

Air Quality January 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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Control Strategies Report



Regulatory Updates

On December 20, 2022, EPA adopted new federal emission standards that will reduce nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from heavy-duty (HD) vehicles and engines starting in model year 2027. According to EPA, the new standards are 80 percent lower than the current standards, which were set over 20 years ago, and will result in significant reductions in emissions of NO_x, PM_{2.5}, and other air pollutants, which the agency projects will meaningfully decrease ozone concentrations across the country. The new rule is the first of three regulatory actions EPA is taking under its “Clean Trucks Plan.” EPA plans to propose the other two rules by the end of March 2023, including new greenhouse gas standards for HD vehicles and new multipollutant standards for light- and medium duty vehicles for model years 2027 and later.

2021 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Emissions and Milestone Report

The Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (“SIP”) requires EHD to work cooperatively with the three other states participating in the SO₂ Milestones and Backstop Trading Program (New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming) to track regional SO₂ emissions and to assist the Western Regional Air Partnership (“WRAP”) in developing an annual SO₂ emissions and milestone report which compares regional emissions to predetermined milestones. The draft 2021 Regional SO₂ Emissions and Milestone Report will soon be available on the WRAP website. In accordance with the Regional Haze SIP, EHD will then publish a notice of availability of the draft report in the newspaper and accept comment on it for 30 days (the comment period is anticipated to start on January 22). EHD will submit any comments received during the comment period and any responses addressing those comments to the WRAP for inclusion in the final report. At the January Air Board meeting, EHD also plans to request that the Air Board include a short presentation by EHD on the draft 2021 Regional SO₂ Emissions and Milestone Report on its February meeting agenda so that the Board may provide for discussion of the report and accept public comment on it during the meeting, which the SIP allows (but does not require) the Board to do.

Control Strategies Report Continued



Health, Environmental and Equity Impacts Rulemaking

On November 21, 2022, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, on behalf of the Mountain View Neighborhood Association, Mountain View Community Action, and Friends of Valle De Oro, filed a petition for rulemaking with the Air Board seeking the adoption of proposed rule 20.11.72 NMAC, *Health, Environmental and Equity Impacts*. On December 14, 2022, the Air Board voted to hold a hearing on the proposed rule. EHD is not a party to the proceeding at this time and did not develop the proposed rule. The hearing dates have not been set but public notice of the hearing will be given at least 30 days before the hearing in accordance with 20.11.82.19 NMAC.

Stakeholders may be accustomed to a pre-petition process that allows them to provide feedback on a draft rule before it is proposed to the Air Board and before the Air Board votes to hold a hearing. However, since EHD did not develop the proposed rule, and because the petition has already been filed and the Air Board has already voted to hold a hearing, the proposed rule did not go through EHD's ordinary pre-petition public participation process and cannot go through that process now. Stakeholders should be aware that opportunities for public participation will therefore be limited to those that occur in the course of the formal rulemaking process. These include the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule and/or provide technical testimony during the hearing. Information from EHD about how the public can stay informed and learn about opportunities to get involved is available [here](#).

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.

Control Strategies Report Continued



On November 3, 2022, EPA published notice in the Federal Register of a proposed consent decree in Sierra Club, et al. v. Regan, No. 3:22-cv-01992-JD (N.D. Cal.). The proposed consent decree establishes a deadline of June 1, 2024 for EPA to sign a final rule or rules approving EHD's and New Mexico's pending good neighbor SIP certifications, partially approving these SIP submittals in conjunction with promulgating a partial Federal Implementation Plan ("FIP"), or promulgating a FIP. EPA accepted comments on the proposed consent decree through December 5 and received comments both in support and in opposition. EPA or the Department of Justice may withdraw or withhold consent to the proposed consent decree if the comments disclose facts or considerations that indicate that such consent is inappropriate, improper, inadequate, or inconsistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

