



The Air You Breathe

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

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2016

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So, What is a Local Air Agency Anyway?

ARAQMD is what is referred to as a *local air agency (LAA)*. Clearly not a common phrase, and one that only describes the work in a very small way.

WHAT: As may seem obvious, a LAA is responsible for working on air quality concerns. What may not be so obvious is that the scope of the work is largely focused on *outdoor* air quality from what is referred to as stationary sources. Reviewing permit applications, inspecting facilities, monitoring air quality, processing notifications for asbestos related projects, investigating opening burning and other complaints, as well as being a source of credible information to

the public on air quality concerns are part of the daily work.

WHERE: In Ohio many LAA's are actually part of a local health department or county/regional department of environmental quality. LAA staff members are contractual agents of Ohio EPA as well as employees of their local agency. It can get confusing. ARAQMD is currently housed within Summit County Public Health. However, the LAA's service area may extend beyond the parent organization's traditional boundaries. For ARAQMD, service extends to all of Portage and Medina counties as well as Summit county.

WHO: As contractual agents of Ohio EPA,

OAC Rule 3745-21-26 for Coating Facilities

Metal & Plastic Coating Facilities

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has enacted a new more stringent rule for controlling organic compounds that may affect your permitted facility. Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-21-26 Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal and Plastic Parts was enacted with an effective date of October 15, 2015. The complete requirements of OAC rule 3745-21-26 can be found at http://epa.ohio.gov/dapc/regs/3745_21.aspx.

"For any source located in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, or Summit County subject to paragraph OAC Rule 3745-21-09(U) of this rule, the requirement to comply with paragraph (U) of this rule shall terminate at such time the source becomes subject to and complies with rule 3745-21-26 of the Administrative Code."

This means your coating operation may now be subject to the new more stringent

air pollution control requirements under OAC rule 3745-21-26 than the emission limitations allowed under OAC rule 3745-21-09(U) and your OEPA permit. The compliance date for OAC rule 3745-21-26 is one year from the effective date, or October 15, 2016. One of the initial requirements of OAC rule 3745-21-26 is the submittal of an applicability notification that is required to be submitted not later than 60 days after the effective date of the rule, or December 14, 2015, to the Akron Regional Air Quality Management District (ARAQMD), Ohio EPA's contractual agent for air pollution control matters in Medina, Summit and Portage Counties.

For assistance please contact your ARAQMD permit engineer or the Ohio Compliance Assistance specialist for Northeast Ohio, Tamara Girard at 330.963.1282 or tamara.girard@epa.ohio.gov or John Schmidt at 330.963.1250 or john.schmidt@epa.ohio.gov.

LAA's Continued

LAA's are tasked with being OEPA's workforce in the service area. We have engineers, environmental specialists, and a health educator with various expertise.

HOW: LAA's utilize Ohio air pollution control laws and regulations in coordination with federal regulations to help ensure regulated entities are operating in ways that are deemed helpful to maintaining and/or achieving healthy air quality.

LAA's do not have direct role in the creation of Ohio's air pollution rules/regulations. Often times folks would like LAA's to act as more of an activist/lobbying entity. Instead, LAA's advocate for the public by pursuing clean air goals via local enforcement of state and federal air regulations.

WHY: LAA's, in Ohio, are often the result of air pollution control work that was being done prior to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Ohio EPA utilized the local workforce already in place and grew the scope of work throughout the years.

While we have options regarding food-

stuffs and their healthfulness as well as water sources (bottled water abounds), we don't have "bottled air" to counteract the pollutants in the air we breathe. Enforcing air pollution regulations helps keep our air quality improving, and helps the most vulnerable folks be able to enjoy outdoor activities with minimal concerns about the air quality triggering negative health events.

What's Next? While additional or more stringent regulations are possible in the future, **now** is the time for the general public to take a good hard look at their personal behaviors to see how they can make small, or even large changes to reduce the amount of air pollution they create. Ditch the personal car for public transportation? Re-do the landscape at home to a low or no-mow yard-scape? Encourage kiddos to walk or ride bikes to play with friends? Install some solar panels? Adjust that thermostat? In many ways, the future of clean air is in ALL our hands!

