ARAQMD

Protecting the Air

Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

Annual Report for 2024

The mission of the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD) is to protect the public from the adverse health impacts of air pollution and to educate the public about air quality issues.

Contents

Introduction

This report is designed to give an overall picture of the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District's (ARAQMD) activities in the calendar year 2024. It describes how our agency is structured, the work performed by each section of our agency, and our agency's plans for the future.

The administrative section of this report contains information regarding staffing updates, a current version of our organizational chart, a breakdown of the fiscal status of this agency, and a description of the future plans for the agency.

The ambient air monitoring section has monitoring data summarized to explain where the region is with respect to attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) as well as updates on other monitoring projects and field activities undertaken by the staff.

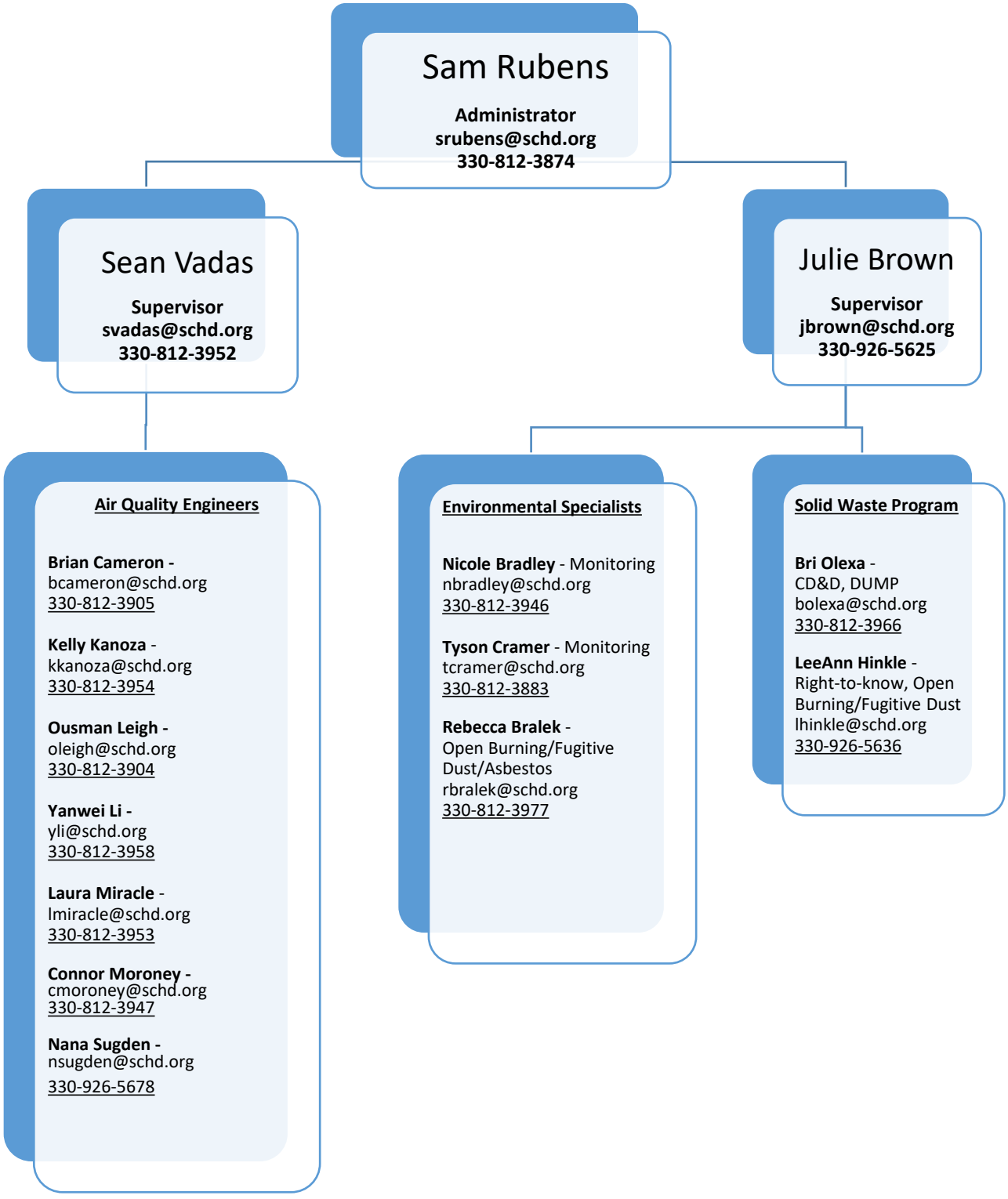
Finally, the permitting section has a summary of the activities of the permitting staff and the facility inspections performed.

Administrative Section

Staffing

The year 2024 provided a year of stability with respect to our staffing levels. Each year of experience provides better opportunities for our staff learning the nuances of the multitudes of regulations we enforce, so we are always thankful for consistency. We strive to maintain a well-trained and knowledgeable staff to best assist our clientele and support our community.

