

# The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District  
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Volume 35, Issue 1



## Lawnmower Exchange - Coming Spring 2020

**Mow Greener** will be the theme of ARAQMD's inaugural Lawnmower Exchange program set to launch this Spring!

Fossil fuel powered lawnmowers do no favors for air quality. Battery operated lawnmowers are the newest and much cleaner option for lawn maintenance needs. While not a perfect solution, these units are much kinder to air quality than their fossil fuel powered counterparts. We want to encourage families in Medina, Summit and Portage counties to make the switch in 2020.



ARAQMD will host one exchange event in each of our three service counties in March/April. 100 families, in total, will be able to receive a **\$100 Visa** gift card as a rebate for full participation. Participants will first need to register for the program through our website, and *then* purchase a new, battery powered mower between February 1, 2020 & the date of the exchange (we will need a copy of that receipt). Finally, participants will load up their old mower and bring it to the exchange.

Details are still being finalized, so stay tuned to our web page for participation requirements, dates, locations and the registration form.

<https://www.scph.org/air-quality/lawnmower-exchange>



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## Welcome To Our Newest Engineer!



We welcomed our newest engineer, Mingxian Ma, in late November.

Ming has extensive education in Mechanical Engineering including a Master of Science degree from both the University of Akron and Xi'an Jiaotong University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from TaiYuan University of Technology.

In his free time Ming enjoys reading, programming and drawing with Computer Aided Design. He also enjoys hiking & running.

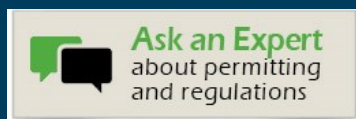
When asked what he likes best about living in Northeast Ohio, he replied, "I like the weather and the traffic."

## Compliance Tool

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance & Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) has created a new avenue for you to receive free & confidential environmental assistance with your regulatory questions.

Monday thru Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm you can chat with an expert for confidential assistance.

To use this feature, go to [Ohio EPA's homepage](#) and select:



## Intent to Test Notifications

When submitting Intent to Test (ITT) notifications, please **only** use one of the following methods. These methods ensure the appropriate ARAQMD staff member will be notified and the stack test witnessed.

1. Electronic submission through OEPA eBusiness Center: <https://ebiz.epa.gov/>
2. Email to: [araqmd@sched.org](mailto:araqmd@sched.org)
3. Mail to: Summit County Public Health Akron Regional Air Quality Management District 1867 West Market Street Akron, OH 44313

Title V and Synthetic Minor facilities are required to use Ohio EPA's e-Business Center: Air Services to submit an ITT.

# Updates, Changes & Final Rules

Significant regulation work, changes and revisions have been implemented in the past handful of months. Many different industries/facilities are impacted. Read below to see brief explanations of the changes.

## **Final Revisions to the Petition Provisions of the Title V Permitting Program**

After 20 years of experience in implementing the title V petition process, EPA has identified general trends in petition content and aspects of the petition review process that pose challenges for providing efficient responses to petitions. Three key areas are covered in this final rule, each of which should aid EPA's review and increase stakeholder understanding of the petition process. This rule provides direction on how petitions should be submitted to the agency, including encouraging the use of an electronic submittal system established by EPA as the preferred method to submit title V petitions. In addition, the rule establishes content and format requirements for title V petitions. Further, the rule requires permitting authorities to respond in writing to significant comments received during the public comment period (when applicable) for draft title V permits, and to provide that response in the form of a response to comments document with the proposed title V permit to EPA for the agency's 45-day review period. A pre-publication version of the final rule and a summary fact sheet are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/title-v-operating-permits/current-regulations-and-regulatory-actions>

## **Final Petroleum Refinery Sector Reconsideration**

Recently, the U.S. EPA issued the final rule, "National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Petroleum Refinery Sector." This action finalizes the reconsideration of the 2015 final rule, "Petroleum Refinery Sector Risk and Technology Review and New Source Performance Standards." EPA granted reconsideration of five specific issues raised by petitioners that the Agency did not provide an adequate opportunity for notice and comment regarding the 2015 final rule. *In addition, today's final rule provides corrections to drafting errors made in the 2018 Refinery MACT 1 and 2 technical amendments.* A pre-publication version of the final rule and a summary fact sheet are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/petroleum-refinery-sector-rule-risk-and-technology-review-and-new>

