

Air Quality April 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. Joseph Galewsky (City)
Dr. Johnnye Lewis (County)
Kitty Richards (County)

Board Contact Information

Anita SdeArmijo, Board Liaison
(505) 768-1915
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Director's Message for April



For this month's message, I want to provide a few updates based on requests for information made at the March Air Quality Control Board meeting.

GIS Mapping

EHD continues to implement improvements to the GIS map of active air quality permits on the Permitting Division's web page. Current efforts are focused on improving the accuracy of the underlying database by removing duplicate entries, deleting inactive permits, and cross-checking allowable emissions against issued permits. The Department intends to engage a contractor to assist with and accelerate this labor-intensive work and is currently in the process of developing a scope of services. The Department is also evaluating the feasibility of adding facilities' actual emissions to the database and map to provide a more accurate view of the scale and distribution of air pollutant emissions in Bernalillo County.

As there is an active rulemaking matter before the Air Board pertaining to health, environmental and equity impacts in air quality permitting, the Department declines to provide any information regarding the possible addition of demographic and socioeconomic data to the GIS map of active air quality permits on the Permitting Division's web page or to speculate about the development of an alternative mapping tool including the same. Any information regarding this matter will only be provided by the Department on the record in the rulemaking.

Program Staffing

There are 42 positions within the Air Quality Program. Eleven of these positions are currently vacant. The Department has been making progress of late filling vacancies, and continues to look for ways to attract new talent.

Program Finances

While I appreciate the Board's interest in the area of business operations, the Department's finances are outside the Board's purview. It is my responsibility as Director to manage the Department's finances responsibly, and in a manner that allows the Air Quality Program to meet its various responsibilities and objectives. I take that responsibility seriously, and I trust that the Board will understand and respect that certain boundaries must be maintained when it comes to the business operations of the Department.

Control Strategies Report

Regulatory Updates

On March 15, 2023, EPA published a notice of availability of a revised draft policy assessment (PA) for the reconsideration of the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The draft PA was revised in response to comments made by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) in its November 2022 letter to EPA regarding the CASAC's review of EPA's 2020 Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and Related Photochemical Oxidants. The revised draft PA retains the previous version's conclusion that the available scientific evidence supports retaining the current primary and secondary ozone standards, which were wet in 2015, without revision. EPA is accepting comments on the revised draft PA until April 14, 2023.

On March 24, 2023, EPA published a related notice announcing a public meeting of the CASAC and CASAC Ozone Review Panel to discuss a draft CASAC report on the revised draft PA. The meeting will take place on May 23 and 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time and will be conducted virtually. Interested persons may sign up to make an oral statement during the meeting; the deadline to sign up is May 16. Written statements will also be accepted throughout the advisory process; however, for timely consideration by the CASAC, written statements should be submitted by May 16. Details on how to access the meeting and how to sign up to speak at the meeting or submit a written statement are provided in the notice.

Pending State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittals

Since the March report, there has been no change in status regarding EHD's and NMED's pending good neighbor SIP certifications for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. EPA continues to evaluate these SIP submittals and has until June 1, 2024 to approve them or issue a federal implementation plan (FIP).

Upcoming SIP Submittals

Since the March report, there has been no change in status regarding EHD's and NMED's upcoming regional haze SIP submittals. EHD and NMED continue to work collaboratively on their respective regional haze SIP elements for the second planning period. Once submitted, EPA will have until September 29, 2024 to approve the plans or issue a FIP.

