

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
February 2021

Volume 36, Issue 1



Indoor Air & COVID-19

The information below, from the Minnesota State Health Department, is for general audiences who may have questions about air in buildings and COVID-19.

COVID-19 is spread mainly between people who are within about 6 feet of each other for at least 15 minutes. Tiny droplets form in the air when someone coughs, talks, sings, or laughs. Droplets from someone who has COVID-19 can contain the virus. Someone else can breathe in these droplets, or the droplets can land on someone's eyes, nose, or mouth and cause infection. Indoors, there is less airflow to move around and spread out than there is outdoors.

Managing indoor air will not stop the spread of COVID-19 by itself, but it can lower the number of people infected when people also wear a face covering; stay at least 6 feet from others who are not household members; have good hand hygiene; clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched a lot; and take any other steps to control and stop infection.

Air flow management

- Bring in fresh outdoor air as much as possible.
- Consider using rooms with high ceilings that have more space for anything in the air to move around and thin out.
- Limit the number of people in a space to a number that allows at least 50 square feet per person.
- Try to keep the indoor relative humidity between 40% and 60% in spring and fall. Consider lower levels of relative humidity in winter to stop too much moisture from forming on windows and other surfaces.
- Open windows and outer doors when weather and safety permits.
- Use a window air conditioner with an outdoor air intake or vent with an open vent.
- The more people you have in an indoor area, the greater the need for outdoor air.
- Decrease the number of people in an area if outdoor ventilation can't be increased.
- Improve air circulation
- Open doors to rooms and hallways.
- Use restroom fans continuously in commercial or multifamily buildings, if possible.
- Use portable fans and ceiling fans with caution. The impact of fans on the risk of spreading the virus are unknown. They may help reduce risk, but must be positioned to avoid blowing air from one person in the direction of another person.
- Adjust ceiling fans to pull air up rather than down. For example, tilt blades upward, if possible.
- Place portable fans in windows to pull air out, rather than into the building.
- Standing or floor fans should be pointed away from people.
- Filter indoor air
- Use a portable air cleaner or air purifier with a HEPA filter.
- Portable air cleaners can help reduce contaminants in the air, including viruses, in a home or confined space. Note that air cleaners/filters are not, by themselves, enough to protect people from the virus that causes COVID-19.

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Report Deadlines

Many reports are due in the first half of 2021. Please be aware that any due date that falls on a weekend or holiday, where State agencies are closed for business, will be extended to the following business day. In this message you will find information on those reports and other helpful tips as follows:

- **Permit Evaluation Report due February 15 (for some facilities)**
- **Annual Emissions Report - due April 15**
- **Title V Compliance Certification - due April 30**
- **Quarterly Compliance Report - due April 30**



For more tips go to <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/indoorair.html>

Important Updates for Regulated Facilities

Project Emissions Accounting

October 22, 2020 - EPA is finalizing a rule to clarify the process for evaluating whether the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program would apply to proposed projects at existing air pollution sources. This rule makes it clear that both emissions increases and decreases from a major modification at an existing source can be considered during Step 1 of the two-step NSR applicability test. This process is known as project emissions accounting (previously referred to as project netting). Read more here: <https://www.epa.gov/nsr/project-emissions-accounting-2>

Updating Permit Terms & Conditions to Ensure the Nuisance Provision is State-Only Enforceable

Q: I recently read that the nuisance rule, (OAC) rule 3745-15-07, is no longer federally enforceable. My permit states that the rule is federally enforceable. How can I get my permit updated to correct this language?

A: Effective December 19, 2020, U.S. EPA removed the nuisance rule from Ohio's State Implementation Plan (SIP). This means that the nuisance rule is no longer federally enforceable (it remains State enforceable).

