

Air Quality June 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

Maxine Paul (City), Chair
Kitty Richards (County), Vice Chair
Judy Calman (County)
Dr. Elis Eberlein (City)
Dr. Joseph Galewsky (City)
Dr. Johnnye Lewis (County)
Dennis Armijo (City)

Board Contact Information

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Control Strategies Report



Regulatory Updates

The EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) is pushing for tougher primary health-based ozone limits, and there is currently discussion with the EPA regarding where the limits should be set. CASAC has suggested 8-hour ozone limits should be in the range of 55-60 parts per billion (ppb). There is debate about how much weight to give to epidemiological studies vs. controlled human exposure studies, and the evaluation process is still playing out. The American Lung Association has stated the epidemiological studies should be taken into consideration without regard to the controlled human exposure studies.

The EPA is hoping to have a decision on the proposed revision of the NAAQS by the end of 2023. Revised standards for PM 2.5 and ozone could have significant impacts to the attainment status of numerous urban areas, including Albuquerque. EHD is expanding public outreach and education efforts to help reduce ozone and prepare for a potential revision of the standards, such as encouraging less vehicle miles traveled and supporting the improvement of public transit options & access.

Ozone Advance

The program recently met with the EPA regarding Ozone Advance, a program developed by the EPA in 2012 to foster collaboration and help members in attainment with the NAAQS stay in attainment. EHD recently prepared a press release regarding tips the average citizen can take to help reduce precursors that will contribute to ground level ozone, and also has plans to expand public outreach through social media, education, and increased collaboration with other departments that have a stake in ozone outcomes.

New proposed limits for fossil fuel and coal fired power plants

On May 23, 2023, the EPA proposed new limits for greenhouse gas emissions from electric generation facilities that would drastically cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from those facilities over the next two decades. These proposed changes were published in Vol. 88, No. 99 of the Federal Register. Those actions include:

1. Revised new source performance standards (NSPS) for GHG emissions from new fossil fuel fired stationary combustion turbine electric generating units (EGU's),
2. Revised NSPS for GHG emissions from fossil fuel fired steam generating units that undertake a large modification,
3. Emission guidelines for GHG emissions from existing fossil fuel fired steam generating units EGU's (which include both coal fired and oil/gas fired steam generating EGU's),

Control Strategies Report Continued

4. Emission guidelines for GHG emissions from the largest, most frequently operated existing stationary combustion turbines, and
5. The EPA is proposing to repeal the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule.

EPA is soliciting comment on approaches for emission guidelines for GHG emissions for the remainder of the existing combustion turbine category (item 4).

Comments must be received on or before July 24, 2023. EHD will closely monitor further developments as they could impact regulatory strategy for relevant local facilities.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittals

The EPA published its final “[Good Neighbor Plan](#)” for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS in the Federal Register on June 5, 2023. The plan suggested New Mexico may be contributing to one or more nonattainment or maintenance receptors. However, the EPA has not made a final determination with regards to New Mexico. It is unlikely Bernalillo County has a role, as the receptor models in the report were located in Dona Ana, Eddy, and Lea counties, and affected a monitor in El Paso, TX.

Upcoming SIP Submittals

Since the May report, there has been no change in status regarding EHD’s and NMED’s upcoming regional haze 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

