



ARAQMD
Protecting our Air

The Air You Breathe

A free quarterly newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District.

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2015 Ozone Attainment Designation Delayed

From the US EPA Fact Sheet:

- On June 21, 2017, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) extended the deadline for designating areas for the 2015 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone by 1 year. The new deadline is October 1, 2018.
- After establishing a new or revised NAAQS, the EPA must take steps to ensure the standard is met. An important initial step is to identify areas in the country that do or do not meet the new or revised NAAQS. This step is known as the initial area designations.
- According to the Clean Air Act, the EPA must complete the initial area designations in 2 years. However, the EPA Administrator may extend this period by up to 1 year in the event he determines he has insufficient information to complete the designations in 2 years.
- The Agency is currently evaluating a complex issue regarding the 2015 ozone NAAQS and its implementation, such as understanding the role of background ozone levels and appropriately accounting for interstate transport. In addition, the Administrator is establishing a Task Force to develop additional flexibilities for states to comply with the ozone NAAQS.
- Given the analyses currently underway at the Agency, the Administrator has determined he needs additional time to consider complex designation recommendations provided by state governors, pending full consideration of exceptional events impacting designations. Agency officials are currently reviewing the 2015 ozone NAAQS rule.

BACKGROUND

- On October 1, 2015, EPA strengthened the primary and secondary air quality standards for ground-level ozone to

0.070 parts per million, based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects on public health and welfare.

- The primary ozone standard is designed to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. Breathing air containing ozone can reduce lung function and increase respiratory symptoms, thereby aggravating asthma or other respiratory conditions. Ozone exposure also has been associated with increased susceptibility to respiratory infections. Communication use by farmers, doctors, and emergency department visits, hospital admissions for individuals with respiratory disease. Ozone exposure also increases the risk of premature death.
- The secondary ozone standard is designed to protect against adverse welfare effects, including impacts on vegetation and forested ecosystems. Prolonged ozone exposure can interfere with a plant's ability to produce and store food, leading to reduced tree growth; reduced crop yields; visibly injured leaves; and increased susceptibility to disease, damage from insects, and harsh weather.
- When EPA designates ozone nonattainment areas, the states are required to take additional actions to improve air quality, including developing implementation plans outlining how the areas will attain and maintain the standards by reducing air pollutant emissions contributing to ground-level ozone concentrations.

For More Information

- To download a copy of this notice, go to EPA's Web Site at:

<https://www.epa.gov/ozone-designations>

On a side note, it's good news that the 2008 Ozone NAAQS has been achieved in the ARAQMD region. We expect, even with the additional year, the greater NE Ohio region will not meet the 2015 standard initially. However, trends show that we will continue moving steadily toward that goal!

Reversed course on 8/2/17. See arraqmd.org for details.

Visible Air Quality Improvements

Over the years, one of my favorite questions to pose to students and young adults is, *“Do you think the local air quality is better or worse than when I was born?”* Now, they think I’m borderline ancient so I’m fairly certain they think I was born only a few years after the horse & buggy era.

Invariably, the majority of responses indicate the belief that our air quality is in fact getting **worse**.

Imagine their surprise when I tell the majority of respondents that they are incorrect!

At this point I spend a decent amount of time explaining how the US EPA is required by the Clean Air Act to review the scientific data supporting the standards for various pollutants, known as the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and change the standard to make it more protective, or strict, if the science indicates human health is still being negatively impacted.

The usual message that media gets out happens when there is a threat of unhealthy air or when discussing climate change and green house gasses. So, it is understandable that people outside of clean air circles may not realize how far we’ve come.

A new tool has been developed and is available at

<https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/air-quality-data-multiyear-tile-plot>, that can give people a very visual idea of the amount of improvement in the area nearest where they live or work (where monitoring exists).

The image below was captured by inputting the information for the pollutant **ozone**, for the time from **1997-2017** and the geographic area of **Akron, OH**. Other geographic areas can be selected, and vary based on whether or not a pollutant is being monitored in that geographic region.

