

**Air Quality Management Division  
Division Director Staff Report  
Board Meeting Date: December 19, 2024**

**DATE:** December 5, 2024

**TO:** District Board of Health

**FROM:** Francisco Vega, P.E., Division Director  
775-784-7211; [fvega@nnph.org](mailto:fvega@nnph.org)

**SUBJECT:** **Air Quality Management - EPA Announces CASAC Panel of Experts for Review of Ozone NAAQS, UK Settles In First Case Of 9-year Old Who Died From Air Pollution, September 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter, Divisional Update, Program Reports, Monitoring and Planning, Permitting and Compliance**

**1. Program Update**

**a. EPA Announces CASAC Panel of Experts for Review of Ozone NAAQS**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final roster of 21 individuals selected to serve as the Ozone Panel that will provide advice, through EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), on the scientific and technical bases for the agency's next review of the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. Members of the panel were selected from among numerous experts nominated in response to a July 2024 Federal Register notice soliciting nominations.

Included on the panel is Dr. John G. Watson. Dr. Watson is a Washoe County resident and Research



Professor in the Division of Atmospheric Sciences at the Desert Research Institute (DRI), Nevada System of Higher Education in Reno, Nevada, where he has been employed for nearly 42 years. Dr. Watson has over 45 years of experience in air quality research with an emphasis on suspended particulate matter (PM) measurement methods, chemical characterization, source apportionment, atmospheric aging, human exposure measurements, and non-health effects on visibility, ecosystems, cultural heritage, and climate. Dr. Watson earned a B.A. in physics at the State University of New York at Brockport (1970), a M.S. in physics from the University of Toledo in 1974, and a Ph.D. in environmental science from the Oregon Graduate Center (now part of the Oregon Health and Science University) in 1979.

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

[https://casac.epa.gov/ords/sab/r/sab\\_apex/casac/home?session=8618664546894](https://casac.epa.gov/ords/sab/r/sab_apex/casac/home?session=8618664546894)

**b. UK Settles In First Case Of 9-year Old Who Died From Air Pollution**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has reached a settlement with the estate of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, a child who died in 2013 after a severe asthma attack. The case had drawn broad attention because the cause of death was, for the first time, attributed to air pollution on the coroner's report and subsequent inquest. Ella lived 82ft from a busy road in south-east London and had received emergency hospital treatment 30 times after exposure to NO2 levels exceeding European Union and World Health Organization limits. In a statement, the law firm representing Ella's estate, said that the settlement "doesn't set a court precedent", but "demonstrates that with the right evidence, governments can be held to account for their failures in relation to air pollution".



A statement issued on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Department for Transport, and the Department for Health and Social Care said: "Young children like Ella should not have to suffer because of our air. Your words, both in this litigation and in your public campaigning, have made a considerable impact. We are committed to delivering a comprehensive and ambitious Clean Air Strategy including a series of interventions to reduce emissions so that everyone's exposure to air pollution is reduced." The statement continued by adding that the government was also committed to a review into how air quality information is communicated with members of the public.

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

<https://www.london.gov.uk/md3183-settlement-relating-legal-claim-family-and-estate-ella-adoo-kissi-debrah?ac-204023=204006>

**c. September 2024 EPA Small Business Newsletter**

Please visit the link below to view the September 2024 EPA small business monthly newsletter which highlights environmental regulation, compliance assistance, resources,

**SMALLBIZ@EPA**

EPA's Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman Program

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE REGULATED SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

and upcoming events. Contact [asbo@epa.gov](mailto: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>.

