

**Air Quality Management Division
Division Director Staff Report
Board Meeting Date: February 27, 2025**

DATE: February 3, 2025

TO: District Board of Health

FROM: Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director
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SUBJECT: **Air Quality Management** - Update on Executive Orders and Air Quality, Lee M. Zeldin Sworn in as 17th EPA Administrator, October and November 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletters, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance.

1. Program Update

a. Update on Executive Orders and Air Quality

On January 21st, President Trump issued several Executive Orders (EOs), many of which will impact how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and, in turn, state and local agencies manage air quality. Below is a summary of a few of these EOs.

- EO 14154, "Unleashing American Energy" - Focuses on increasing domestic energy production by reducing regulatory burdens and promoting the development of various energy resources, including oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy. It also aims to limit the influence of climate change considerations in energy policy decisions and promote true consumer choice on vehicles.
- EO 14156, "Declaring a National Energy Emergency" - Declares a national energy emergency, citing threats to the nation's economy, security, and foreign policy due to insufficient energy production and unreliable infrastructure. It directs federal agencies to use emergency powers to expedite energy projects, including fossil fuels, and to streamline environmental reviews for such projects.
- EO 14162, "Putting America First in International Environmental Agreements" - Directs the United States to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and other international climate accords, prioritizing domestic economic interests over global climate



commitments. It emphasizes the importance of economic efficiency and American prosperity in international energy agreements.

In addition to these EOs, President Trump also rescinded previous EOs including the following:

- EO 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations)
- EO 13990 (Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis)
- EO 14008 (Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad)
- EO 14027 (Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office)
- EO 14030 (Climate-Related Financial Risk)
- EO 14037 (Strengthening American Leadership in Clean Cars and Trucks)
- EO 14052 (Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)
- EO 14057 (Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability)
- EO 14096 (Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All)

For more information about these EOs, please visit the link below.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/presidential-documents/executive-orders/donald-trump/2025>

b. Lee M. Zeldin Sworn in as 17th EPA Administrator

By a vote of 56 to 42, the Senate confirmed former Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-N.Y.) as 17th Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Zeldin is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later represented New York's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023.

"It is my honor to serve as the 17th Environmental Protection Agency Administrator. Under President Trump's leadership, we will take great strides to defend every American's access to clean air, clean water, and clean land. We will maintain and expand the gold standard of environmental stewardship and conservation that President Trump set forth in his first administration while also prioritizing economic prosperity. I look forward to working with the agency's talented staff and scientists to deliver results for the American people. It's time to get to work," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.



For more information about the confirmation, please visit the link below.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/lee-m-zeldin-sworn-17th-epa-administrator>

c. October and November 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletters

Please visit the link below to view the October and November 2024 EPA small business monthly newsletters, which highlight environmental regulation, compliance assistance, resources, and upcoming events. Contact asbo@epa.gov to subscribe to the newsletter. For more information about small business resources and Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs), visit <https://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses>.



October and November Newsletters

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-10/asbo-october-2024-smallbiz.pdf>