Figure 1: Organizational Chart (as of 1/1/25)



Budget

Local Fees

ARAQMD has charged annual local fees to facilities based upon the allowable emissions of emissions units with active permits in our service area since 1992. These fees are invoiced every July for the previous calendar year. The revenue generated from the local fees is shown in Table 1. These funds are used to ensure that our operations and special projects better serve the companies and residents of the ARAQMD service area.

Some of the special projects that we operated in 2024 include: the Indoor Air Quality program, which has been in place since 1993; our Air Quality Awareness week celebration, in place since 2010; the Non-High Priority Facility Inspection Program, which was started in 2018; the Managing Asthma Triggers at Home program, which also started in 2018; and the Mow Greener lawnmower replacement program which started in 2020. These last three programs will be explained further in the Special Projects update section of this report.

Table 1: Local fee revenue

	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (projected)
Facilities	525	540	540
Revenue	$202,825	$191,681	$199,100

Table 2: Revenue by source

	U.S. EPA Funds[1]	Ohio EPA Funds	Local Funds[2]	Enforcement	Total
FY23 (actual)	$456,877	$950,041	$202,825	$2,438	**$1,612,181**
FY24 (actual)	$480,703	$948,467	$191,681	$688	**$1,621,539**
FY25 (projected)	$428,991	$1,047,622	$199,100	$ 0	**$1,675,713**

[1]U.S. EPA funds include $PM_{2.5}$ funds

[2]Local funds include local facility fees

Table 3: Overall budget

	FY23 (actual)	FY24 (actual)	FY25 (projected)
Total Revenue (Local, State/Fed, PM2.5)	$1,791,811	$1,621,539	$1,675,713
Salaries	$1,003,016	$1,039,339	$1,047,075
Benefits	$300,905	$311,802	$314,122
Other Expenditures (Office costs, Equipment, etc.)	$415,250	$208,705	$198,751
Carried over funds (revenue minus expenses)	**$72,640**	**$61,693**	**$115,765**

The difference between the 2023 revenue as shown in Table 2 and the 2023 Total Revenue in Table 3 is a $179,630 American Rescue Plan allowance from the USEPA/OEPA for monitoring network upgrades.

Special Projects

In an effort to increase awareness of air quality issues, ARAQMD has instituted several programs to assist at multiple levels, from the individual to the population. As stated in part of our mission statement, we are here

to protect the public from the adverse health impacts of air pollution and to educate the public about air quality issues. Each of the following are ways in which we work to meet our mission:

Educational sessions:

> The ARAQMD staff performed many presentations for the regulated community, partner organizations, and the general public on topics such as open burning, fugitive dust, indoor air problems, and mold exposure. Training sessions with local fire departments, zoning inspectors, and construction companies have helped to foster better working relationships and awareness of air quality regulations. We have also staffed tables at public events such as Summit County Public Health events, Kent State University's College of Public Health Career Fairs, and Earth Day events.

Mow Greener:

> We celebrated Air Quality Awareness week in 2024 with the fifth year of our lawnmower replacement project, Mow Greener. The program was budgeted for 200 people across the region to make the jump from gasoline powered to electric, battery powered lawnmowers. The participants pre-registered, had to buy a battery powered lawnmower in the project's timeframe, then scrap their old gasoline powered lawnmower. Once they provided proof of the purchase and scrapping, they received a $100 gift card to help defray the difference in prices. In 2024, we instituted incentives for purchases of battery powered edgers, string trimmers, blowers, and mowers without receipts. Any of those purchases received a $25 gift card and there was no scrap requirement. The goals of this project were twofold; first, by replacing aging gasoline powered mowers, air emissions will be decreased. Secondly, the participants in the project were technology ambassadors. In 2024, we had 93 participants who got the $100 incentive and a total of 113 total participants.
>
> Through the five years of the program, we have removed 80 tons of pollution from mowers and spent $54,560 to manage the program and incentives. The funding came from local fees on industry at the beginning and now from the Ohio EPA's discretionary funds or penalties imposed on industry as determined by the Ohio EPA. This cost of $682 per ton is a very cost effective, if small-scale, manner of reducing emissions in our environment.

The Air You Breathe newsletter, website, and Facebook:

> Our quarterly newsletter, *The Air You Breathe*, was discontinued in 2024. We have had a physically printed document since the middle 1960s, but the decision was made to move entirely over to digital content. We have been moving this direction for several years and the time was right. We continue to provide direct, timely, messaging to the public via the agency's Facebook page and website where, in addition to our air quality index, we also post articles of interest and updates. There were several incidents over the year where the ARAQMD webpage was the highest rated on the Summit County Public Health website.

Air Quality Index (AQI) and pollen counts:

> We continue to communicate the daily AQI and pollen count through social media, our website, and ARAQMD hotline messages daily.