## **Interpreting Adjacent for New Source Review and Title V Source Determinations in All Industries other than Oil and Gas** guidance document (signed 11/26/19)

This final U. S. EPA guidance revises the agency's interpretation of when multiple air pollution-emitting activities are located on sufficiently "adjacent" properties to one another that they should be considered a single source for the purposes of permitting. In this guidance, for all industries other than oil and natural gas production and processing, EPA adopts an interpretation of "adjacent" that is based on physical proximity only. The concept of "functional interrelatedness" would not be considered by EPA when determining whether activities are located on adjacent properties.

## **Revised Policy on Exclusions from Ambient Air** U. S. EPA guidance document (signed 12/2/19)

EPA is issuing final guidance that revises the Agency's 1980 policy on the exclusion of certain areas from the scope of "ambient air" under the Clean Air Act and EPA's regulations. This guidance, while maintaining the same level of public health protection, updates EPA's policy to recognize that an industrial facility owner or operator may use a variety of effective measures to keep the public off facility property. These measures which account for advances in surveillance and monitoring, depend on site-specific circumstances but continue to include but are not limited to fences or other physical barriers. The regulatory definition of ambient air, in 40 CFR §50.1(e), remains unchanged as "that portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the general public has access."

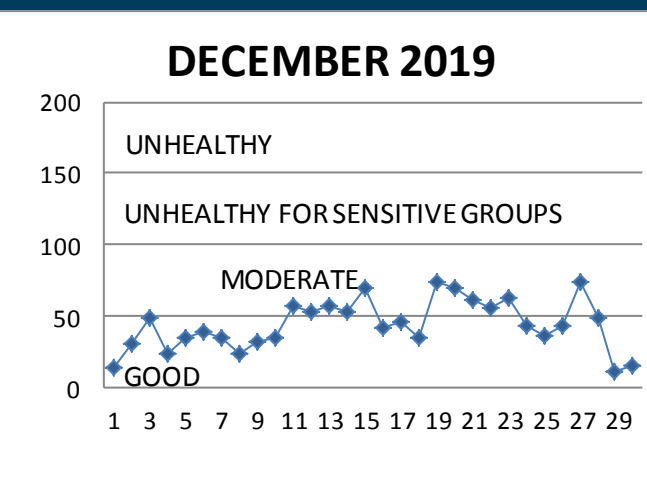
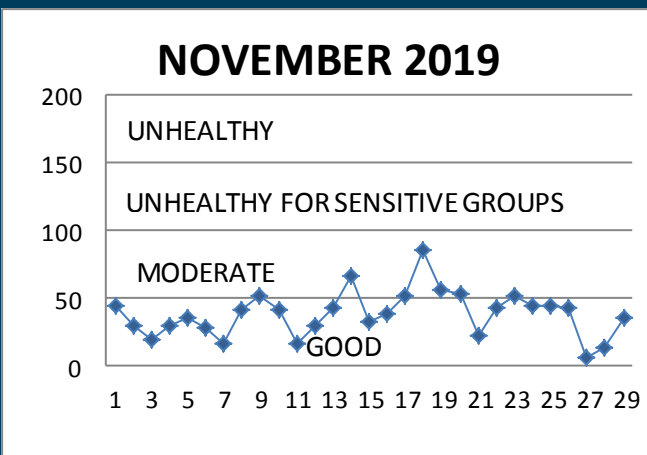
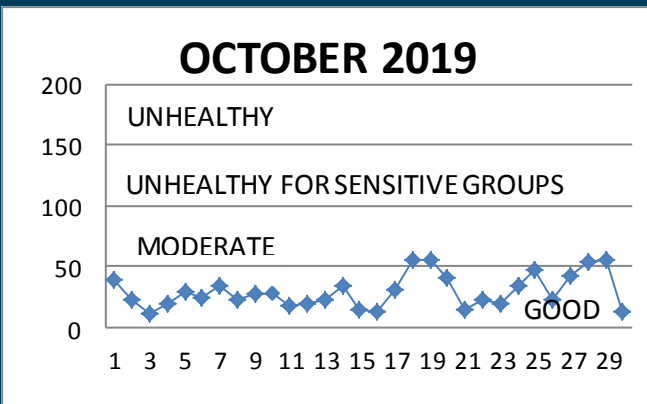
## **Proposed NSR Error Corrections Rule** (signed 11/22/19)