As your Local Air Agency, ARAQMD will be here every *breath* of the way working toward the goal of cleaner air!

Ozone "Stings" Bees?!

A recent *Greenwire* article highlighted the connection between air pollution and the marked declines observed in the honeybee (and other pollinating insect) population(s). While not directly causing the insects to die off, instead, air pollution is seen as an additional stressor that can cause inefficiency and health declines.

How in the world does ozone add to the troubles plaguing our bee populations? According to the article, "Even relatively modest levels of ozone break down the scent molecules that flowers emit. Bees and other insects use those scents when foraging for food; as the size of the scent plume decreases, the foraging time increases..."



We are all aware of the alarm bells being sounded about the diminishing pollinator populations. When we think of bees, our minds fondly drift to honey...that tasty liquid gold! But, our entire food supply is really dependent on these

little critters being able to do their job robustly!

As we see declines in regional ozone, we can know that we are doing at least one small favor to our pollinating friends by easing their burden at finding food sources! To find out how you can limit your contributions to ground level ozone, check out this link:

<https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=resources.whatyoucando> .

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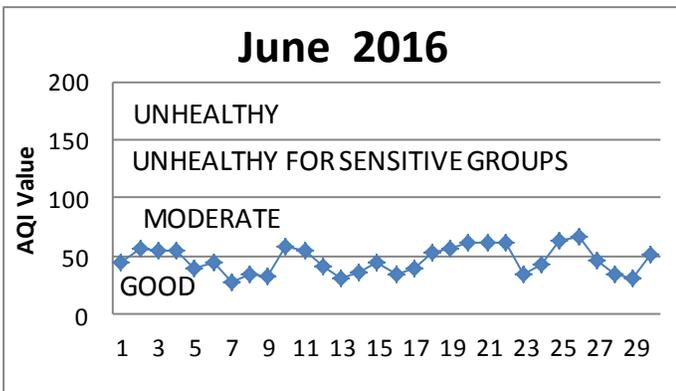
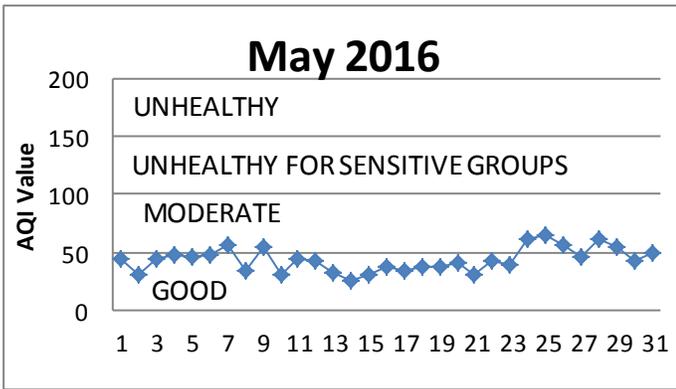
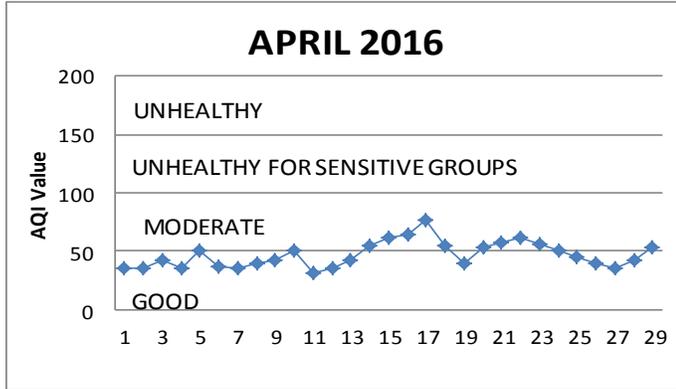
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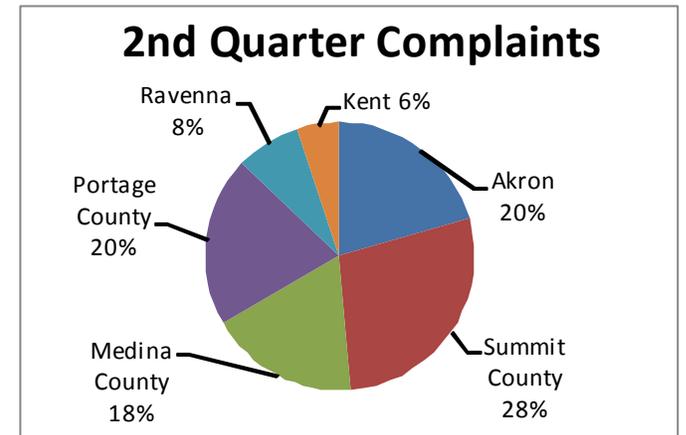
Statistic Snap Shot