Non-High Priority Facility Inspection Program (NHPFIP)

> In 2018, we created a new project, the Non-High Priority Facility Inspection Program (NHPFIP), which was staffed by two engineers and funded through a mix of local, enforcement, and core budget

dollars. The goal of this project is to ensure that all of the facilities in the ARAQMD region have up to date permits, are in compliance with the regulations, and that the information we have for the facility, owner and any equipment at the facility is correct. As we identify facilities that have made changes to ownership or equipment, staff update Ohio EPA's database with the corrected information. In 2024, NHPFIP continued with 75 site visits or full compliance evaluations of facilities and results show that a majority of the facilities inspected had something that needed updating.

Managing Asthma Triggers at Home (MATH)

The Managing Asthma Triggers at Home project began in 2018 and is a key collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital (ACH). We receive referrals from ACH about children, between the ages of 4 and 18, in the ARAQMD service area who have high risk asthma and who could benefit from the program. High risk asthma is defined as having been intubated once, hospitalized twice or been to the Emergency Room three times in the past year for asthma. These children get their asthma under control at the hospital, but when they get back home, the asthma flares back up. The societal costs for this illness are great, both to the children and their families.

The MATH project has been an ongoing collaboration with ACH and ARAQMD was invited to be a member of the Asthma Steering, Team Leads and Stakeholders committees to provide a public health voice at the table. Additionally, at the end of 2023, Sam Rubens was installed as a member of the Ohio Department of Health's Asthma Steering Committee.

In 2024, ARAQMD began working with Buckeye Health Plan, a managed care organization, to assist their clients. We also began getting referrals from ACH for the Mahoning County area which are referred to the Mahoning County Public Health MATH program.

There has also been interest from organizations in the Cleveland area and other areas around the state about replicating the MATH program..

Between the ACH MATH program, the Buckeye MATH program and the Mahoning County program, we received over 200 referrals in 2024 and enrolled roughly 120 of those. There is discussion about expanding the program into other cities across Ohio and other managed care organizations.

Leadership Roles

Many of the ARAQMD staff have taken leadership roles in local, state and national organizations such as local community advisory panels, regional transportation planning organizations, Ohio EPA technical workgroups, ODH advisory councils, and the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA). Additionally, in 2024, Sam Rubens became one of the co-chairs for the National Association for City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) Global Climate Change Workgroup. We are working with the newer staff to coach them about the benefits of participation in these types of groups and encouraging them to engage and network with their peers.

Ambient Air Monitoring Section

Air Quality Index

Every weekday, ARAQMD reports the Air Quality Index (AQI) to the public by means of the ARAQMD website at http://www.scph.org/air-quality/air-quality-index, the agency Facebook page, and the Air Quality Information line at 330-375-2545. The AQI is intended to advise the public of the potential health effects of the ambient air pollution. The AQI has six categories which have values assigned. The AQI categories and the values are; Good (0-50), Moderate (51-100), Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150), Unhealthy (151-

200), Very Unhealthy (201-300), and Hazardous (301-500). In 2024, 67% of the time the air quality was in the good range, 32% was in the moderate range, 1% was in the unhealthy for sensitive groups range, and no days were in the unhealthy range.

