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ARAQMD Administrator Elected VP of NACAA

The National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) held its 2016 Fall Membership Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota in mid October. Over 100 officials from state, local and federal air pollution control and other governmental agencies participated in the meeting.

One of the highlights was a meeting with Janet McCabe, the top air pollution official at the EPA. NACAA held its business meeting on Tuesday afternoon, October 18, 2016, during which the membership elected its new Board of Directors to serve for the next year:

Co-Presidents:
Dave Klemp (MT – Region 8)
Craig Kenworthy (Seattle, WA)

Co-Vice Presidents:
Bart Sponseller (WI – Region 5)
Sam Rubens (Akron, OH)

Co-Treasurers:
Ali Mirzakhaili (DE – Region 3)
Richard Stedman (Monterey, CA)

In order to be nominated to be an officer of the board, the individual must be a director of an air quality agency, either at the state or local level. NACAA is an

organization that formed when the State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administration and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officers merged. There are co-officers, one representing the state members and one representing the local members.

NACAA is a non-partisan, non-profit association of air pollution control agencies in 40 states, the District of Columbia, four territories and 116 metropolitan areas. The association serves to encourage the exchange of information, to enhance communication and cooperation among federal, state and local regulatory agencies, and to promote good management of our air resources.



Janet McCabe, US EPA Office of Air Radiation with Sam Rubens, ARAQMD Administrator & NACAA Co-Vice President

Let's Have a Bonfire

Got a couch, a tree, leaves & twigs, some flammable stuff you want to clear out? Often the go to idea is to pile it up, invite some friends over and light it up! Put on some tunes and have a good time sitting around the fire.



Unfortunately, the likelihood is that activity may be illegal in the state of Ohio based on air quality regulations; regulations that are in place to protect human health and the environment, but not necessarily concerned with property or fire safety. The rules change

Bon Fires Continued

a bit depending on where you are located, but there are things that are never permitted to be burned:

- garbage: any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food;
- materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic coated wire; and
- dead animals: unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

Well, what about just a bunch of leaves, twigs/branches and other basic yard waste? The answer will largely depend on *where* you reside and how close your fire will be from any neighboring, inhabited building.

The local school always has an annual bonfire before the “big game.” Is that illegal, too? Within certain parameters, ceremonial bonfires can be approved by the EPA. Limits on size, materials burned, and duration of the burn are a few things that will have to be satisfactorily addressed before an open burn permit can be granted.

Not all open burning is illegal or even needing a permit. Small (2 ft. x 3 ft. or

smaller) fires consisting of only clean, seasoned firewood (think campfires) are generally OK. But if wrappers, plastic bags, Styrofoam cups, food scraps, etc. are burned, there could be a problem!

Many people don't understand that burning materials can negatively impact human health. Many people would say they've had sore throats or irritated eyes while sitting at a fire. That's because the smoke contains tiny particles which ARE irritants and unhealthy. Even seasoned firewood releases tiny particles which can negatively impact human health. And smoke doesn't just stay right by the fire. It floats and lingers and makes its way to other property and other people.

Before you pile up all the junk and call all the friends, you should check out Ohio EPA's publication, [Before You Light It](#), and even give our office a call (330.375.2480) to be certain you're operating on the right side of the law. The fire department can tell you if the fire is legal by fire safety laws, but you'll want to check with ARAQMD, too. Call our office at 330.375.2480 from 8a-4p, Monday-Friday for more information.

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Election Brings Uncertainty

As of the writing of this article, a new president has been elected. While each new president comes in with their own ideas about environmental management, and they appoint their own leaders for government offices related to the environment, this election has introduced a new level of uncertainty.

President-elect Trump has made statements while campaigning that he would see the US EPA dismantled or severely hampered in their efforts to protect human health by protecting the environment. Remarks that underscore an already



understood difference of opinion between “blue” and “red” political parties on the role and scope of environmental regulatory agencies.