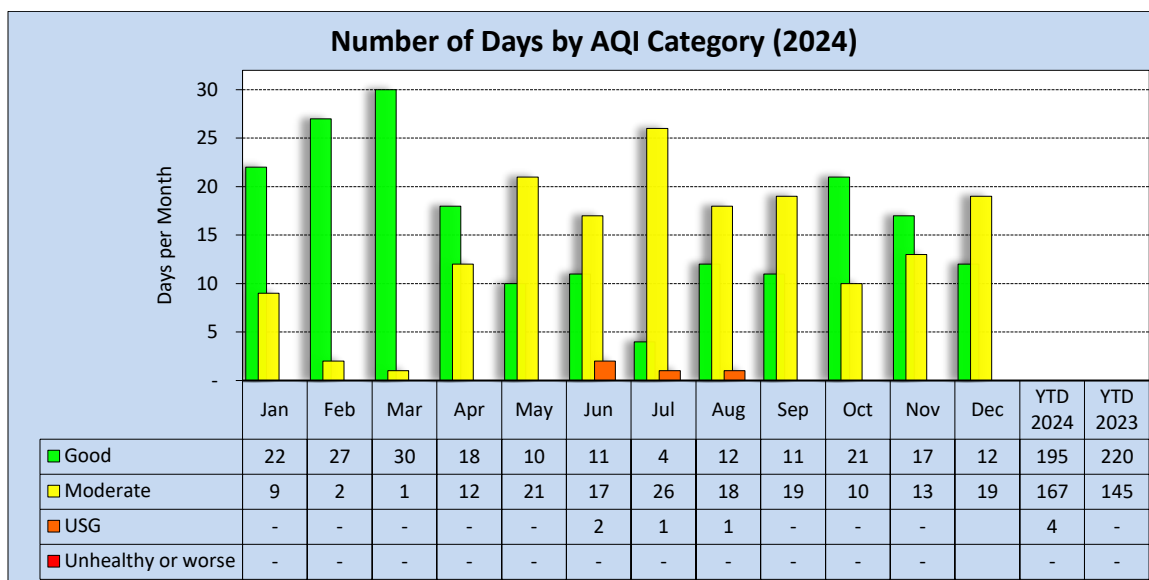
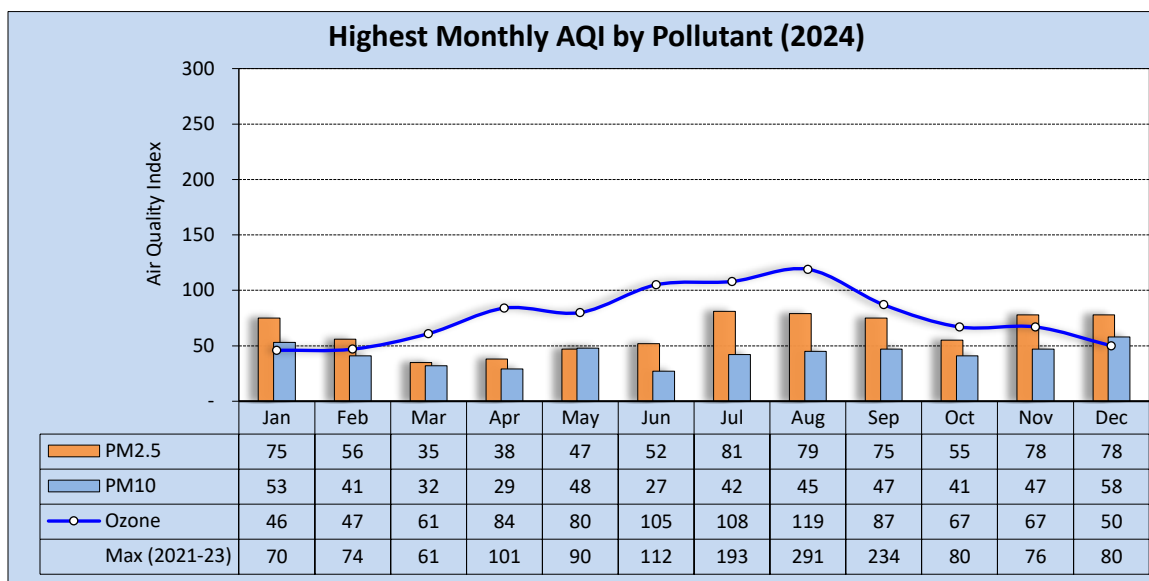
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<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-12/asbo-november-2024-smallbiz.pdf>

Francisco Vega, P.E., MBA
Division Director

2. Divisional Update

- a. Below are two charts detailing the most recent ambient air monitoring data. The top chart indicates the highest AQI by pollutant and includes the highest AQI from the previous three (3) years in the data table, for comparison. The bottom chart indicates the number of days by AQI category and includes the previous year to date for comparison.



Ambient air monitoring data in these charts represent midnight to midnight concentrations to illustrate comparisons to the NAAQS. These data are neither fully verified nor validated and should be considered PRELIMINARY. As such, the data should not be used to formulate or support regulation, guidance, or any other governmental or public decision.

3. Program Reports

a. Monitoring and Planning

December Air Quality: The ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were not exceeded. The highest ozone, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ concentrations for the month are listed in the table below.

Pollutant	Concentration	Date(s)	Site(s)	Notes
Ozone (8-hour)	0.054 ppm	12/11	Incline	-
PM _{2.5} (24-hour)	23.5 µg/m ³	12/19	Sparks	Yellow Burn Code
PM ₁₀ (24-hour)	69 µg/m ³	12/19	Sparks	Yellow Burn Code

Recap of 2024 Air Quality: Washoe County experienced four exceedances of the Ozone NAAQS, leading to a preliminary Ozone design value of 66 parts per billion (ppb). This nears violation of the Ozone NAAQS (70 ppb). Washoe County also experienced several days of wildfire impact from several different fires. Below are the highest ozone, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀ concentrations, AQI, and some air quality facts from 2024.