Figure 3: Daily maximum AQI for Summit County, 2024

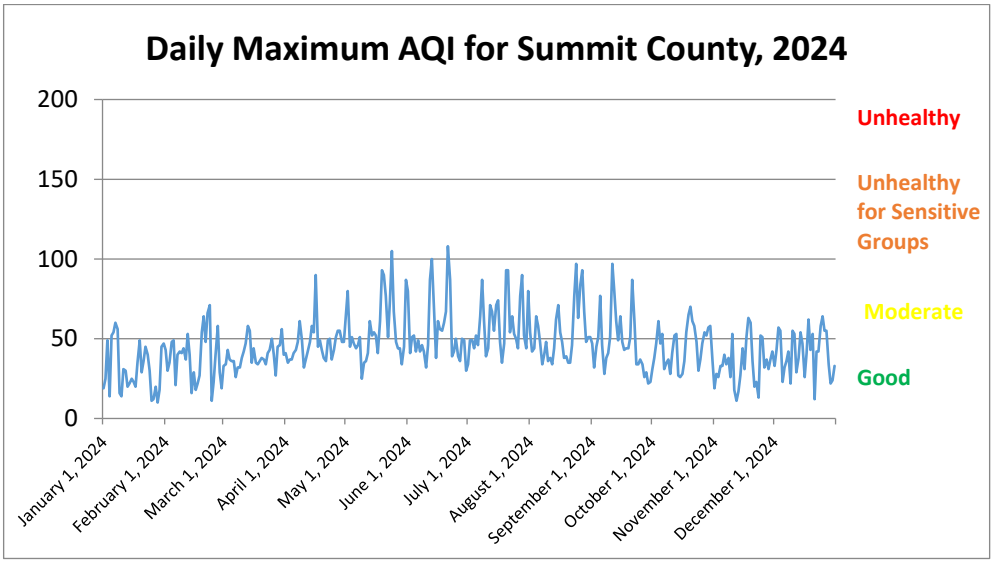
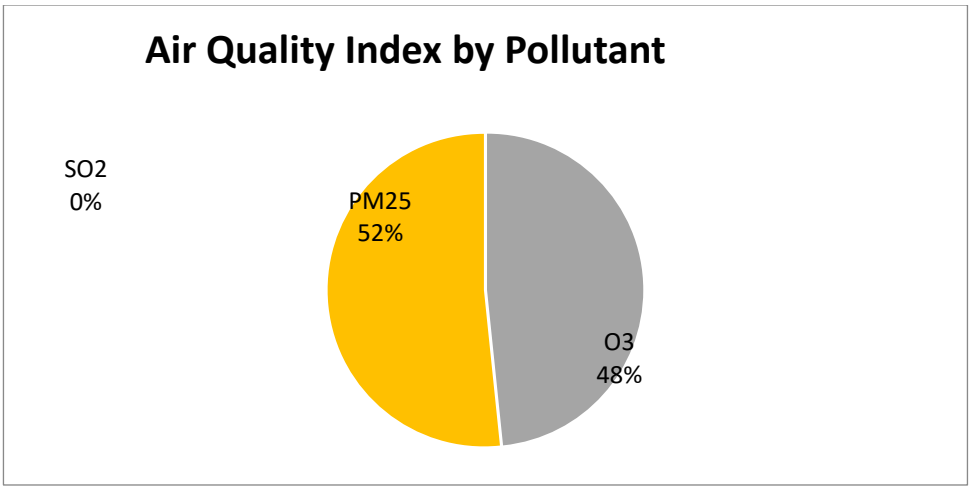


Figure 4: Air quality index by pollutant, 2024



Air Pollutant Monitoring

National Ambient Air Quality Standards

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were devised in the 1970 Clean Air Act, which was last amended in 1990. The NAAQS are reviewed periodically and may be revised by the EPA. The review of the NAAQS begins with a rigorous scientific study done by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), an independent group that was created to advise the EPA in scientific matters. CASAC then makes recommendations to the EPA as to what the scientific research shows what the levels of certain pollutants should be to adequately protect human health. The ARAQMD monitoring network is only required by the CFR to monitor for particulate matter, sulfur dioxide and ozone. Through previous monitoring data, our air does not have enough carbon monoxide or lead to need continued monitoring and there is not enough population in our region to necessitate monitoring for oxides of nitrogen.

Table 5: Current NAAQS

Pollutant	Level	Averaging Time
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	9 ppm	8 hour
	35 ppm	1 hour
Lead (Pb)	0.15 µg/m^3	Rolling three month average
	1.5 µg/m^3	Quarterly
Nitrogen Dioxide (NOx)	53 ppb	Annual Mean
	100 ppb	1 hour
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	9.0 µg/m^3	Annual Mean
	35.0µg/m^3	24 hour
Coarse Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	150.0 µg/m^3	24 hour
Ozone (O_3)	70 ppb	8 hour
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	30 ppb	Annual Mean
	140 ppb	24 hour
	75 ppb	1 hour

Particulate matter with a diameter of less than 10 microns (PM_{10})

In 1987, the U.S. EPA made a change from total suspended particulate (TSP) to coarse particulate matter. PM_{10} is made of coarse particulates which can reach the thoracic region or upper lung area of humans. Upon review in 1997, the U.S. EPA changed focus from PM_{10} (coarse particulate matter) to $PM_{2.5}$ (fine particulate matter) in the ambient air. The $PM_{2.5}$ can be inhaled into the lower lung region and is hard to exhale. Once in the moist and warm lower regions of the lungs, chemical reactions can occur and the chemicals in the particulate matter can become dissolved and be transported across the lung membrane into the blood stream.

Prior to 2004, ARAQMD monitored for PM_{10} at two sites, Downtown Akron and East High. In 1997, the U.S. EPA promulgated the $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS and in 2004, we obtained permission to cease monitoring for PM_{10} due to our low concentrations. With the 2023 ARP funding, we were able to purchase a new monitor capable of monitoring for both $PM_{2.5}$ and PM10 at the same time. We are now obtaining PM_{10} data again to ensure that we are protective of public health. While the data shows that we still have low PM_{10} concentrations, knowing that we have them is important with the new research showing links between PM_{10} and health impacts.

Table 6: NAAQS comparison values for PM_{10}

Coarse Particulate Matter (PM_{10}) Units: micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m^3)						
4th Highest 24 Hour Average – limit 150 µg/m^3						
County	Site Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Summit	East High				66.8*	30.6

* 2023 had the smoke intrusion from wildfires and is also not a complete year of data (<75%)

Particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 microns ($PM_{2.5}$)

There are two NAAQS for $PM_{2.5}$. The first is a 9.0 µg/m^3 annual arithmetic mean, averaged over three consecutive years. The second is a 35 µg/m^3 4th high 24 hour average. This standard is attained when the 4th highest 24 hour average, averaged over 3 consecutive years, is less than 35 µg/m^3.

