



Division of Air Quality Overview

Department of Environmental Quality

March 2025



Division of Air Quality

The Division of Air Quality (DAQ) works with the state's residents to protect and improve outdoor, or ambient, air quality in North Carolina for the health, benefit and economic well-being of all.

- Operate a statewide network of air quality monitors
- Develop and implement plans/rules
- Consistently develop clear, defensible, and enforceable permits
- Ensure compliance with air quality rules
- Educate, inform and assist stakeholders and the public on air quality issues

Federal law (Clean Air Act) drives most activities.

NC DAQ is fully approved by USEPA to implement those programs.

Division of Air Quality – Services Provided

- Activities to maintain public health standards
- Technical expertise & support related to Federal/State air quality rules
- Guidance on permitting process
- Develop clear, defensible, and enforceable permits
- Emissions calculation tools and support
- Compliance assistance
- Stack test expertise
- Complaint inquiries
- Complete, quality, regulatory-grade ambient air quality data
- Opportunities to engage

North Carolina and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Attaining all federal public health air quality standards for:

3 5 0 2

days...

and counting!

as of March 26, 2025

Ozone

Particulate
Matter

Lead

Nitrogen
Dioxide

Sulfur
Dioxide

Carbon
Monoxide



Division of Air Quality – Permitting

~1700+ permitted facilities in NC

Consistently develop clear, defensible, and enforceable permits.

Title V Permitting

- Major sources as defined in Clean Air Act
- **308 permitted facilities statewide**
- Federal regulations set parameters for Title V permitting program
- Average 206 incoming applications/year
- Average 210 applications processed/year

Non-Title V Permitting

- Lower emitting facilities than Title V
 - **619 permitted Synthetic Minor facilities**
 - **789 permitted Small (true minor) facilities**
 - 184 Registered facilities
 - 959 Permit Exempt facilities
- 393 non-TV permit applications processed in prior year



Division of Air Quality – Permitting

Application Quality and Outreach to the Regulated Community

Quality of Applications in Last 5 Years

- 55% Technically Complete

Outreach

- Partner with NC Manufacturers Alliance - 2 Air Quality workshops/yr
 - Participate in Environmental, Health, and Safety school
- Host quarterly Outside Involvement Committee meetings for stakeholders
- NC Chamber Environmental Compliance Conference
- Other technical symposiums
- Ad hoc



Division of Air Quality Activities - Hurricane Helene

- **Technical assistance & guidance**
 - Disaster debris management
- **Relief from EPA Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) regulations received**
- **Provisions in Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 (SL 2024-51)**
 - Open Burning – relief for “storm-related debris”
 - Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) permitting
- **Compliance reports and permit renewals**
 - Use compliance and enforcement discretion
- **Non-regulatory PM_{2.5} ambient air quality monitoring**



Challenges

Near-Term Revenue Shortfall

- **Vehicle emissions inspection program reduction (19 counties to 1)**
 - Becomes effective upon EPA approval
 - Revenues support “administration of the air quality program”
- **Proposed solution: \$0.27 increase to Safety Inspection Authorization fee**
 - *Governor’s Budget - Special Provision, pages 138-139*
- **Non-Title V permit fees**
 - Fees set at the statutory maximum 30 years ago. Haven’t changed since. Aligns fees with level of effort/costs.
- **Proposed solution: Adjusts Annual and Application fees for Non-Title V permits**
 - *Governor’s Budget - Special Provision, pages 86-87*



Challenges

Near-Term Revenue Shortfall

- **Lack of salary reserve**
 - Funding model: 97% receipts and grants; Legislative increases
 - Impacts: Salary compression; Recruitment / Retention issues
 - DAQ was not eligible for recent Labor Market Salary Adjustment Reserve
 - Applied only to positions funded by general fund appropriations
- Proposed solution: Fundshift 6.5 FTE and operations to General Fund Appropriations at \$959,330 R
 - *Governor's Budget – AgNER section, page 12, item 11*





Division of Air Quality - Contacts

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