In the past, Section A. of the Standard Terms and Conditions for Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control permits-to-install (PTIs) and Title V operating permits (Title Vs) referred to the rule as being federally enforceable. The permit language was updated on January 19, 2021, to reflect that the rule is now a state-only enforceable provision; all PTIs and Title Vs issued from January 19, 2021, forward include this language. Permits-to-install and operate (PTIOs) were not impacted by this change because the PTIO standard terms did not discuss enforceability of the nuisance rule. The only change made to the Standard Terms and Conditions for PTIs was the addition of A.1.a)(4). For Title Vs, A.1.a)(1) was added and reference to A.21. was removed from A.2.c)(3). The updated Standard Terms and Conditions can be found at: <http://wwwapp.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/Tree/Tree.html>

Moving forward, the revised permit language will be incorporated into all modified PTIs/Title Vs when issued, and to Title Vs upon renewal. If a facility would like to update the language sooner, it can be done by requesting a modification to their permit(s). For Title Vs an Administrative Permit Amendment (APA) application will need to be submitted. The application should contain a letter summarizing the request for the updated Standard Terms and Conditions language. If your underlying PTIs for the Title V facility also contain the federally enforceable language, then you will also need to request the PTIs get modified. For the PTIs, you simply submit an administrative modification request containing a letter similar to that submitted for the APA application.

For PTIs, multiple applications may be necessary if there are multiple permits that need updated. The PTIs will be processed as administrative modifications and can be issued direct final, which does not need a 30-day comment period. For Title Vs, the action will be processed as an APA and can also be issued direct final. Applications for updating PTIs and Title Vs should be submitted concurrently.

If you have additional questions regarding the application process, please contact ARAQMD @ 330-375-2480.

Report Deadlines

Permit Evaluation Report - Air Services Task: Permit Evaluation Report (PER)

This report is ONLY due for those facilities that have had a Permit to Install and Operate (PTIO) issued that was effective during the reporting period. Your PER due date is stated on the Authorization page of your issued permit document. Don't forget to check the issued PTIO for reporting requirements that may need to be met as part of completing the PER. The next PER is due on February 15 for facilities with a reporting period of January 1 to December 31.

Annual Emissions Report - Air Services Task: Fee Emissions Report (can also include EIS and ES) You will find answers to common questions we receive and training videos below in the **Customer Support** section

Title V and Synthetic Minor Facilities: The 2020 Title V and Synthetic Minor Title V fee emissions report, emissions inventory, and emissions statement are on due April 15. The emissions statement is only applicable to counties that were not in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. For 2020, there are 11 counties designated as non-attainment for this standard.

Title V Compliance Certification - Air Services Task: Title V Annual Compliance Certification Report (TVCC)

This report is due on April 30 for all facilities that were regulated by a Title V permit in 2020. Remember, a hard copy is NOT required to be submitted to U.S. EPA unless trade secret information is a part of the submission. Details are given on our Title V web page by clicking on the Reporting tab. At this time, the agreement with U.S. EPA only applies to the TVCC. All other reporting requirements where a hard copy must be mailed to U.S. EPA have not changed.

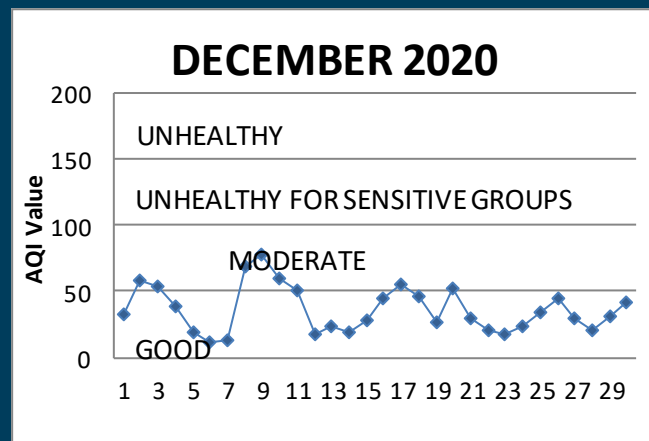
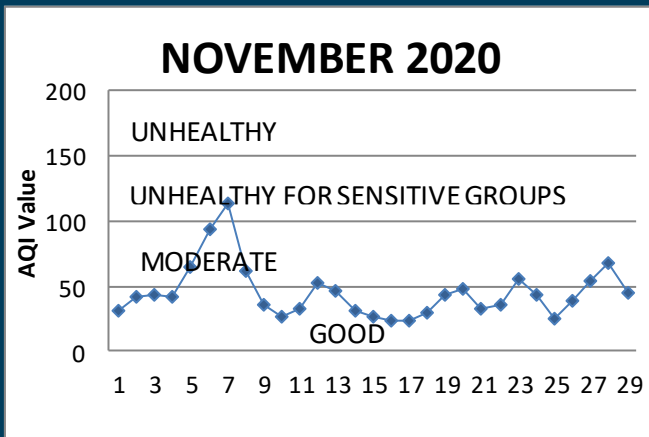
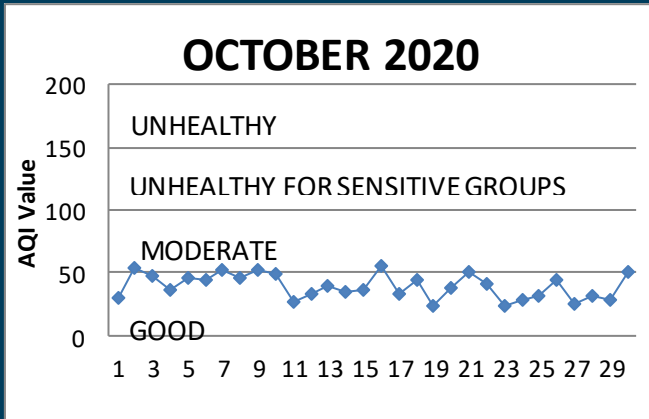
Quarterly Compliance Report - Air Services Task: Other Compliance Report (ex. Quarterly Deviation Reports)

