

Air Quality March 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 February 22, 2023, EPA announced the publication of its Fall 2022 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions. EPA publishes the agenda semiannually to update the public about regulatory activity undertaken in support of its mission of protecting human health and the environment and to provide notice of its plans to review, propose, and issue regulations. The agenda is available for review online.

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

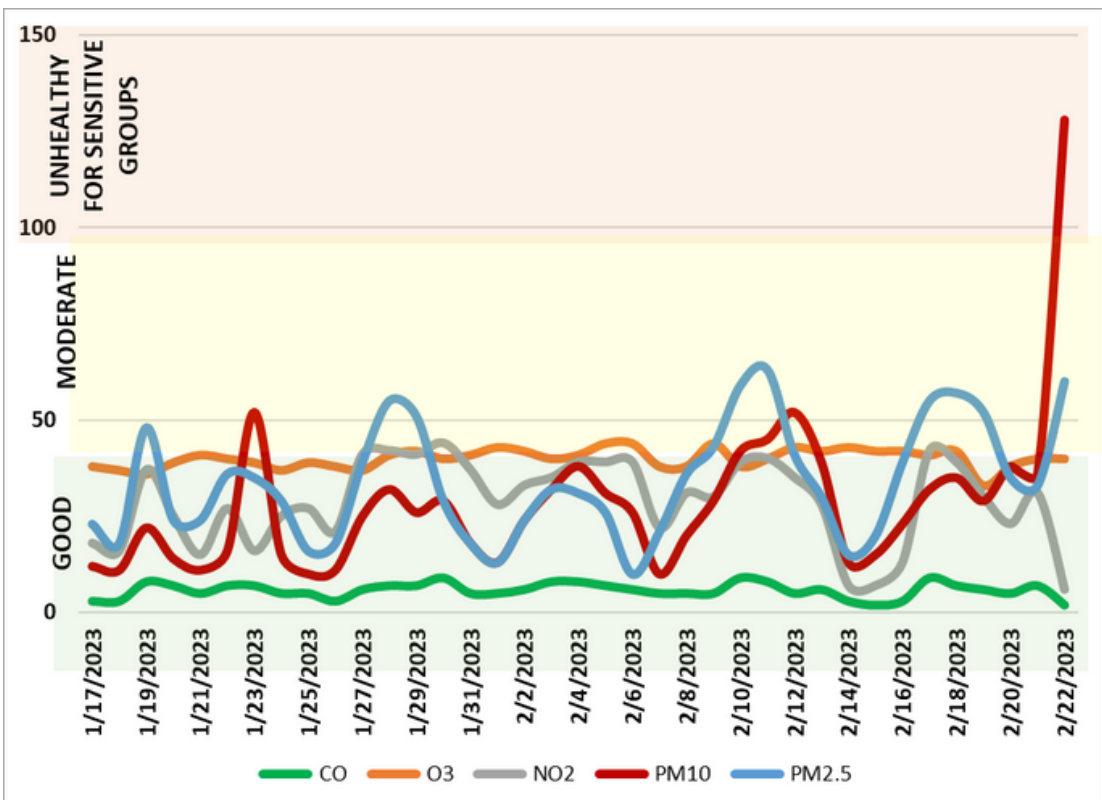
In May 2022, EPA determined that Bernalillo County has frequently recurring PM10 (coarse particulate matter, or dust) exceedances due to high winds and that the Air Quality Program must develop a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD has until May 2024 to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

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](#).

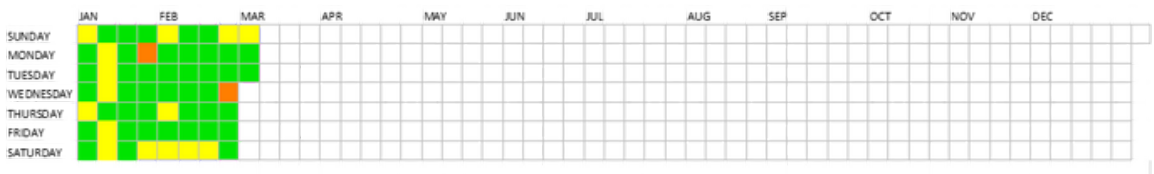
Daily AQI Values for Individual Pollutants, January 17 – February 22, 2023



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)	42
Moderate (AQI = 51-100)	15
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (AQI = 101-150)	2
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 two health alerts for blowing dust during the month of February. 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.