ARAQMD's monitoring network for $PM_{2.5}$ consists of two continuous Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) monitors located in Medina and Summit Counties, intermittent Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitors located in Summit and Medina Counties and speciation monitors located in Summit County. The intermittent monitors are used to determine if the region is in attainment with the NAAQS. The continuous monitors are used to determine the AQI and for research projects which can help determine where particulate matter comes from, forecasting the AQI, and health effects. The speciation monitors are used for research projects which determine the composition of the particulate matter and allow for controls to be put into place to minimize those sources.

The speciation monitors, which break the $PM_{2.5}$ down into constituents to identify what can be controlled, were installed at East High in 2024. Additionally, we obtained a black carbon and biomass burning monitor which was located at East High as well. As we obtain small sensors for PM, we will test them at our East site to assess the data provided and ensure they work properly. The East High site is considered a supersite for PM parameters.

The ARAQMD region was combined with the Canton/Massillon metropolitan statistical area (MSA) for $PM_{2.5}$ attainment purposes. Table 7 below shows the values used to determine if the ARAQMD region is meeting the NAAQS.

Table 7: NAAQS comparison values for $PM_{2.5}$

Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$) Units: micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m^3)						
4th Highest 24 Hour Average – limit 35 µg/m^3						
County	Site Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Summit	East High*	17.3	22.8	18.8	28.0	16.3
Medina	Chippewa*	14.7	16.9	17.7	34.4	15.6
Annual Mean – limit 12 µg/m^3						
County	Site Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Summit	East High*	8.1	8.6	7.9	9.4	7.3
Medina	Chippewa*	6.8	76.9	6.3	9.2	6.9

*uses combined continuous and intermittent data

Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)

SO_2 is formed when sulfur-containing compounds are combusted. Most SO_2 in the air is caused by burning coal and smelting processes. Low-sulfur gasoline and coal are the goals for minimizing SO_2 production. SO_2 can be converted to sulfuric acid when it reacts with moisture in the air, on plants, or in the lungs. Sulfuric acid is one of the most corrosive acids found in nature. If SO_2 is converted to sulfate (SO_4), it can be a lung irritant as well.

The existing standard, established in 2010, is 75 parts per billion based on the 3-year average of the 99th percentile of the yearly distribution of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations.

The monitoring network for SO_2 is comprised of one monitor located in Akron. The East High site was started to monitor emissions from a major local manufacturing site.

ARAQMD's service area is in attainment for sulfur dioxide. The ARAQMD region has seen a 76% decrease in the annual mean of SO_2 since 1977.

Table 8: NAAQS comparison values for SO_2

Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) Units: Parts Per Billion (ppb)			
3 year average of 99th percentile of 1 hour averages – limit 75 ppb			
Site Name	2020-2022	2021-2023	2022-2024
East High	5	6	6

Ozone (O_3)

O_3 is the only criteria pollutant that is not directly emitted into the atmosphere. It is created by chemical reactions in the ambient air. When volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen are in the presence of ultraviolet light, ozone is formed. The health effects of ozone have been demonstrated in various ways. Reduction in lung function in normal, healthy people during periods of moderate exercise have been shown, and irritation of the eyes, mucous membranes and respiratory system are also possible.

The NAAQS for ozone has changed radically in the past few years. Until 1997, the NAAQS was a fourth highest one hour maximum of 125 ppb each year. In 1997, the one hour standard was left in place and a new method of evaluating the pollution was put into place. The eight hour fourth highest average over three consecutive years must be less than 84 ppb to be in attainment. In 2006, the one hour standard was revoked. In 2009, a new standard was enacted and was upheld by the courts in 2012. The newest NAAQS, implemented in 2015, is a three year average of the fourth highest eight hour standard. This must be below 70 ppb for a three year period.

ARAQMD has three ozone monitoring sites, one each in Medina (Chippewa), Summit (North High) and Portage (Lake Rockwell) County.

ARAQMD's service area was designated as being in non-attainment for the 2009 NAAQS of an 8 hour maximum of 75 ppb. Although we are measuring concentrations below the NAAQS, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties are included as part of the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain MSA for ozone and, as such, are designated as non-attainment for ozone. The ARAQMD region has seen a 44% decrease in the 1 hour maximum concentration of ozone since 1977.

Table 9: NAAQS Comparison Values for O_3

Ozone (O_3) Units: Parts Per Billion (ppb)			
3-year 4th Highest Maximum 8 Hour Average – limit 70 ppb			
Site Name	2020-2022	2021-2023	2022-2024
Summit County	65	65	69
Portage County	67	69	69
Medina County	65	68	68

Field Activities

Our staff performs several activities which impact air quality, both indoors and out. Figure 7 shows the number of each of these activities performed in 2023. The categories are further described below.