2024 AQI Pollutants Max Values				
Pollutant	AQI Value	Concentration	Site	Date
Ozone (8-hour avg.)	119 – USG	76 ppb	Reno4	August 1, 2024
PM _{2.5} (24-hour avg.)	81 – Moderate	25.1 µg/m ³	Reno4	July 31, 2024
PM ₁₀ (24-hour avg.)	58 – Moderate	69 µg/m ³	Sparks	December 19, 2024

- On June 14, The Reno-Sparks area experienced an overnight (8-hr. avg. between 8 PM and 3 AM) ozone exceedance, potentially as a result of ozone from the upper atmosphere mixing with the ground level. June 14th saw an Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI of 105.
- On July 30, AQMD issued a Stage 1 Emergency Episode due to smoke from the Park Fire in Northern California. This fire resulted in the highest PM_{2.5} AQI for 2024, Moderate – 81 AQI.
- The last greatest impact on air quality in Washoe County was from the Davis Fire in South Reno. The Davis Fire resulted in a PM_{2.5} AQI of 75 on September 7.

Craig A. Petersen
Supervisor, Monitoring and Planning

b. Permitting and Compliance

November

Staff reviewed twenty (20) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County Building Departments to ensure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements. Of the twenty (20) sets of plans assigned in November, twenty (20) were completed within the jurisdictional timeframes. Of the four hundred and ninety-three (493) plans reviewed in the calendar year 2024, four hundred and eighty-six (486) were completed per jurisdictional timeframes. Of the seven (7) plans not completed within the jurisdictional timeframes, seven (7) were assigned to the Air Quality Management Division after the month the plan was due.

AQMD 2024 Plan Review				
Month	Plans Received	Avg. Days to Complete	Percent Timely Completions	Plans not completed on time
January	49	5.5	98%	1
February	52	5.6	98%	1
March	38	4.7	97%	1
April	56	7.6	98%	1
May	56	6	100%	1
June	58	4.2	100%	0
July	46	4.8	100%	0
August	33	6.6	97%	0
September	35	6.5	98%	1
October	50	3.7	100%	1
November	20	3.95	100%	0
December				
Total	493	5.37	99%	7

In November 2024, staff conducted forty (40) stationary source inspections and two (2) initial compliance inspections. Staff were assigned six (6) new asbestos abatement projects – monitoring the removal of approximately three hundred fifty-five thousand one hundred eighty-nine (355,189) square feet and seven hundred seventy-six (776) linear feet of asbestos-containing materials. Staff received three (3) facility demolition projects to monitor. Further, fourteen (14) new construction/dust projects comprised an additional four hundred twelve (412) acres of disturbance. Staff documented thirty-eight (38) construction site inspections. During the month, compliance staff also responded to fourteen (14) complaints.

Type of Permit	2024		2023	
	November	YTD	November	Annual Total
Renewal of Existing Air Permits	73	1,007	71	1,079
New Authorities to Construct	0 (New and Major Modifications)	38	6 (New and Major Modifications)	42
Dust Control Permits	14 (412 acres)	168 (2,212 acres)	27 (471 acres)	193 (2,386 acres)
Wood Stove (WS) Certificates	10	231	17	242
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	16 (7 replacement)	95 (42 replacements)	13 (7 replacements)	124 (56 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	646 (7 stoves removed)	6,572 (60 stoves removed)	553 (5 stoves removed)	6,495 (57 stoves removed)
Asbestos Assessments	40	607	64	731
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	9	143	8	196

Complaints	2024		2023	
	November	YTD	November	Annual Total
Asbestos	1	10	1	12
Diesel Idling	0	2	0	2
Dust	7	118	3	96
Nuisance Odor	0	16	1	7
Permit to Operate	0	0	0	0
Burn Code	2	10	0	4
General	4	41	2	40
TOTAL	14	197	7	161
Enforcement	2024		2023	
	November	YTD	November	Annual Total
Warnings	0	40	0	26
Notice of Violations	2	24	1	20
TOTAL	2	64	1	46

Joshua C. Restori
Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance