

Air Quality February 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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Control Strategies Report



Regulatory Updates

On January 27, 2023, EPA published a [proposal](#) to strengthen the primary annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for fine particle pollution, or PM_{2.5}, in the Federal Register. The proposal is the result of EPA's reconsideration of the previous administration's December 2020 decision to retain the current suite of particle pollution standards unchanged. EPA is proposing to lower the primary annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS from its current level of 12 micrograms per cubic meter, set in 2012, to a level between 9 and 10 micrograms per cubic meter to better protect public health. EPA is accepting public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days, until March 28, 2023. EPA has also scheduled a virtual public hearing on the proposed rule on February 21 and February 22, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. Further details and information about how to register to speak at the hearing is provided in the [hearing announcement](#) published in the Federal Register and on [EPA's web page](#).

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 is now available for download on the [WRAP website](#) and on [EHD's public notices and comment opportunities web page](#). EHD published a notice of availability in the Albuquerque Journal on February 1, 2023, and is accepting comment on the report until March 3. 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.

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. Pursuant to a federal consent decree, EPA has until June 1, 2024 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.

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 and will be working with students in UNM's Master of Public Administration degree program on the plan this spring.

Air Board Public Comment Policy

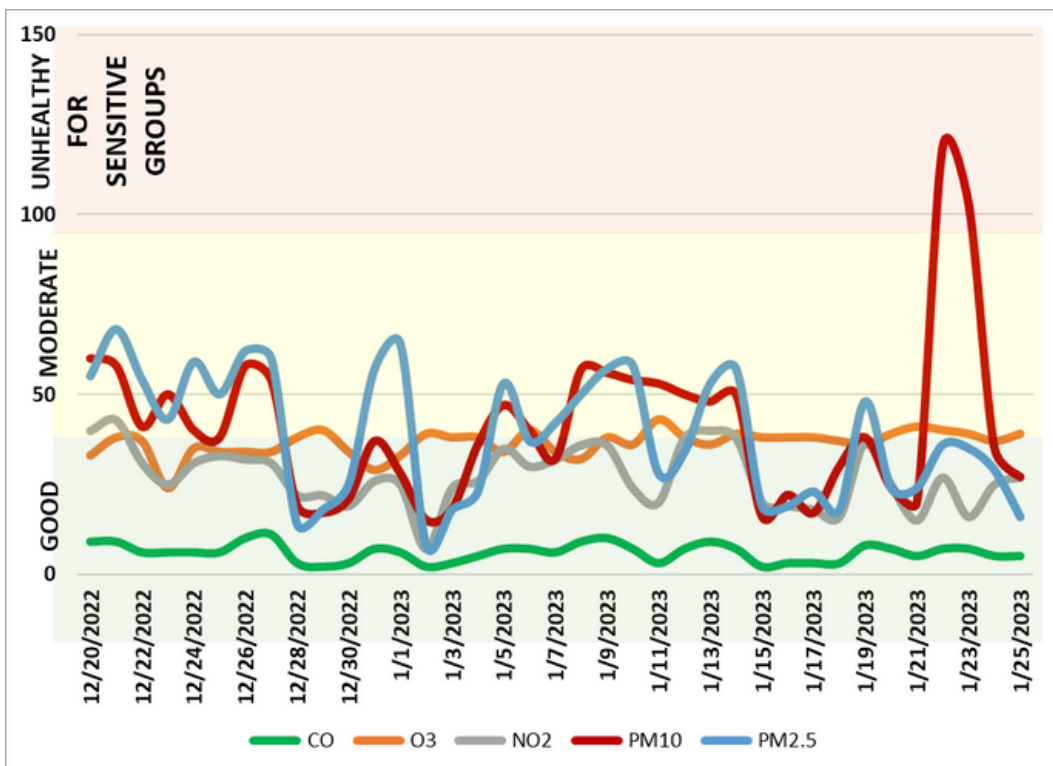
EHD finalized its policy regarding written comments submitted to the Air Board through the Air Board Liaison in January. The policy went into effect on February 1, 2023, and is posted on the [Air Board's website](#).

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](#).

Daily AQI Values for Individual Pollutants, December 20 – January 25, 2023

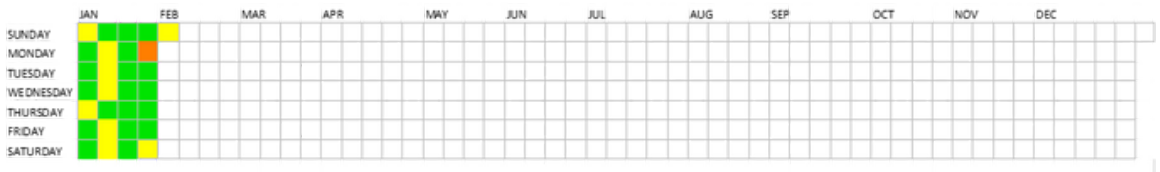


Recent Air Quality Data Continued



To put the recent AQI data shown in the graph above in a broader context, an AQI tile plot for calendar year 2023 is provided below. Each tile (square) in the plot represents one day of the year and is color-coded based on that day's highest daily AQI value for all pollutants, at all monitoring stations. AQI values in the good (green) and moderate (yellow) categories are below the national ambient air quality standards and generally considered satisfactory. Beneath the plot is a summary of the number of days that the highest daily AQI value was in each of the six AQI categories.