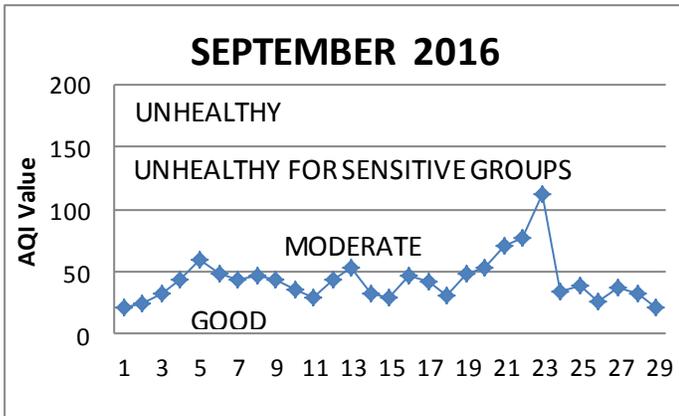
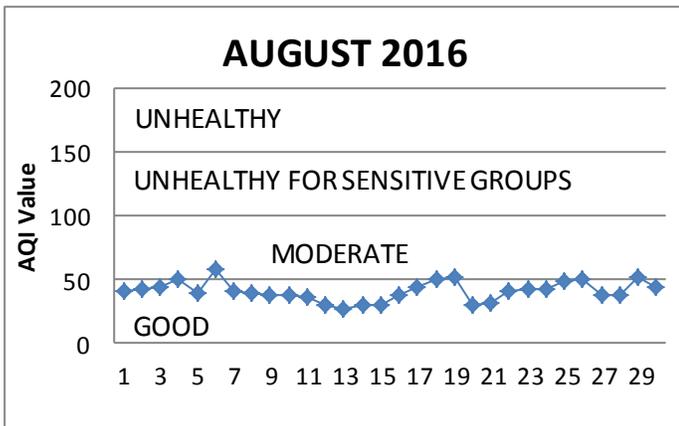
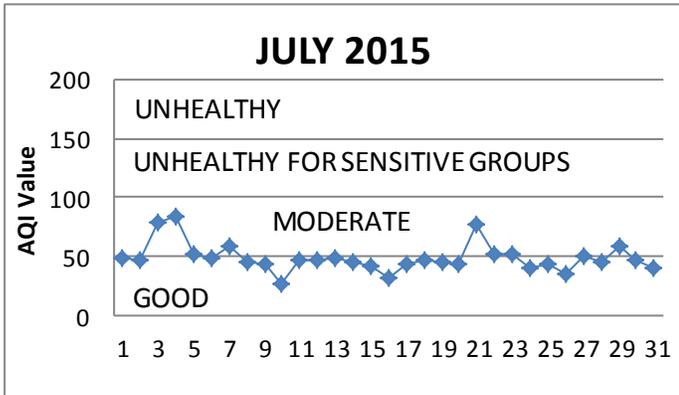
While the election will bring changes at the

federal level, not much change is anticipated in leadership here in Ohio.

As a local regulatory agency, and contractual agent for Ohio EPA, ARAQMD is watching as national politics unfold with a steadfast commitment to serve our communities to the best of our ability. We believe clean air should be a priority for any political party.

Statistic Snap Shot

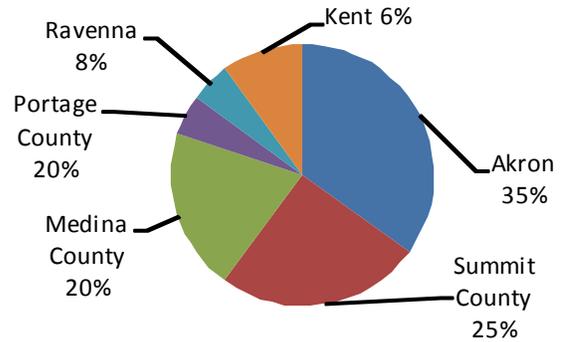
3rd Quarter 2016



3rd Quarter 2016 Complaints

Area	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Akron	5	2	7
Summit County	2	3	5
Medina County	2	2	4
Portage County	6	7	13
Ravenna	1	0	1
Kent	1	1	2

3rd Quarter Complaints



Site Visits	3rd Quarter 2016
FEPTIO	6
Title V	7
Non Title V	18
GDF	11
Full Compliance Evaluations	6

Permits Issued

Quarter	PTI		PTIO		TV		PBR
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
3rd Q 2016	0	6	3	19	4	1	7

Asbestos

3rd Q—Notifications	148
3rd Q—Inspections	124

Indoor Air Quality Inquiries

3rd Q—31



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AQ Advisory alerts & links to
informative AQ articles!

Historic Theme Resonates Today

Recently, I had the pleasure of watching a fictional show produced by a subscription service. The show is set in the mid 20th century in England. I would suspect this is a largely fictional show based on real people and events. I also suspect the part of the episode that resonated most with me was a complete work of fiction, but it really parallels with how people respond to many environmental concerns, particularly air quality, even today.

What we see throughout the bulk of the episode is the political leader of England largely decrying the "Great Smog" as a weather issue over which there was no control; never really acknowledging the role of multiple sources of air pollution. Unwilling to engage in any sort of inquiry about the situation or spend any tax dollars in relief, we're left to wonder why the character seems so callous. It isn't until someone he is fond of is quite detrimentally impacted by the choking smog that this political leader rises up and does what should be done. The weather shifts shortly thereafter, and the "Great Fog" rolls out



nearly as quickly as it descended on London.

It is commonly accepted that 4,000 people died during and immediately after the fog, and an additional 8,000 died from complications that could reasonably be traced back to this awful event.

Today, we often see people who don't really see the point of air pollution regulations until *they* are directly impacted. Until their neighbor is burning debris or trash, until their community is having a pollution source move in, until their child has asthma that's triggered by poor air quality....THEN somebody **MUST** do SOMETHING to fix this problem!!

As a result of tragedies like the "Great Smog" or our own Donora, PA (also mentioned in the show) our government established evolving rules to help protect the air we all breathe. Through legislation that is always being improved upon, the US EPA establishes rules that help minimize the risk that we ever have these sorts of events again.

ARAQMD is in the local community as an agent for Ohio EPA doing the work of enforcing the established regulations to protect our air. We understand that clean air is largely taken for granted. We work hard to make that the norm for as many people as possible!