Some of the details of this graphic may be lost in black/white as the colors are based on the Air Quality Index (AQI). Check out our online version at: <http://araqmd.org/publications/> select the Aug 2017 edition.

- Green** = Good
- Yellow** = Moderate (not bad/not great)
- Orange** = Unhealthy for sensitive groups
- Red** = Unhealthy for all
- Magenta** = Very Unhealthy
- Dark Maroon** = Hazardous

Each daily AQI is represented as a tile. You’ll see more and more green as you get closer to 2017. **Green = good!**

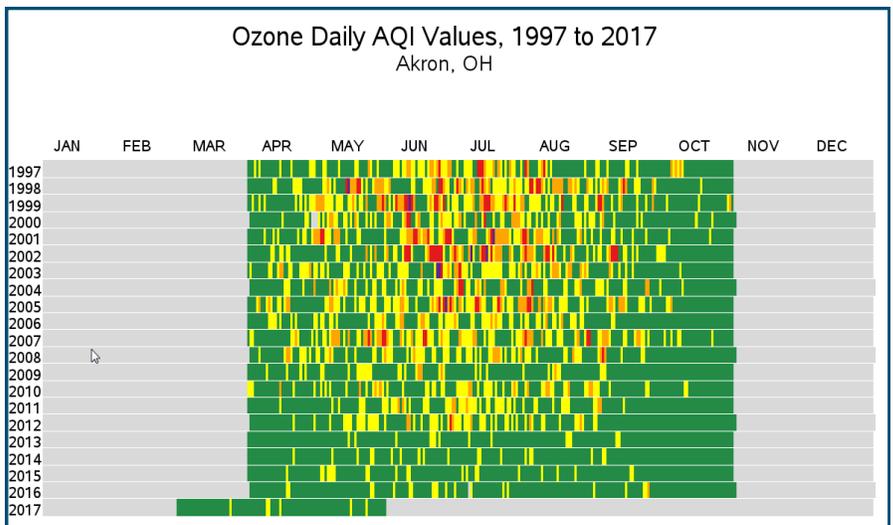
ARAQMD posts the AQI in the morning & afternoon weekdays at: www.arqmd.org/air-quality-index/ and on our info line at 330.375.2545. We also post it on our Facebook page twice every weekday. Should there be a concern that the region may approach the “orange” level or above, we announce **Air Quality Advisory** alerts in those places, as well.

FOLLOW
Akron
Regional
Air
Quality
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District



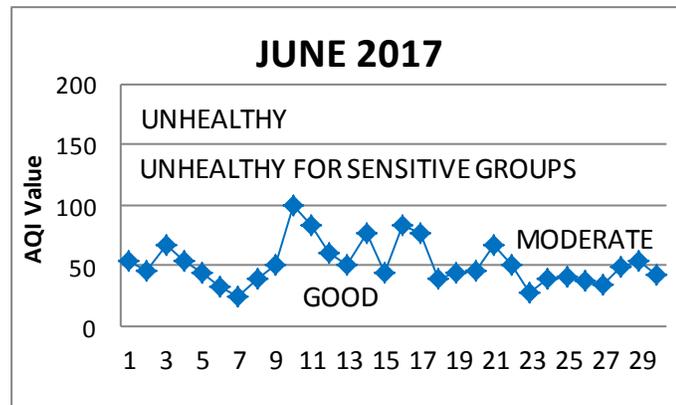
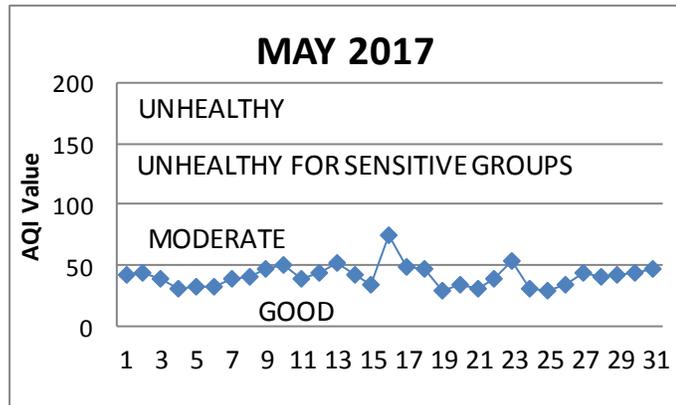
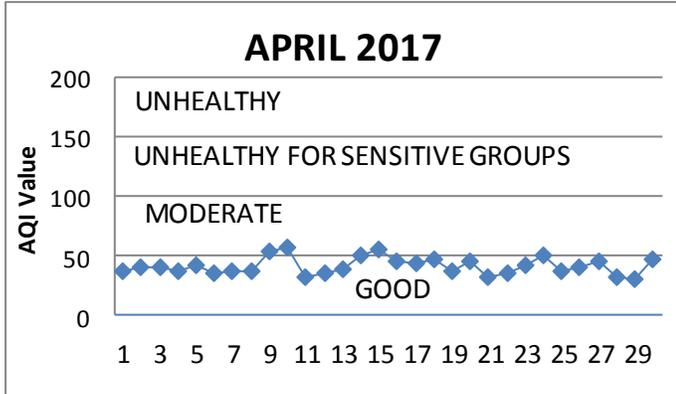
Cool articles
AQI/Pollen
And more!

