Air Quality August Report

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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

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Dr. Elis Eberlein (City)
Dr. Joseph Galewsky (City)
Dr. Johnnye Lewis (County)
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Regulatory Update:

NOx Revision:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is proposing to amend the legacy engine provisions in the Omnibus regulation to provide more flexibility for manufacturers for model year 2024-2026 legacy engines. A formal notice and initial statement of reasons on the proposed rules was announced on August 1. The proposal would implement last month's deal between CARB and major industry groups and manufacturers, in which California would agree to align NOx limits with the EPA program in exchange for an industry commitment to adhere to California's ZEV truck requirements, regardless of whether other parties challenge the state's authority to adopt them, according to Inside EPA. The Clean Air Act allows California to see a waiver of federal pre-emption, which was granted by the EPA in reference to Advanced Clean Trucks. This proposal likely wouldn't directly affect Bernalillo County for the current petition to amend 20.11.104 of the NMAC, but the control strategies division will monitor for any future considerations that may arise.

Control Strategies Report Continued

Pending State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittals
Since the May 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 May 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. NMED is making significant progress as the bulk of the facilities implicated by the rule are under their jurisdiction, and timelines have been discussed with the department to tentatively have a draft ready by the end of the year, and begin federal land manager consultation early next year.

Once submitted, EPA will have until September 29, 2024 to approve the plans or issue a FIP.

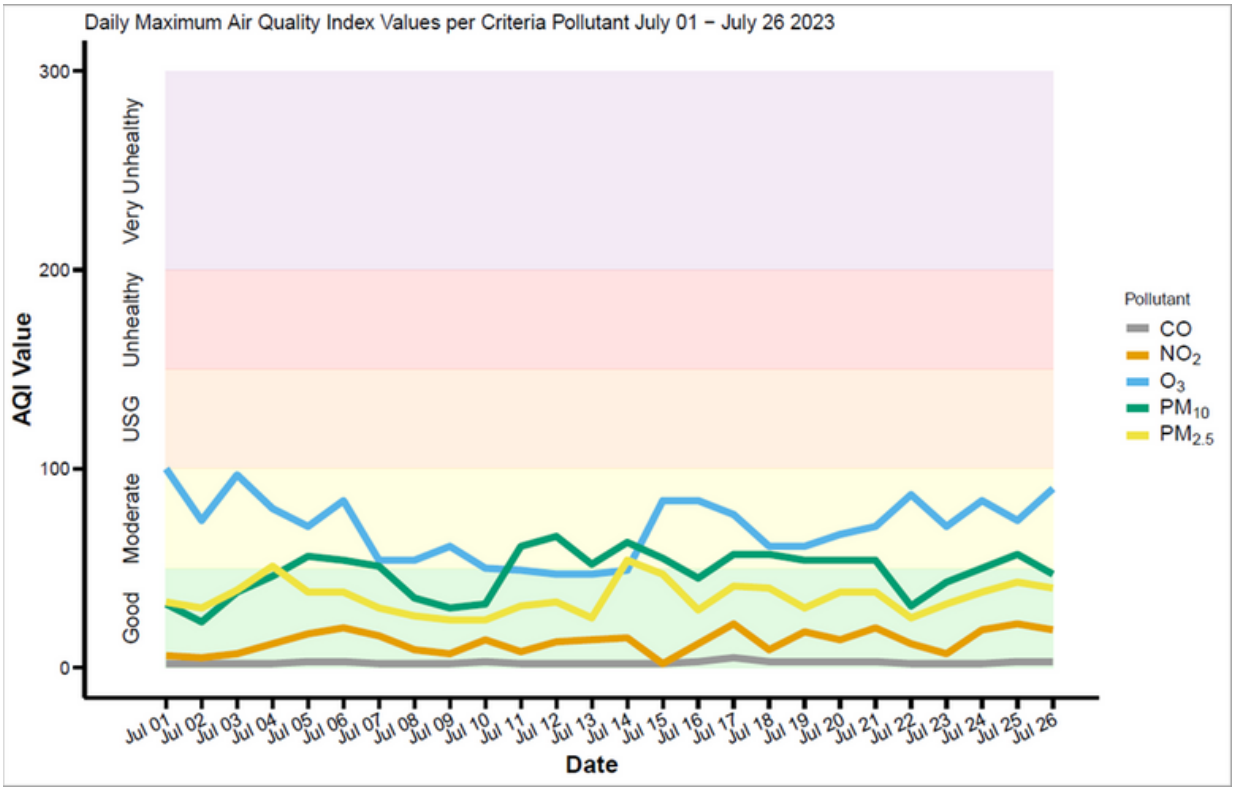
Other Upcoming Submittals
Since the May report, there has been no change in status regarding EHD's development of a mitigation plan for windblown dust pursuant to the 2016 Exceptional Events Rule. EHD has until May 2024 to submit its plan to EPA.