Open burning

ARAQMD staff members are responsible for responding to incidents where open burning occurs. Open burning is defined by Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-19 as "the burning of any materials wherein air contaminants resulting from combustion are emitted directly into the air without passing through a stack or chimney." There are regulations on the location where burning may occur, what may be burned, when the burning can happen and who may conduct the burning. In many cases, notification must be made to ARAQMD to obtain a permit at least 10 working days prior to the intended burning. ARAQMD inspectors investigated 70 complaints and 6 open burning permits were issued in 2024.

Fugitive dust

Fugitive dust is regulated under OAC 3745-17-08. Fugitive dust can be generated from many sources such as spray painting booths, furnaces, traffic on roadways or parking lots, tilling farmland or digging, and construction activities. The regulations for fugitive dust require that there must be reasonably available control measures to minimize dust release when transporting, storing, or handling dust. Some control technologies are the use of water, asphalt or oil to suppress the dust, installation of hoods or fans to enclose, contain, capture, vent and control the fugitive dust. The ARAQMD staff members will inspect fugitive dust problems on a complaint-driven basis. In 2024, inspectors investigated 8 complaints about fugitive dust.

Indoor air quality

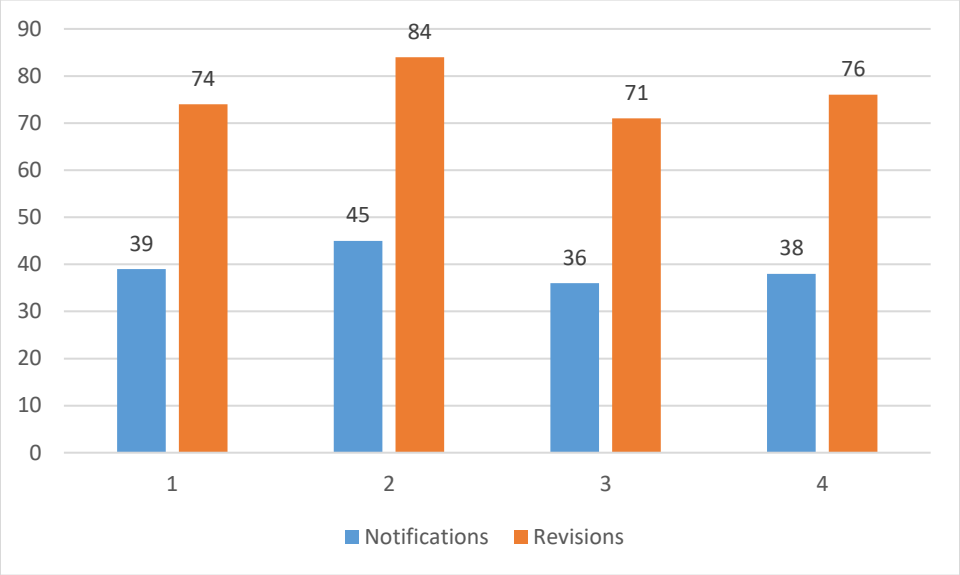
ARAQMD's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Program has been in place since 1993 and has assisted in over 5000 indoor air quality complaints in residential, commercial and school settings. In 2024, the program handled 25 inquiries. Some of the most common topics are mold, excessive dust, and unidentified odors. The indoor air staff members are educated to provide the latest information about air quality issues and health effects and how best to help the public protect their health. The IAQ program is designed to be a neutral, third-party source of information. As such, the program does not perform remediation or maintain a list of companies who do remediation work. The ARAQMD IAQ Program is available for those who work or reside in Summit, Medina or Portage Counties.

Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral which was used as an insulating compound on pipes and houses until the 1950s. When properly encapsulated, asbestos is very useful. When asbestos is disturbed or is at the surface of the material it is in, the asbestos fibers can fracture and become airborne. This process is termed "friable." Studies have shown that when friable asbestos is inhaled, it can have a lengthy residence time in the lungs and cancer risk is increased significantly.

The ARAQMD staff is responsible for inspecting the abatement work being done to ensure that the remediation work is done correctly to minimize exposure to workers and accidental release to the ambient air. In 2024, ARAQMD inspectors achieved an inspection rate of 73% of received original notifications, which is above the 15% inspection rate as required in our contract with Ohio EPA.

Figure 6: Asbestos notifications and revisions received, 2024



Permitting Section

Permit Issuance

As a contractual agent of Ohio EPA, ARAQMD is responsible for administering the Division of Air Pollution Control's (DAPC) permitting program requirements for sources of air contaminants in Medina, Summit, and Portage counties. The permitting process starts with the receipt of a permit application. The application is reviewed for preliminary and technical completeness in accordance with Ohio EPA policies and environmental rules and laws. There are a different permit options available depending on the type of source, existing air quality where the source is located, operational flexibility needed by the source, whether additional voluntary restrictions are included in the permit, and the required permitting action.