Click
[HERE!](#)



Statistic Snap Shot

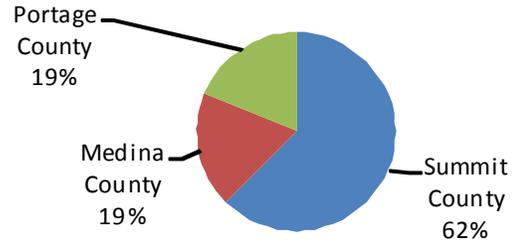
2nd Quarter 2017



2nd Quarter 2017 Complaints

Area	Commercial/Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	16	24	40
Medina County	8	4	12
Portage County	3	9	12
Kent	0	0	0

2nd Quarter Complaints



Site Visits	2nd Quarter 2017
FEPTIO	7
Title V	5
Non Title V	21
GDF	4
Full Compliance Evaluations	8

Permits Issued

Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	
2nd Q 2017	0	8	2	7	10	1	4

**Includes PPP & PP

Asbestos

2nd Q—Notifications	139
2nd Q—Inspections	63

Indoor Air Quality Inquiries

2nd Q— 4



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Should I Buy This House?

In the last year or so our office has fielded an increase in calls from folks who are shopping for a new home in our service area and are concerned about purchasing a home near an industrial/commercial operation.

Driven by the desire to keep their loved ones from being exposed to air pollutants, people search for homes in communities of their choice and locate one that seems *just* right....except for that manufacturing facility right next door/down the road/across the street.

As our cities and towns have grown, invariably residential zoning gets awfully close to commercial/industrial zoning and you find some great homes somewhat close to industrial parks/established industry.

It is understandable and actually admirable that potential buyers are looking at things like local air quality concerns before signing on the dotted line for a mortgage. That being said, there are a few things our office can tell you, but whether you **should** or **should not** purchase any particular property is NOT one of those things.



Information we CAN share with callers:

- complaint history of the facility, if one exists
- whether there is any active enforcement
- only non-confidential information regarding types of sources permitted.

Additionally, it's important to note that we do not provide localized air sampling. We sample for regional compliance based on US EPA standards. We also do not provide indoor air quality testing services.

An excellent tool to view potential air and/or water pollution sources near where you may be moving (and even where you live now) along with any current violations is found on the US EPA website known as ECHO, Enforcement & Compliance History Online:

<https://echo.epa.gov/>.

This site has an interactive map with flags indicating facilities in the zip code and details regarding their compliance with the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Resource Conservation & Recovery Act as applicable.

You can also find detailed Ohio EPA air permit information at: <http://exttomcat.epa.ohio.gov/ords/epaxp/f?p=999:10:0::::>