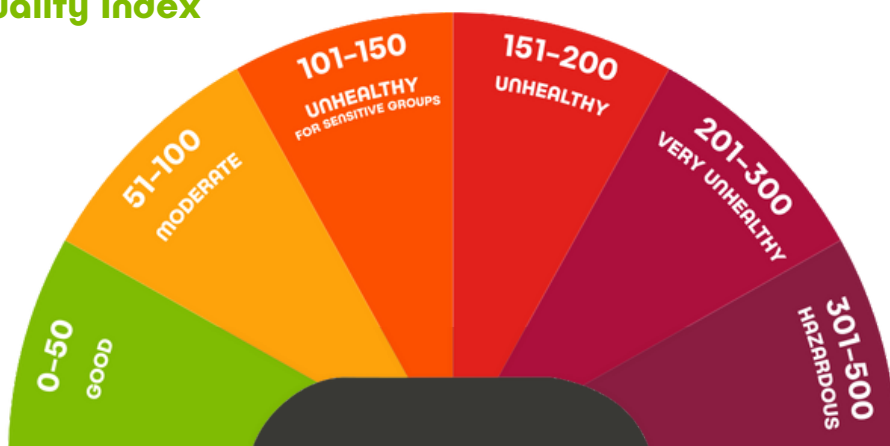
DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

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

In the month of February, 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:

- Southwest Concrete Paving
- Kinney Brick Company
- Nutex Health Wymont ER & Hospital
- American Gypsum Company, LLC

Update on Certain Applications Under Review

Sandia National Laboratories New Mexico– Thunder Range Test Site

The application from Sandia National Laboratories New Mexico was deemed complete on February 10, 2023, and the public comment period will end on March 15, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Permits Issued/Denied

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

- 0456-M5-6TR – WR Albuquerque Products Terminal
- 1716-M1 – UNM Research Incubator Building
- 3481-AQN01 – AT&T Sandia Presbyterian Church
- 0444-M5 and 0444-M5-1AR – Sumco Albuquerque Division
- 3391-R1 – Albuquerque Asphalt Inc. Relocation
- 1725-M1-1AR – Sandia National Laboratories

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 month of January 2023, our program conducted 21,248 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center performed 609 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program certified 42 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.



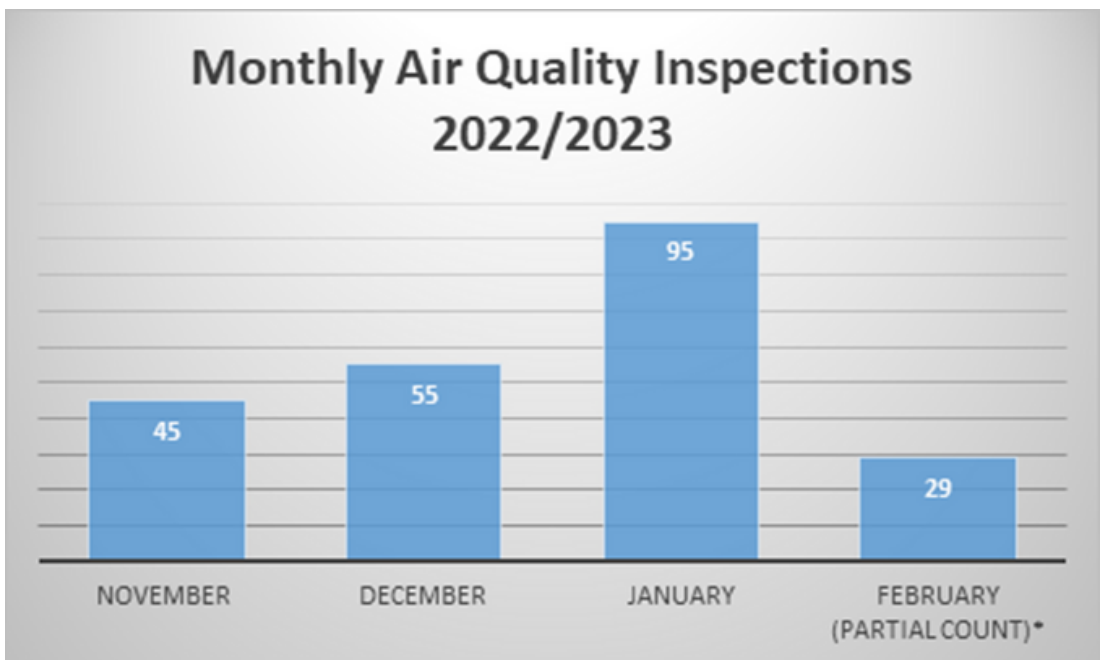
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program has issued one (1) Notice of Violation (NOV) and settled four (4) NOVs.

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

Community Engagement

During the month of February, two more community air quality monitors were installed in the International District at East Central Ministries and First Nations Health & Wellness Center gardens as part of the Health Equity Council's Neighborhood Food Hub Project funded by an EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant. Data from the new monitors can be viewed [here](#).

On Saturday, March 4, staff from the Air Quality Program will be gathering with community folks from the San Jose neighborhood for a conversation about air pollution, air quality, environmental health, and an update on the mobile air quality monitoring trailer. Look for a report back in next month's Air Quality Program report.



East Central Ministries



First Nations Health and Wellness Center