September Newsletter

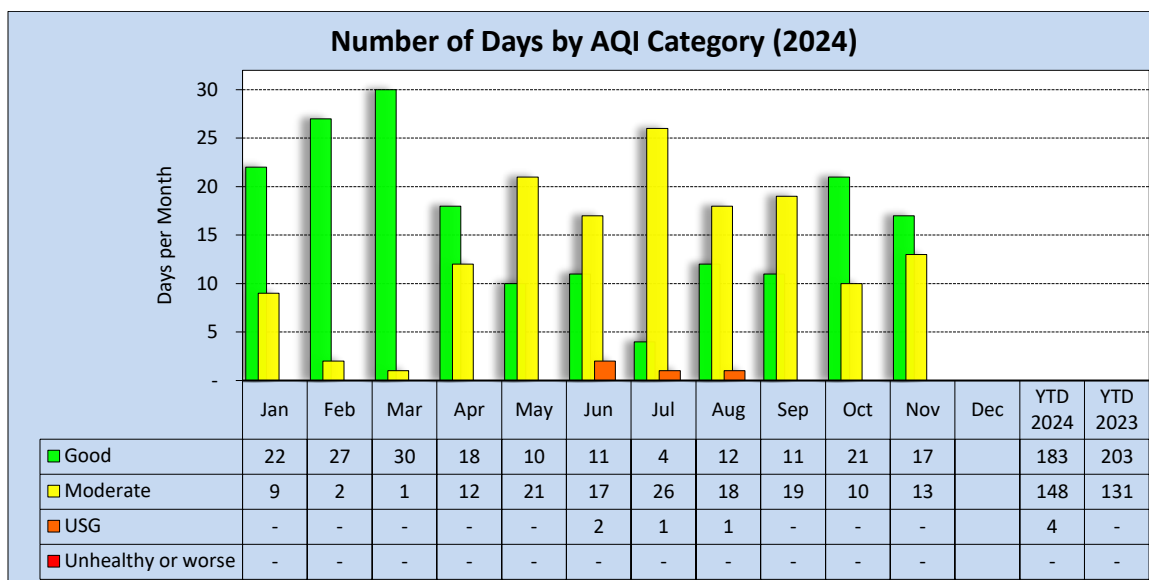
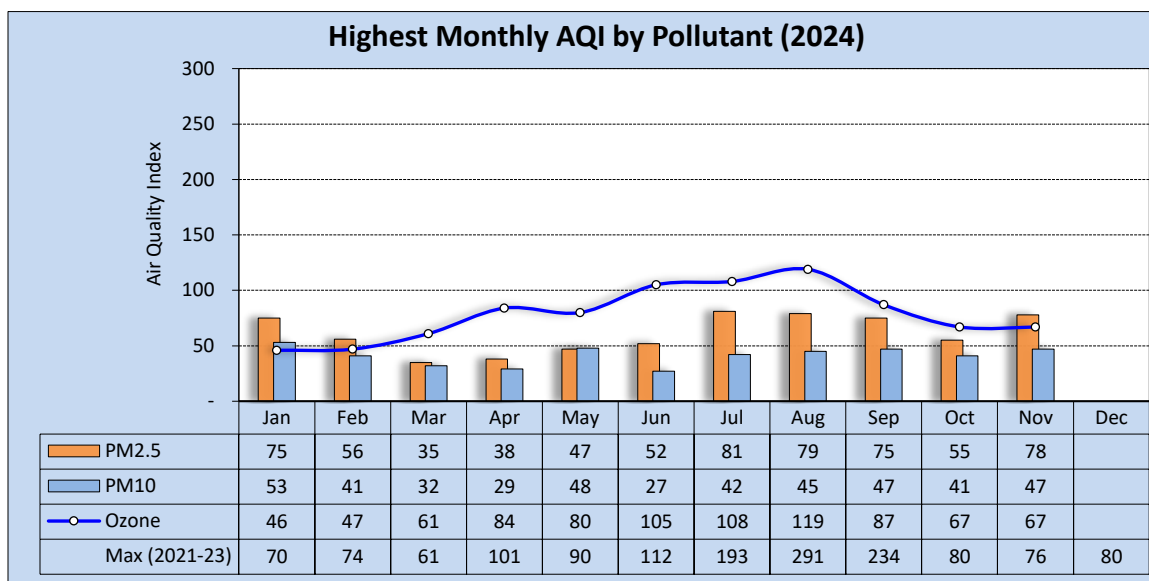
<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-09/linked-asbo-september-2024-smallbiz.pdf>

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

November Air Quality: There were no exceedances of the ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, or PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The highest ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations for the month are listed in the table below.

Pollutant	Concentration	Date(s)	Site(s)	Notes
Ozone (8-hour)	0.060 ppm	11/10	Incline	-
PM <sub>2.5</sub> (24-hour)	23.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	11/8	Reno4	Waddle Ranch Rx Fire
PM <sub>10</sub> (24-hour)	51 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	11/20	Sparks	High winds

Exceptional Events Demonstration: AQMD is requesting written public comment on the 2022 Mosquito Fire PM<sub>2.5</sub> Exceptional Event Demonstration, a technical report demonstrating that the Mosquito Fire caused PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances in 2022. The document requests that EPA exclude the PM<sub>2.5</sub> data from regulatory consideration. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is defined as particulate matter that is sized 2.5 microns in diameter or less. The document can be [found here on our website](#). Comments will be accepted until midnight on December 20, 2024.



On February 7, 2024, the EPA strengthened the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS from 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 9.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Currently, the Sparks air monitoring station's PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitor has a design value of 9.7 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Without exclusion of Mosquito Fire affected data, the Truckee Meadows Hydrographic Area (HA 87) would be designated nonattainment by EPA for the 2024 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS which would potentially require new or strengthened regulations on residents, businesses, and industry and discourage future economic development. With exclusion of Mosquito Fire affected data, HA 87 would be designated as attainment, with an annual design value of 9.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This designation by EPA would not require new or strengthened regulations.

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 assure 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 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				
<b>Total</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>7</b>

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, there were fourteen (14) new construction/dust projects comprising 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
<b>Renewal of Existing Air Permits</b>	73	1,007	71	1,079
<b>New Authorities to Construct</b>	0 (New and Major Modifications)	38	6 (New and Major Modifications)	42
<b>Dust Control Permits</b>	14 (412 acres)	168 (2,212 acres)	27 (471 acres)	193 (2,386 acres)
<b>Wood Stove (WS) Certificates</b>	10	231	17	242
<b>WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale</b>	16 (7 replacement)	95 (42 replacements)	13 (7 replacements)	124 (56 replacements)
<b>WS Notice of Exemptions</b>	646 (7 stoves removed)	6,572 (60 stoves removed)	553 (5 stoves removed)	6,495 (57 stoves removed)
<b>Asbestos Assessments</b>	40	607	64	731
<b>Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)</b>	9	143	8	196

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

Joshua C. Restori  
Supervisor, Permitting & Compliance