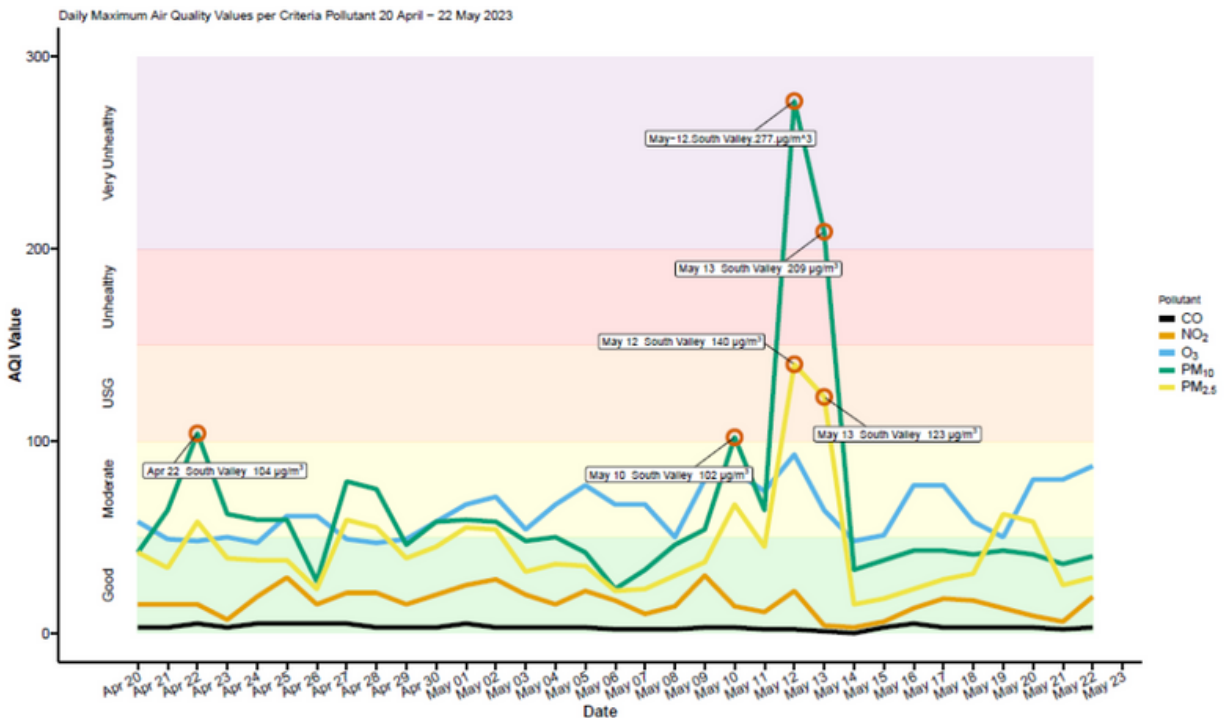
Since the May report, there has been no change in status regarding EHD’s development of a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD did recently receive some research from the UNM School of Public Administration regarding fugitive dust, and will have further internal discussion on how to best apply that research and if more collaboration could be useful in the future. 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 (PM_{2.5}). [Learn more and see the Daily Air Quality Update](#).

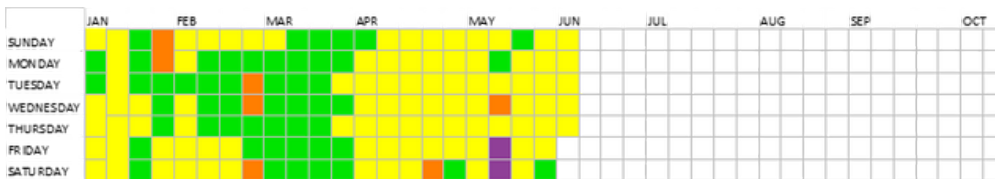
Daily AQI Values for Individual Pollutants, April 20 – May 23, 2023



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) | 52 |
| Moderate (AQI = 51-100) | 91 |
| Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (AQI = 101-150) | 7 |
| Unhealthy (AQI = 151-200) | 0 |
| Very Unhealthy (AQI = 201-300) | 2 |
| 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 issued one health alert for particulate matter during the month of April. 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.

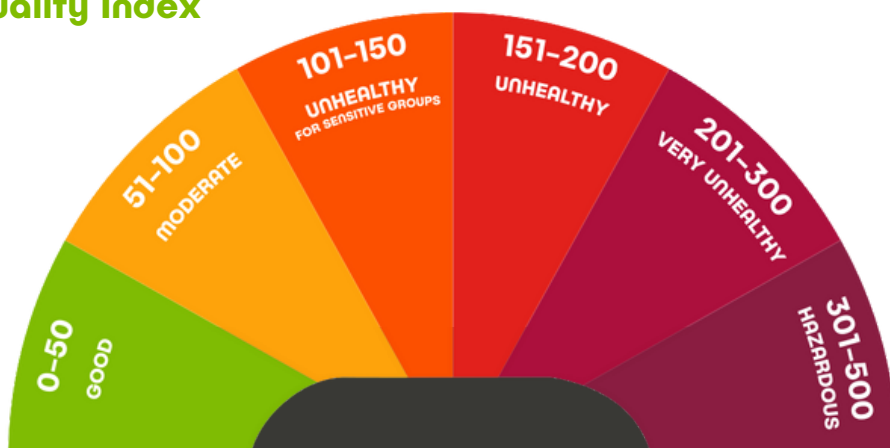
DART (Data Acquisition in Real Time) Monitoring