Highest Daily AQI Values, 2023



AQI Category	# Days (Year to Date)
Good (AQI ≤ 50)	19
Moderate (AQI = 51-100)	9
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (AQI = 101-150)	1
Unhealthy (AQI = 151-200)	0
Very Unhealthy (AQI = 201-300)	0
Hazardous (AQI >300)	0

It is important to recognize that air quality changes not just from day to day but from hour to hour, and short-term spikes in pollutant concentrations sometimes occur that are not visible in the daily AQI values shown in the graph and tile plot above. For example, during the winter months, early morning spikes in PM_{2.5} (fine particulate pollution) can occur when atmospheric conditions limit the dispersal of wood smoke. An interactive map showing current air quality at all local ambient air monitoring stations is provided on [EHD's Air Quality Monitoring web page](#). Current air quality for the Albuquerque area is also available on [EPA's AirNow website](#), and in the free AirNow mobile app for both [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices.

Recent Air Quality Data Continued

Health Alerts Issued

The Air Quality Program issued one health alert due to dust during the month of January. 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.

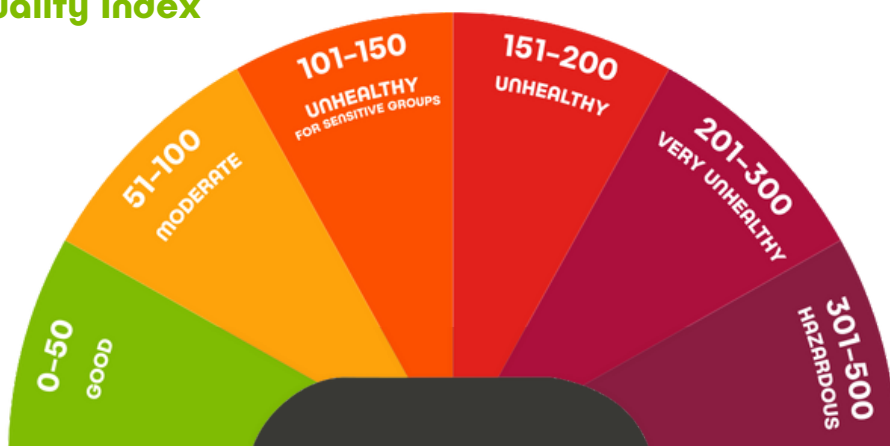
DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

EHD is still awaiting a final report from EPA on the DART monitoring trial conducted by EHD, EPA, and NMED earlier 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

Information regarding applications received in the month of January will be provided in next month's Air Program report.

Permits Issued/Denied

Information regarding permits issued or denied in the month of January will be provided in next month's Air Program report.

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 the just completed calendar year of 2022, our program conducted 245,310 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center performed 6,676 retests and other services related to certified failed tests, and our training program certified 484 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.



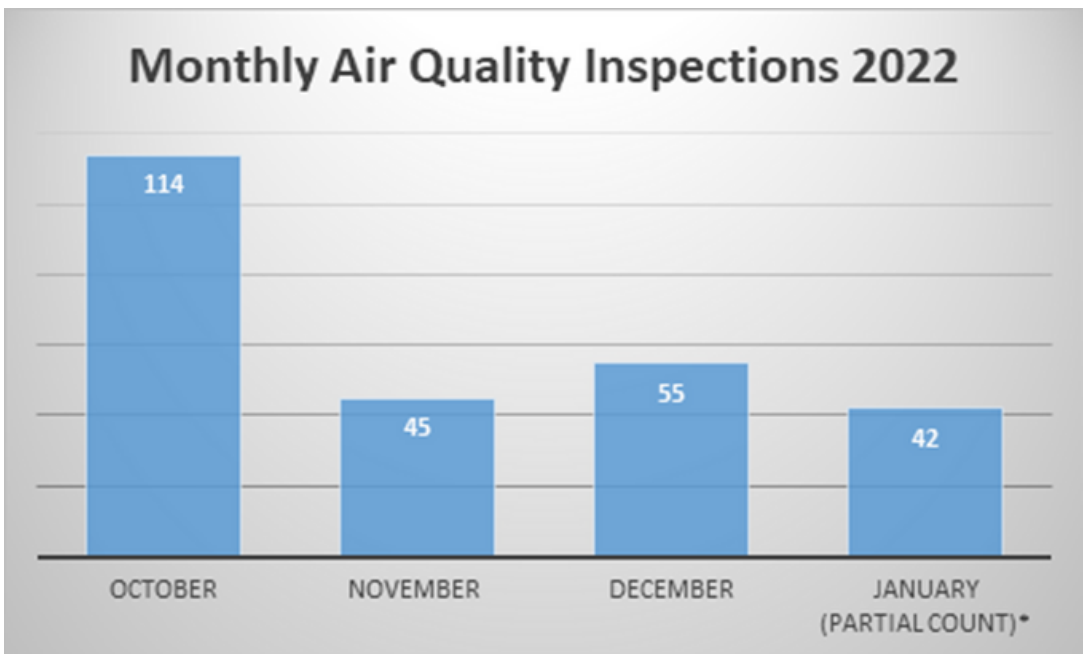
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program (AQP) has issued two (2) Notices of Violation (NOV). No NOVs were settled during the past month.

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 January is only a partial count and does not include inspections performed at or near the end of the month. A complete tally of January inspections will be provided in next month's Air Program Report.

Community Engagement

The first of 6 community air quality monitors went up in the International District on January 31, 2023. Twelve students from Mr. Eric's 4th period garden class at Wilson Middle School hosted Ms. Janus Herrera, Health Equity Council and Ms. María Gallegos, CABQ EHD Air Quality Program for a visit and learning session, or plática, on garden soil health, air quality, individual health and environmental justice. Students will have access to the online platform to watch as air quality data is collected. Ms. Herrera and Ms. Gallegos will return to Wilson MS in early spring to look at data collected with the students and continue education around health, equity and environmental justice.

Next month Ms. Gallegos will be visiting the mobile air quality monitoring trailer with community leaders from the San Jose community. Stay tuned for a report back on that plática!