Please review your facility permits to determine what quarterly reports are due on April 30 for the first quarter of 2021.

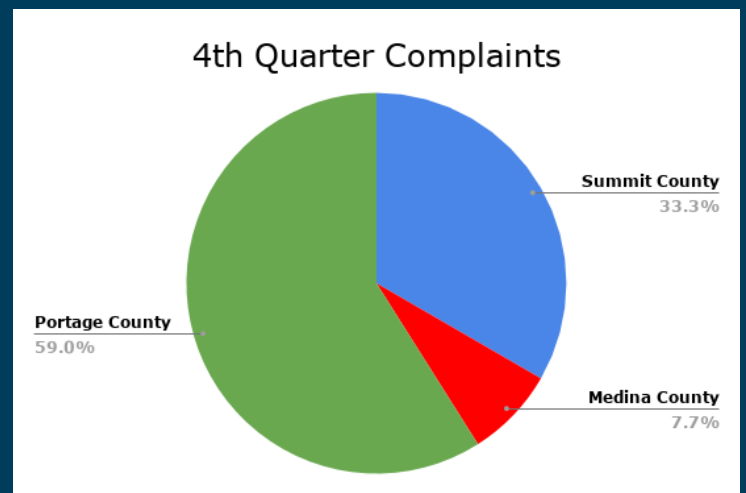
AQ by the Numbers: 4th Quarter 2020

Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	2	11	13
Medina County	0	3	3
Portage County	0	23	23
Kent	0	0	0



Site Visits*	4th Quarter 2020
FEPTIO	9
Title V	6
Non Title V	2
Full Compliance Evaluations	7

*virtual visits per OEPA

Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
4th Quarter 2020	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	2	4	20	3	1	8

Asbestos	
4th Q—Notifications	37
4th Q—Inspections	0*

*due to restrictions from OEPA



1867 W. Market St.
Akron, OH 44313
330.375.2480 ph.
330.752.7792 fax
www.araqmd.org
araqmd@schd.org

A service of Summit County Public Health

Coming to a Parking Lot Near You...Soon!

Plug in electric vehicles (EVs) are going to be taking up more and more market share as the decade progresses. GM has made the commitment to produce only EV passenger cars, vans and SUVs by 2035. Ford has made a similar pledge for it's European market...which will likely affect US offerings as well. California has stated only EVs will be for sale in their state by 2035. And, we all know that the California market strongly influences the US market as a whole.

On the campaign trail, President Biden made a commitment to build 500,000 charging stations nationwide by 2030 in an effort to build out the needed infrastructure for a



changing fleet of passenger vehicles in the US.

EVs are not without air pollution, or other environmental impacts, but as the portfolios of electricity generation expand to include more and more renewable energy sources, the EVs will become increasingly air friendly.

We know the pollution created by passenger vehicles accounts for roughly half the PM2.5 and ozone precursors that create unhealthy air for millions of people regularly. EVs will help with these pollutants as well as the greenhouse gases that impact climate change.

The future is bright...and electric!