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.

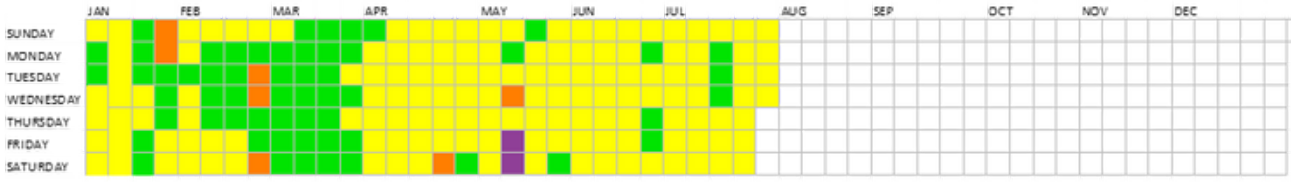
Daily AQI Values for Individual Pollutants, July 1-July 26, 2023



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)	58
Moderate (AQI = 51-100)	140
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 three health alerts for particulate matter during the month of July. 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

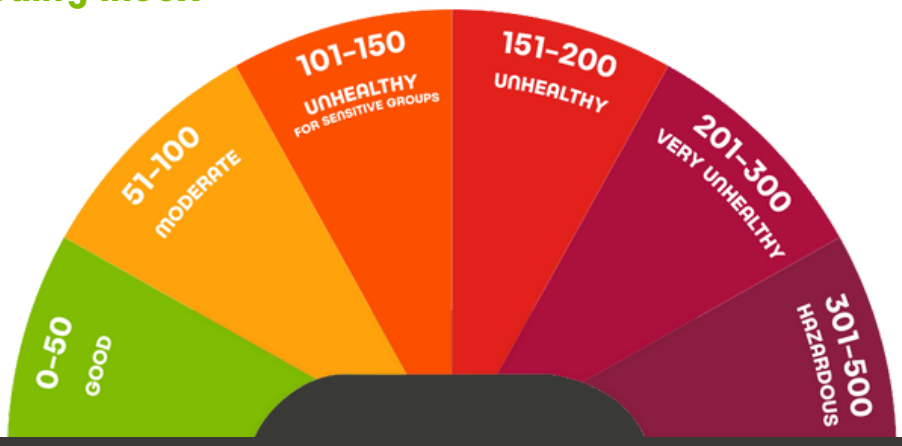
EHD recently received a report from EPA on the DART monitoring trial conducted by EHD, EPA, and NMED last year. EHD will provide an update in a future Air Quality Program Report.

Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Trailer

EHD’s mobile monitoring trailer, currently parked in the San Jose neighborhood, is fully online and monitoring for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)’s, 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, especially for 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.

EHD is currently in the initial phase of VOC emissions monitoring, and will require at least another year’s worth of data collection before it can provide a sufficient body of evidence for a health risk evaluation. The contractor to conduct this health risk assessment has not yet been selected.

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 June 30, 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:

Update on Certain Applications Under Review

University of New Mexico Northrop Hall (#1881-M1)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is July 10, 2023 to August 9, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

University of New Mexico Dane Smith Hall (#0624-M1)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is July 10, 2023 to August 9, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

University of New Mexico HSSB (#1980-M2)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is July 10, 2023 to August 9, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Lovelace Biomedical Research (#0917-M7)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is July 12, 2023 to August 11, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

KAFB Base Defense Operations (#3501)

The permit application was deemed administratively complete. The public comment period is July 19, 2023 to August 19, 2023. The Permitting Division is working on the technical documents for this application.

Air Quality Permitting Report Continued

Permit issued this month

- 0491-M8 – Curia New Mexico
- 3476 - SMI-ABQ Assets, LLC

New Mexico Gas Company proposed Liquefied Natural Gas Facility – Rio Rancho, NM; Sandoval County

The New Mexico Gas Company proposed Liquefied Natural Gas Facility does not appear to be in Bernalillo County as stated in their regulatory filing with the NM Public Regulation Commission (PRC) and what is depicted in their map. The Facility is proposed on 160 acres within Sandoval County; but right on the Bernalillo County line. Learn more about the project. Learn more about the NM Public Regulation Commission filing.