2nd Quarter 2016



2nd Quarter 2016 Complaints

Area	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Akron	5	3	8
Summit County	8	3	11
Medina County	6	1	7
Portage County	6	2	8
Ravenna	3	0	3
Kent	2	0	2



Site Visits	2nd Quarter 2016
FEPTIO	8
Title V	4
Non Title V	34
GDF	7
Full Compliance Evaluations	7

Permits Issued

Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
2nd Q 2016	0	0	5	20	5	6	28

Asbestos		Indoor Air Quality Inquiries	
2nd Q—Notifications	136	2nd Q—21	
2nd Q—Inspections	60		



1867 W. Market St.
Akron, OH 44313

Phone: 330.375.2480
Fax: 330.752.7792
Email: araqmd@schd.org
www.araqmd.org



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Could it Be a Loved One?

An NBC News article covering a recent published study in the Annals of American Thoracic Society (ATS) discussed the study's findings of the impact on health and even deaths stricter ozone and fine particulate pollution standards could have. We often times consider the inconveniences associated with stricter regulations; higher gas prices, struggles local industry may have making needed upgrades/changes, etc. However, we don't really spend a significant amount of time looking at the human impact these regulations make, and how small tweaks can make big impacts.

Researchers looked at data from 2011-2013 from around the country and then calculated the excess deaths and major illnesses that can be directly attributed to poor air quality in those areas. Perhaps surprising to folks is that there were nearly **10,000** excess annual *deaths* that could be avoided if stricter ozone and fine particle pollution standards were implemented and achieved. At table in the published report shows the cities "with the most to gain by attaining the ATS recommendations for O₃ (ozone) and PM_{2.5} (fine particle pollution). A small snapshot of the table is to the right.

Two Ohio areas make the top 10! We are moving in the right direction in Ohio, but clearly we should be thinking about doing more. At this point, that "more" would need to

Rank	City	Avoided Deaths	Avoided Morbidities
1	Los Angeles (Long Beach- Glendale), CA	1,341	3,255
2	Riverside (San Bernardino-Ontario), CA	808	1,416
3	New York (Jersey City-White Plains), NY-NJ	282	977
4	Phoenix (Mesa-Scottsdale), AZ	283	598
5	Pittsburgh, PA	285	533
6	Fresno, CA	260	672
7	Bakersfield, CA	241	333
8	Houston (The woodlands-Sugar Land), TX	229	661
9	Cleveland (Elyria), OH	196	487
10	Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	173	298

be changes that individuals make to lesson their impact on regional ozone and fine particle pollution. Small gains may yet be made at specific industrial sites, but most have worked hard to in the past decades to make needed changes!

Could the changes you make be benefitting a loved one? Is working toward that loved one's better health or longevity worth the challenge of changing behaviors? The US EPA has a wealth of information on both pollutants and ways you can make positive changes. For more on "greener" living, check out: <https://www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-greener-living>