Types of sources

Title V/Major Source – Facilities with potential emissions of 100 tons per year or more of any one regulated pollutant (PM_{10}, NO_X, SO_2, CO, VOC, and lead); 10 tons per year or more of any one hazardous air pollutant (HAP); or 25 tons per year or more of any two or more HAPs. These facilities usually have very complex permitting requirements (e.g., medium to large sized industrial operations, utilities, refineries, etc.).

Synthetic Minor Title V (SMTV) – Facilities with potential emissions above at least one major source permitting requirement and/or Title V threshold, which have agreed to voluntarily restrict operations and the quantity of air contaminants emitted in order to avoid major source/Title V status.

Non-Title V (NTV)/Minor – Smaller emitting facilities, with potential emissions naturally below major source/Title V thresholds. These facilities generally have less complicated permitting requirements (e.g., small industrial operations, dry cleaners, gas stations, etc.).

Exempt – Sources that qualify for a permanent permit exemption under OAC rule 3745-31-03(B) or the "*de minimis*" source exemption under OAC rule 3745-15-05.

Types of permits

Permit-to-Install (PTI) – A permit issued for any new or modified source that is located at a Title V facility. It is effective for the lifetime of the source, or until the next modification.

Title V Permit-to-Operate (Title V PTO) – A comprehensive, facility-wide permit that identifies all regulated operations at a Title V facility. It has a five-year effective period.

Permit-to-Install and Operate (PTIO) – This permit document is issued to NTV and SMTV facilities. It is a relatively recent permit document type. Effective June 30, 2008, Ohio EPA began issuing a single PTIO (rather than a PTI, followed by a separate PTO) in order to streamline the permitting process for air contaminant sources at non-major facilities. The PTIO has a ten-year effective period, when issued to a NTV facility.

Federally Enforceable Permit-to-Install and Operate (FEPTIO) – This is a specific type of PTIO issued with federally enforceable limitations that restrict the facility-wide potential to emit in order to avoid various restrictions. It has a five-year effective period.

Model General Permit (GP) – A general permit is the same as any PTI or PTIO except all the terms and conditions of the permit have been developed in advance. Potential applicants must meet specific qualifying criteria.

Permit by Rule (PBR) – A permit-by-rule is a specific permit provision in OAC rule 3745-31-30 that applies to certain types of low-emitting air pollution sources. A facility submits a PBR notification form for a specific source and operates the source in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the applicable rule, but no permit document is generated. A PBR is in effect for the lifetime of the source.

Registration Status – Prior to 2008, a source could be placed on registration status rather than being issued a permit to operate provided the source was in compliance with all applicable rules and several conditions were met. Once a source was placed on registration status it would remain there until removed and did not have an expiration date.

Permitting actions

Initial Installation* – A PTI or PTIO must be obtained before any new, non-exempt, air pollution source is constructed in Ohio pursuant to OAC Chapter 3745-31.

Chapter 31 Modification* – Any physical change in, or change in the method of operation of an air contaminant source as defined under OAC rule 3745-31-01(M).

Administrative Modification – Any change to a PTI or PTIO that does not meet the definition of a Chapter 31 Modification.

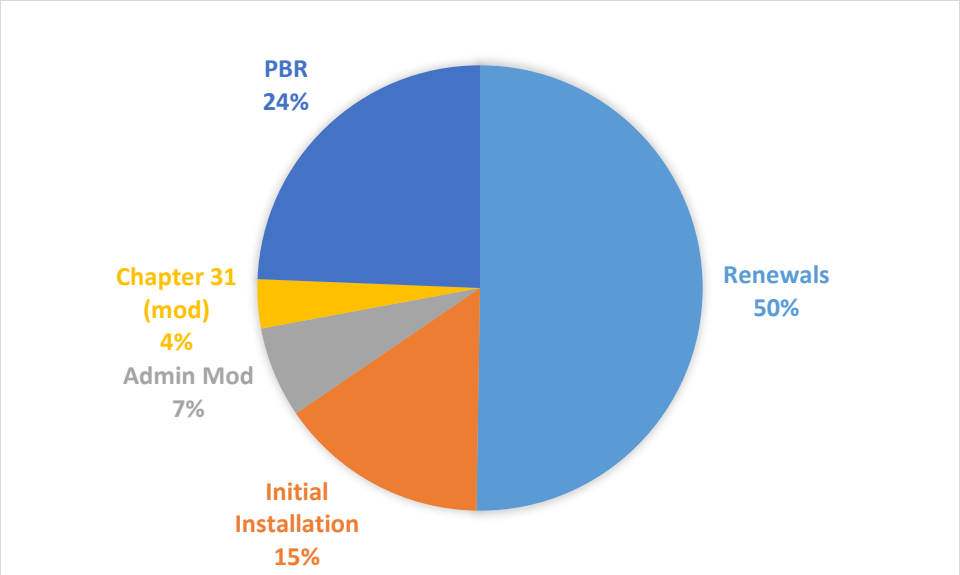
Title V Minor Permit Modification – Changes that do not trigger Title I modifications or involve significant changes to monitoring, record keeping or reporting requirements in a Title V permit.