Vehicle Pollution Management Report

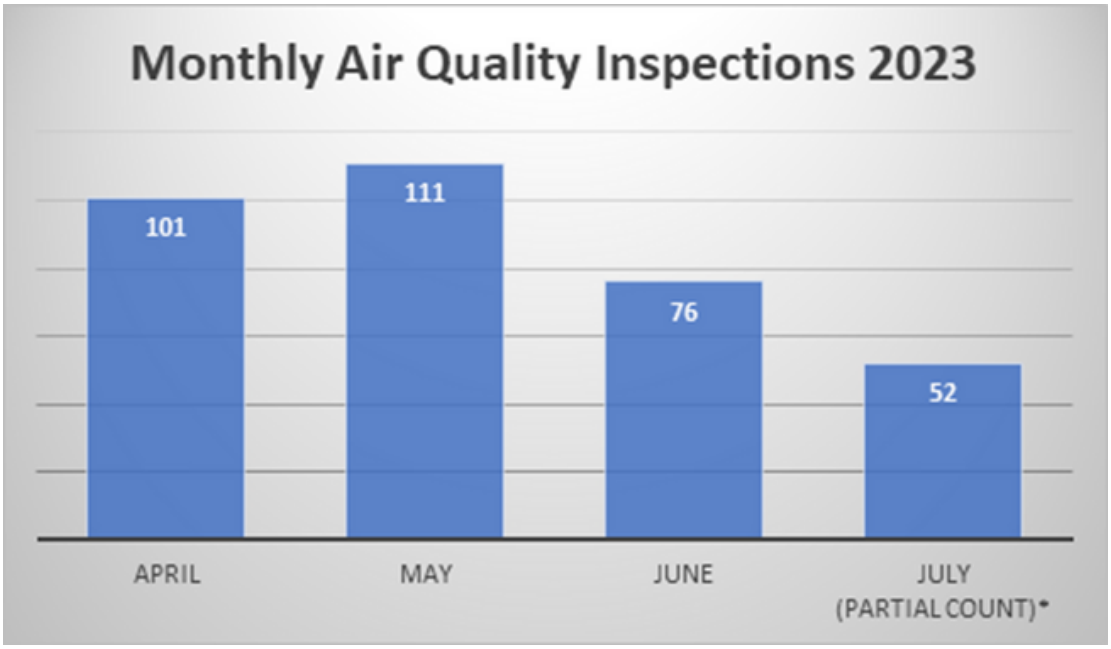
Program Operations:
The Vehicle Pollution Management Division (VPMD) is responsible for the Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program for the Bernalillo County area. For January 2023 thru June 2023, our program conducted 132,881 vehicle emissions inspections, VPMD's failed test resource center performed 4,087 retests of certified failed tests, and our training program certified 209 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 June is only a partial count and does not include inspections performed at or near the end of the month. A complete tally of July inspections will be provided in next month's Air Program Report.

Clarification on no-burn/AQI concerns:

The no-burn program and the Air Quality Index (AQI) program are two separate programs. The no-burn program is required as the result of the City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County non-attainment status for carbon monoxide that occurred in the early 1990's. The no-burn program was designed to reduce future exceedances of the Carbon monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). A weather forecast that looks at expected conditions, such as humidity, atmospheric stability and timing of the inversion, wind speeds, and cloud cover over the next 24 hours is critical in deciding whether there will be burning restrictions and the need for a no-burn.

The AQI is a federally required program that disseminates current pollution levels to an understandable health-based value. The AQI is calculated from measurements of air pollution taken by monitors over the previous 12 hours. These monitors are located around the metro area, e.g. Del Norte High School, Mountain View (South Valley) Community Center.

The difficulty is that the NAAQS are health-based standards. The AQI takes the pollutant data based against a health standard and converts it to a health-based index value. Often there are differences in the AQI calculation as compared to a no-burn call.The decision-making tree for the no-burn program is more involved and considers more data and evaluation than the AQI calculation does.

Particulate matter monitoring data in the South Valley and the Jefferson Corridor often show short term spikes during the morning hours which can influence the daily AQI report. Both of these monitors are near industry, unpaved roads and open space where these spikes are primarily coarse particulates. We know it is course particulates because the morning spikes in particulate readings are lower or non-existent for days, and sometimes weeks, after rainfall. The particulate matter is localized to the industrial areas, unpaved roads and open space. The monitored particulate matter spikes typically only last two to three hours in the mornings and then readings go down. There are monitors that are well away from industry and they may be more representative of the rest of the Albuquerque metro area during the morning hours. Burning restrictions, on the other hand, are declared when meteorological conditions favor the trapping of smoke from residential woodburning near the surface all night long. When inversions form unusually early in the evening hours, smoke becomes trapped at the surface and accumulates through the night. This occurs when we have exceptionally dry air, nearly calm winds, and a stabilizing air mass at sunset. It is rare that all these conditions come together at once and we do keep an eye out for such situations. When all these conditions occur simultaneously, fine particulate (smoke) levels can get unhealthy very quickly and stay that way for many hours which warrants burning restrictions.