EHD recently received a report from EPA on the DART monitoring trial conducted by EHD, EPA, and NMED last year. EHD 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

The Permitting Division did receive the following applications as of May 31, 2023 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:

- 0500-M4 – NuStar Energy

Update on Certain Applications Under Review

SUMCO Phoenix Corporation (#0444-M6)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is May 16, 2023 to June 15, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Permits Issues This Month

- 3468 – Unifirst Corporation
- 3499-AQN01 – Maverick - Yale
- 3290-AQN01 – Coronado Villa
- 3492 – Kirtland Air Force Base – Fire Station No. 3
- 3490 – Southwest Concrete & Paving

Air Quality Permitting Report Continued

Permits Issued in April

- 3488-AQN01 - Intermountain Health Ventures
- 3489-AQN01 – Allsup’s Store #102460
- 3498-AQN01 – AT&T
- 3497-AQN01 – Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- 3494-AQN01 – Fire Station 38
- 3493-AQN01 – NMDOT District Three
- 3491-AQN01 – Nutex Health Wymont ER & Hospital
- 1960-AQN01 – 7601 Los Volcanes Rd. NW Unit C
- 3496-AQN01 – Element Hotel

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 April 2023, our program has conducted 87,013 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center has performed 2,665 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program has certified 157 new and recertifying emissions inspectors.



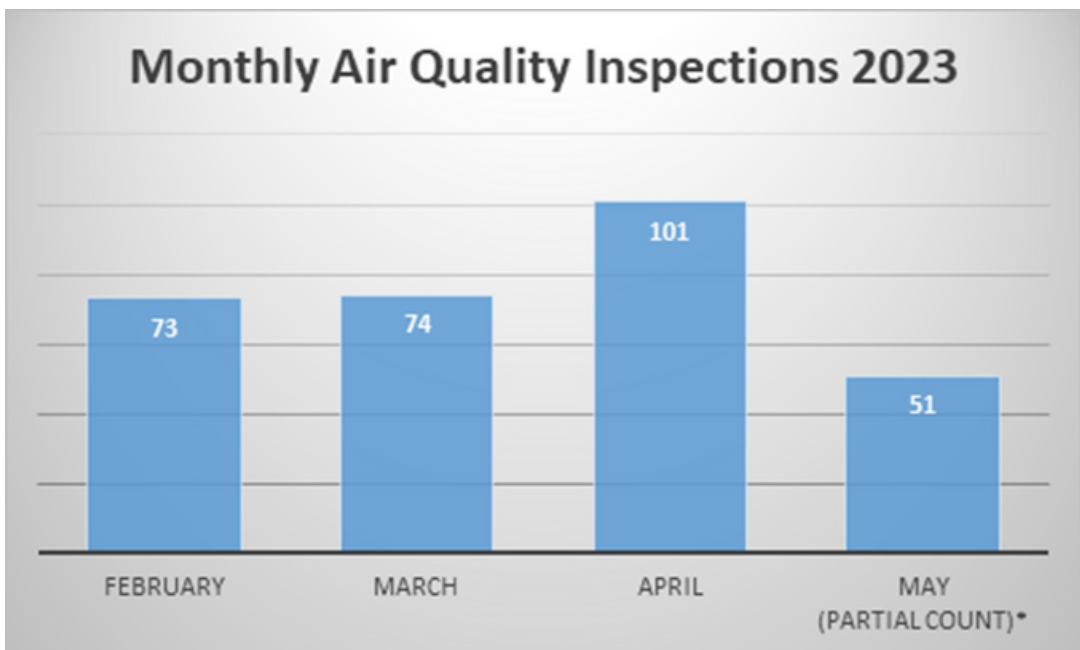
Enforcement and Compliance Report



In the past month, the Air Quality Program issued one Notice of Violation (NOV). The Program did not settle any NOVs 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 May is only a partial count and does not include inspections performed at or near the end of the month. A complete tally of May inspections will be provided in next month's Air Program Report.

Community Engagement

Current air quality related community engagement activities include the development of education materials for the public- an ozone education campaign and a video about the air quality monitor van temporarily stationed at the East San Jose swimming pool.