Other Upcoming Submittals

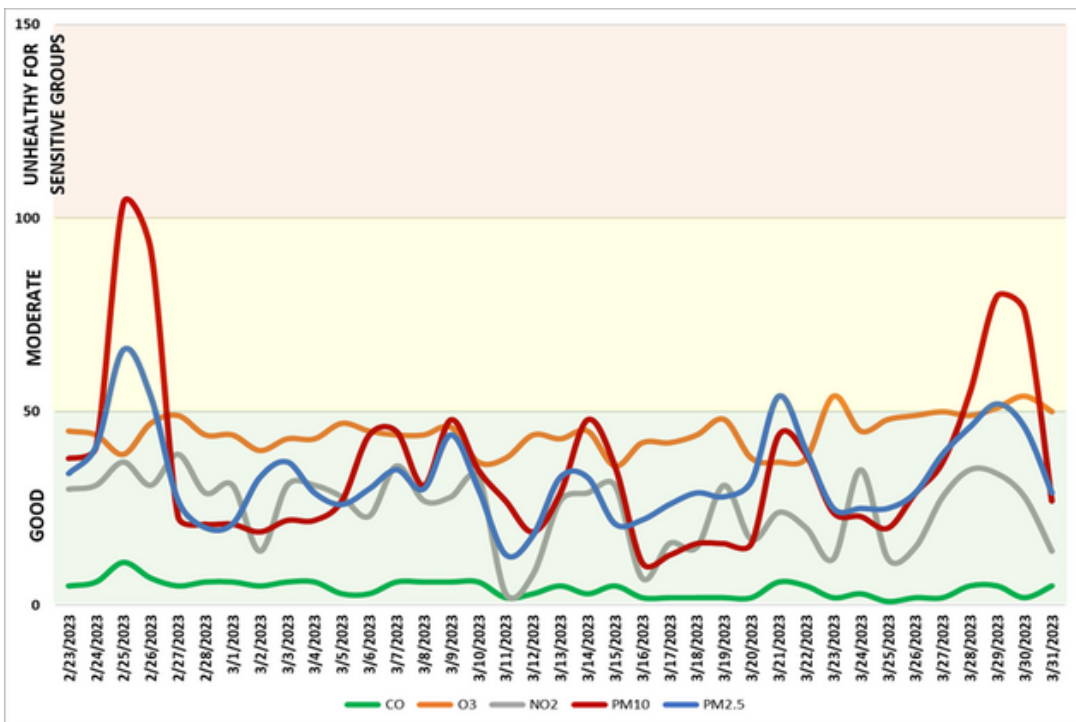
Since the March report, there has been no change in status regarding EHD's development of a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD has until May 2024 to submit its plan to EPA.

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](#).

Daily AQI Values for Individual Pollutants, February 23 – March 31, 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)	70
Moderate (AQI = 51-100)	20
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 spring months, high wind events can cause short-term spikes in PM10 (coarse particulate pollution) due to windblown dust. 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 did not issue any health alerts during the month of March. 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.

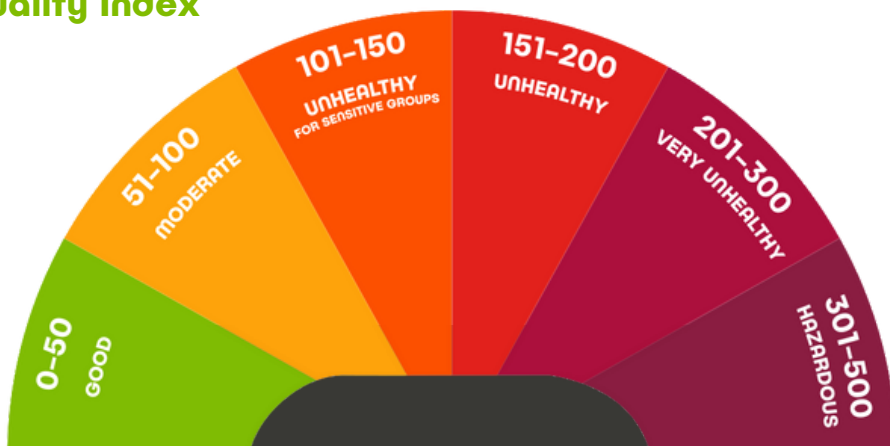
DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

EHD just recently received a report from EPA on the DART monitoring trial conducted by EHD, EPA, and NMED last year. EHD will provide an update on the report in next month’s 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 March, the Permitting Division received the following applications that are subject to 20.11.39 NMAC for Permit Waivers and Air Quality Notifications, and 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:

- 3494-AQN01 – Bernalillo County Fire Station #38
- 0051-M3 – Western Refining Albuquerque Asphalt Terminal
- 3493-AQN01 – NMDOT District Three
- 0925-M2-1AR – Sandia National Laboratories NM Building 6920
- 1638-M3-1AR – Shriver Redi-Mix LLC
- AR2093-RN2 – Public Service Company of New Mexico, Rio Bravo Generating Station
- 1097-M5 – Curia New Mexico
- 3492 – Kirtland Air Force Base Fire Station #3