Renewal – The process by which a permit may be reissued at the end of its term.

*Depending on the increase in emissions and current attainment status for the affected county, additional permitting requirements may be needed through Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) or Nonattainment New Source Review (NNSR).

Once the preliminary and technical review of the application is complete, ARAQMD's engineering staff develops the facility-wide and emission-unit specific permit terms and conditions. The permit terms establish limits on the quantity of air contaminants emitted and requirements for the operation of regulated air contaminant sources. Permit terms can also specify emission testing, monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements necessary to demonstrate compliance with the established emission limits. The working copy of the permit is then submitted to Ohio EPA for final review and issuance. Some permits are issued draft and subject to a 30 day public comment period and in some instances, a public hearing may be held. During 2024, the ARAQMD staff processed 20 permit renewals and 25 initial installation permits.

Figure 7: 2024 Permit issuances by permitting action

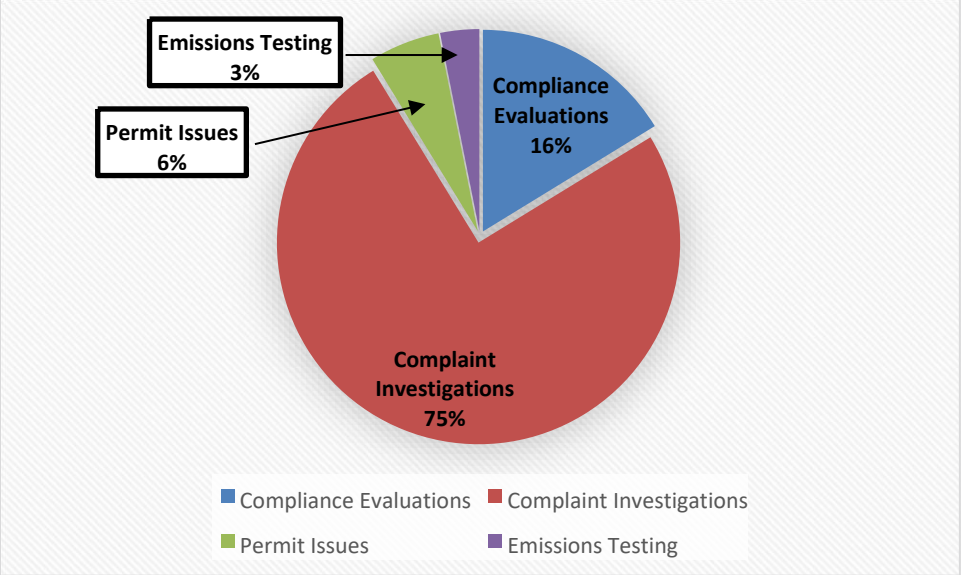


Permitted Facility Inspections & Complaint Investigations

After permit issuance, ARAQMD's staff continues to monitor the compliance status of air contaminant sources by periodically reviewing required monitoring data, records and reports. This includes witnessing a minimum of 50% of all emissions tests conducted in ARAQMD's jurisdictional area, and reviewing test results to verify proper methodology and procedures were used to demonstrate compliance with permitted emission limitations.

A total of 19 stack tests were performed and 97% of those were witnessed by ARAQMD staff. Scheduled and unannounced facility inspections are also conducted to ensure air contaminant sources are in compliance with applicable permit terms and state and federal regulations. Under contract with Ohio EPA, ARAQMD is required to conduct full compliance evaluations for at least 50% of all Title V sources and 20% of all SMTV facilities each year. As of 2024, there are a total of 18 Title V facilities, 69 SMTV facilities, and 1344 NTV facilities located in ARAQMD's 3-county service area. A total of 25 visits were made to the Title V facilities, 26 visits were made to the SMTV facilities, 141 visits to NTV facilities, and 74 NHPFIP inspections were done in 2024.

Figure 8: Reason for site visits



Annual Enforcement Summary

In 2024, ARAQMD sent out 47 warning letters, issued 51 Notices of Violations, and referred five cases to Ohio EPA for escalated enforcement.

Conclusion

In 2024, ARAQMD saw great stability and continued to progress towards meeting the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan. ARAQMD will continue its journey towards the goal of becoming a model of best practices. We will work more towards assisting small facilities in attaining compliance with the regulations and acknowledge facilities that have consistent compliance and sustainability projects. The staff of ARAQMD is looking forward to continuing the good work we have been doing and expanding the roles of the agency in protecting the public from the adverse effects from air pollution.