EPA is proposing to address minor errors that have accumulated over time in four New Source Review (NSR) regulations. While these minor errors, such as outdated cross references and typographical errors, have not materially impeded the effective operation of the NSR program, EPA believes that it is important to remove such errors from the regulations in order to provide regulatory certainty and clarity. The proposed corrections are all considered to be non-substantive and are intended to provide clarity and precision to the NSR regulations without altering any NSR policy or changing the NSR program as a whole. EPA is also proposing to remove from the NSR regulations various provisions, such as certain "grandfathering" provisions, that, with the passage of time, no longer serve any practical function or purpose. Find the fact sheet here: <https://www.epa.gov/nsr/proposed-nsr-error-corrections-rule-0>

If you have questions regarding any of the above in reference to your facility, please contact us at 330-375-2480 or via email at [araqmd@schd.org](mailto:araqmd@schd.org).

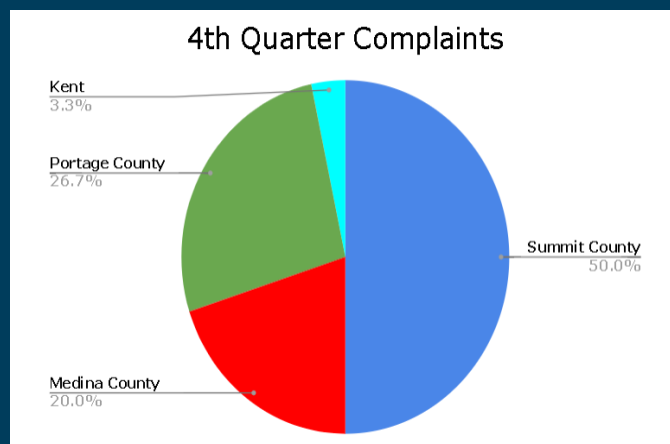
# AQ by the Numbers: 4th Quarter 2019

## Air Quality Index



## Complaints & Inspections

Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	4	11	15
Medina County	2	4	6
Portage County	3	5	8
Kent	0	1	1



Site Visits	4th Quarter 2019
FEPTIO	11
Title V	18
Non Title V	20
Full Compliance Evaluations	27

## Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
4th Quarter 2019	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	0	3	1	19	5	4	5

Asbestos	
4th Q—Notifications	53
4th Q—Inspections	37





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A service of Summit County Public Health

## ARAQMD Staff Discuss Their Battery Lawnmowers

1. What motivated you to purchase a battery powered lawn mower?

**Laura:** My husband was tired of breathing in the exhaust from the gas lawnmower.

**Duane:** I started with a batter powered snow thrower and was so impressed with it that it was natural to get a mower that uses the same batteries.

2. Is the mower powerful enough to mow a regular sized city/suburban lot?

**Laura:** Definitely!

**Duane:** My gasoline mower used to bog down and stall in thick, heavy or wet, grass. My battery powered mower powers through it but does cause the battery to drain a little quicker. But, with the extra batteries from the snow thrower, I can cut and charge all day!

3. What features, if any, do you really like about the mower?

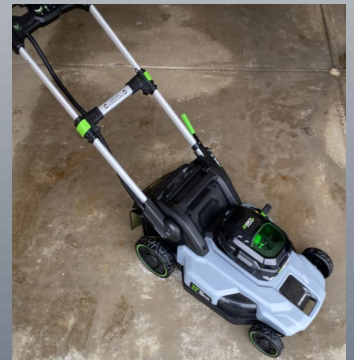
**Laura:** Low maintenance (only have to sharpen the blade), ease of adjusting mower height, quiet, no fumes, and easy to push!

**Duane:** There are many benefits, but the best two are the lack of maintenance requirements and not having to go to the gas station before I mow. It is always ready to go!

4. If your neighbor was in the market for a new lawnmower, would you recommend a battery powered mower?

**Laura:** YES!

**Duane:** Definitely! There is a reason the gas powered mowers are selling for less...they are an inferior technology!



Laura's Mower



Duane's Mower