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

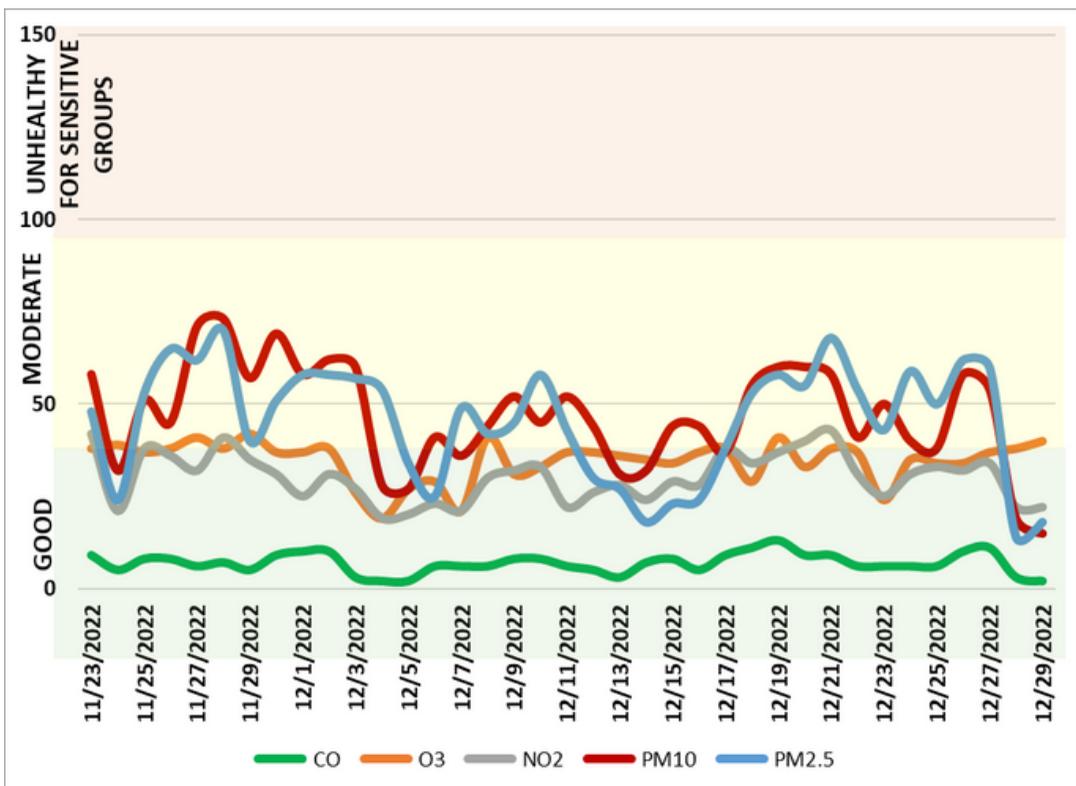
In May 2022, EPA determined that Bernalillo County has frequently recurring PM10 (coarse particulate matter, or dust) exceedances due to high winds and that the Air Quality Program must develop a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD has until May 2024 to 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, November 23 – December 29, 2022



Recent Air Quality Data Continued

Health Alerts Issued

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

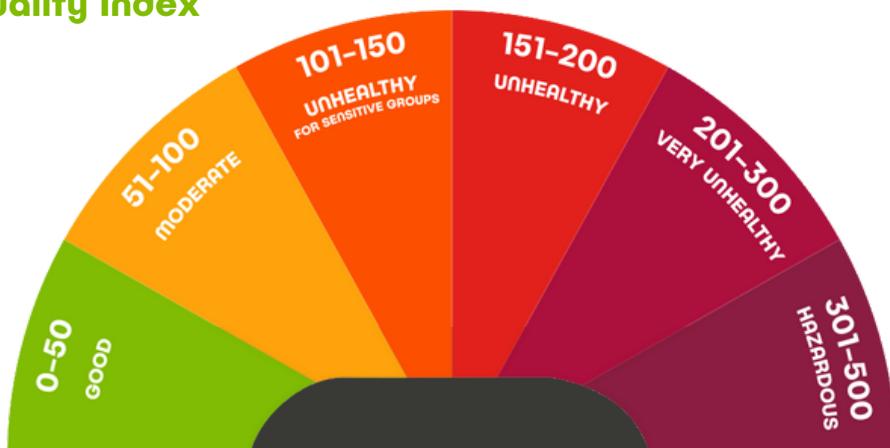
DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

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

Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Trailer

EHD’s mobile monitoring trailer, currently parked in the San Jose neighborhood, is fully online and monitoring for VOCs, criteria pollutants, and organic black, brown, and total carbon. 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 December, the Permitting Division received the following 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:

- Sunset Memorial Park, Inc.
- Department of Energy (DOE), Sandia National Labs (SNL), Thunder Range Test Site

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 public comment period ended on December 1, 2022. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

University of New Mexico Hospitals (UNMH)

The Program has completed its technical review of the application from UNMH. The proposed modification demonstrates compliance with the National and New Mexico Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Program is finalizing the technical documents and anticipates making a decision on the application this month.

Permits Issued/Denied

In the month of December, the Permitting Division issued the following permits:

- 3477 – Kirtland Air Force Base, 898th Munitions Squadron – Construction permit for an emergency generator
- 3466 – DOE SNL Building 814, Emergency Operations Center – Construction permit for an emergency generator

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 November, our program has conducted 222,613 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center has performed 6,193 retests of certified failed tests, and VPMD's training program has certified 453 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.