Update on Certain Applications Under Review

Sunset Memorial Park (#0800-M5)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period was March 2, 2023 to April 1, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Kirtland Air Force Base Concrete Batch Plant (#3490)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period was March 4, 2023 to April 3, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

American Gypsum Company, LLC Albuquerque Plant (#0752-M3-1TR)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is March 22, 2023 to April 21, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Hoffman Enterprises, Inc. Dba Kinney Brick Company (#0747-M2)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is March 22, 2023 to April 21, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Air Quality Permitting Report Continued

Permits Issued This Month

- 1820-M2-1AR – Sandia National Laboratories/New Mexico 858 complex
- 0422-M2-12TR – Phillips 66 Albuquerque Products Terminal
- 3482-AQN01 – AT&T ATC Roadrunner
- 3483-AQN01 – AT&T Black
- 3484- AQN01— AT&T Spain & Eubank
- 3485-AQN01 – AT&T Hoffman Town Church
- 3486-AQN01 – AT&T Unser & Ladera

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 2023 through the end of February, our program has conducted 42,280 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center has performed 1,254 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program has certified 93 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.



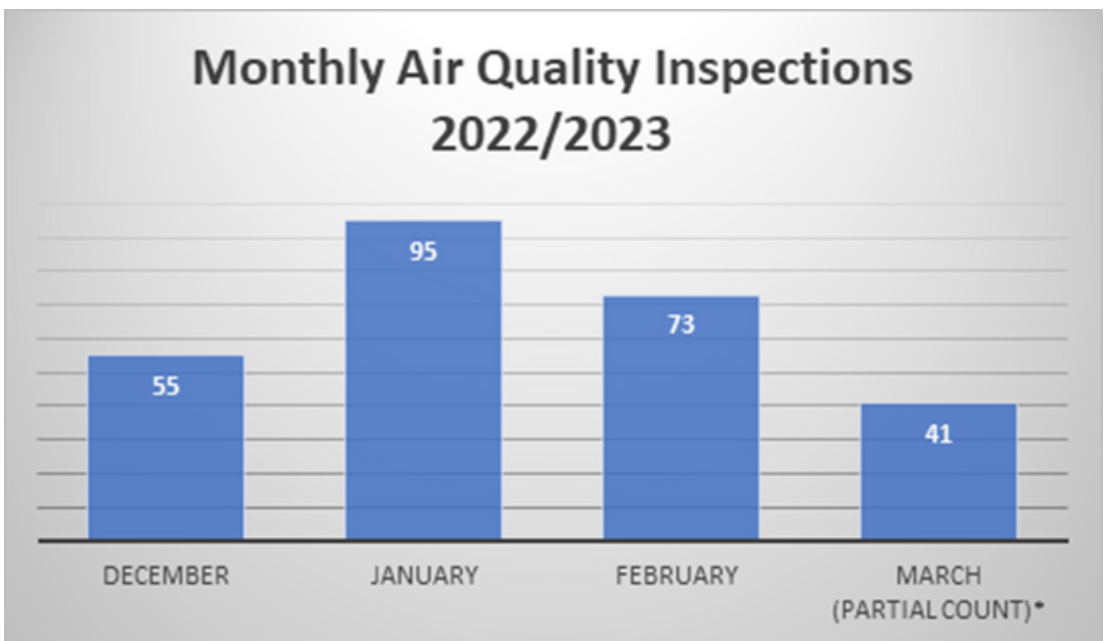
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program did not issue any Notices of Violation (NOV) and settled one NOV.

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

Community Engagement

On Saturday, March 4, 2023, thirteen community members, including 8 youth, from San Jose, South Broadway and southwest side neighborhoods led a plática (or conversation) about environmental health in their neighborhoods. City of Albuquerque, Environmental Health Department, Air Quality Program staff Mr. Dwayne Salisbury, Environmental Health Manager, Ms. Angela Reyes, Environmental Health Specialist, and Ms. María Gallegos, Community Liaison, answered questions about environmental health, air pollution and air quality monitoring. Dwayne and Angela gave a tour of EHD's mobile air quality monitoring trailer and provided information about the progress of the data being collected. At the request of the community group, Spanish language interpretation was provided. A community member commented that she was grateful to participate in a gathering where information was provided in her language.

