sumco Phoenix Corporation was deemed complete on October 21, 2022 and the comment period closed on December 1, 2022. The Permitting Division has started its technical review of this application.

UniFirst

The application from UniFirst was deemed complete on November 1, 2022 and the comment period closes on December 10, 2022. The Permitting Division has not started its technical review of this application.

Three Applications from University of New Mexico Hospitals (UNMH)

Three applications from UNMH (Ophthalmology, Psychiatric Center, and Lamberton Facility) were deemed complete November 4, 2022 and the comment period closes on December 15, 2022. The Permitting Division has not started its technical review of these applications.

University of New Mexico (UNM) – Research Incubator Building

The application from UNM Research Incubator Building was deemed complete November 4, 2022 and the comment period closes on December 15, 2022. The Permitting Division has not started its technical review of this application.

SMI – ABQ Assests Vassar Care Center (Mortuary and Crematory)

The application from SMI – ABQ Assets for the proposed Vassar Care Center was deemed completed on November 18, 2022 and the comment period closes on December 30, 2022. The Permitting Division has not started its technical review of this application.

Permits Issued/Denied

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

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 204,702 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center has performed 5,645 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program has certified 420 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.

Program Highlights:

On November 4, 2022, the server for VPMD's Vehicle Information Database (VID), which runs the emissions testing system, suffered a critical failure and had to be entirely rebuilt from backups. Subsequently the system was down for 6 days total until our vendor could get it up and running again. VPMD coordinated with MVD to avoid any potential vehicle registration issues and also implemented a plan that allowed about 124 analyzers to continue performing normally during this time. Ultimately, the server interruption only caused some minor inconveniences before everything was back up and running as normal.



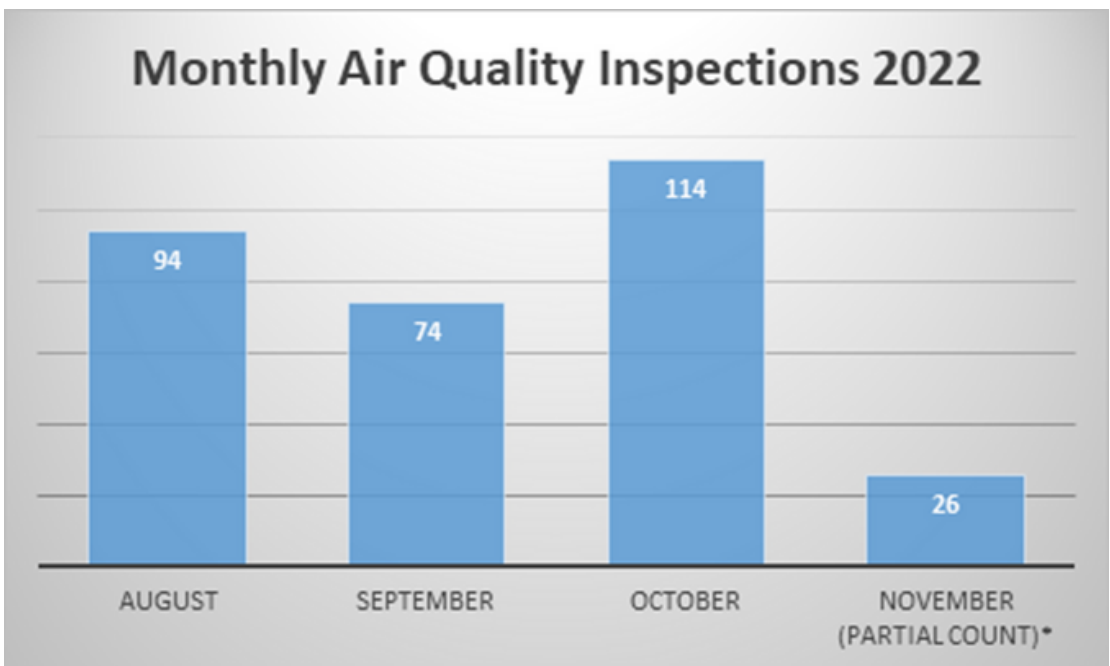
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program (AQP) has issued 1 Notice of Violation (NOV) and settled 2 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 November is only a partial count and does not include inspections performed at or near the end of the month. A complete tally of November inspections will be provided in next month's Air Program Report.

Community Engagement



On October 31, 2022, EHD Community Liaison joined community partner representatives from Tree New Mexico and the Health Equity Council at the Wilson Middle School Wildcat Blooms Garden for a site visit with a representative from U.S. EPA's Water Division who is providing technical assistance on the ground with grants in Albuquerque's International District.

On November 4, 2022 Air Quality Program Monitoring Manager Dwayne Salisbury led a tour of the City of Albuquerque's NCore Multipollutant Monitoring Site. Students and faculty from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Environmental Engineering class learned about the overall air quality monitoring program, data collection and analysis, and careers.