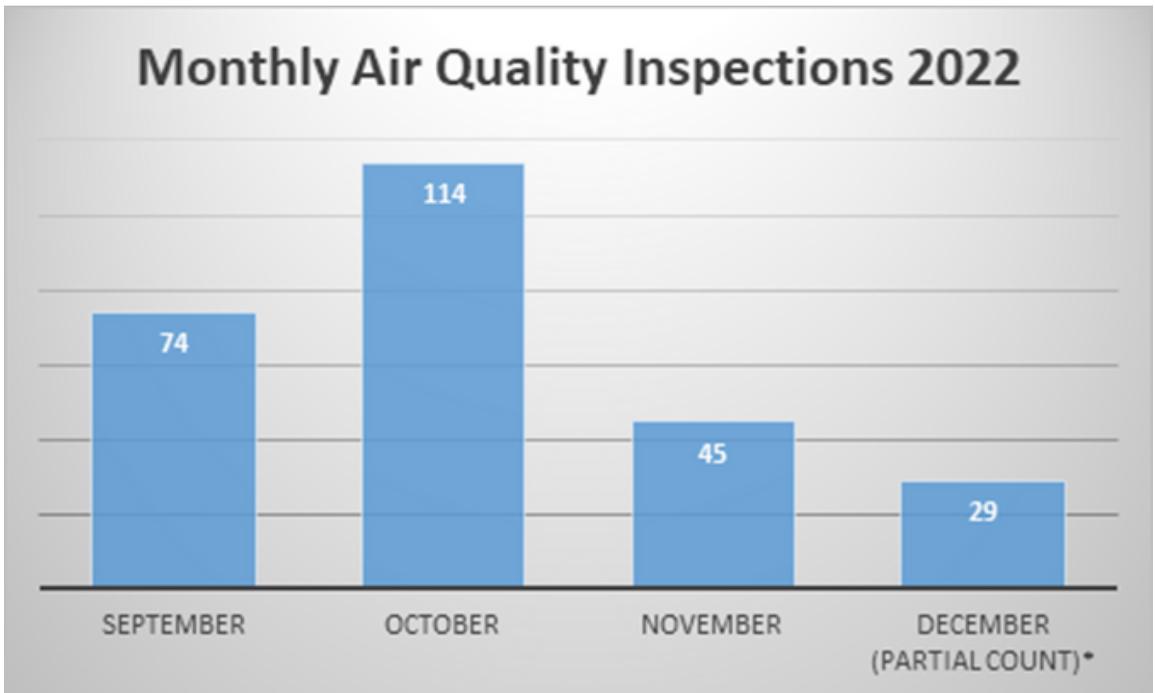
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program (AQP) has not issued nor 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 December is only a partial count and does not include inspections performed at or near the end of the month. A complete tally of December inspections will be provided in next month's Air Program Report.

Community Engagement

The mission of the Environmental Health Department is to responsively and professionally serve the people of Albuquerque by promoting and protecting public health, by preventing disease and by preserving the integrity and quality of our environment through sustainable management and responsible stewardship.

Effective public health requires the recognition of inequity and injustice; the willingness to center equity and justice in data to inform the science that leads to policy making, and practicing meaningful involvement with community stakeholders.

Over the last nine months the City of Albuquerque, Environmental Health Department, Air Quality Program (AQP) has:

- Increased its outreach and relationship building with the community. The primary focus has been engagement with community members most impacted by equity and environmental justice concerns;
- Provided general environmental health education to science and garden students at Wilson, Van Buren and Polk middle schools;
- Prioritized adopting and implementing equity and justice tools, such as its language access plan;
- Actively listened to community concerns about the intersection of environmental and public health; and
- Partnered and/or built relationships with community-led public health practitioners and other environmental and public health organizations.

One of the highlights of community engagement over the last 9 months has been the partnership with the Health Equity Council and providing technical assistance for the Neighborhood Food Hub Project/Citizen Science Air Quality Monitoring project (funded by an EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant.) After nearly a year working with the Health Council and other community leaders, the final drafts of the Quality Management Plan (QMP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) were submitted and approved by EPA in mid-December. Though it was long process with lots of lessons learned, getting the documents written, submitted and approved helped build community capacity to collect their own data. The monitors will finally be deployed in early 2023!

Goals for 2023 community engagement:

- Identify and meet with leaders in the business community who are building equity and environmental justice practices into their organizational structure; and
- Connect other environmental justice communities to the Health Council's air quality monitoring project.