

The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

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EPA Issues Final Gas & Oil Rules

In December 2023, EPA issued a final rule that will sharply reduce emissions of methane and other harmful air pollution from oil and natural gas operations — including, for the first time, from existing sources nationwide. The final action includes New Source Performance Standards to reduce methane and smog-forming volatile organic compounds from new, modified and reconstructed sources. It also includes Emissions Guidelines, which set procedures for states to follow as they develop plans to limit methane from existing sources. Oil and natural gas operations are the largest industrial source of methane pollution in the U.S.

Methane is a climate "super pollutant" that is more potent than carbon dioxide and is responsible for approximately one third of current warming resulting from human activities. Rapid, sharp cuts in methane can generate near-immediate climate benefits and are a crucial addition to cutting carbon dioxide in slowing the rate of warming of Earth's atmosphere.

Upcoming Trainings

EPA will hold trainings in early 2024 to provide an overview of the final rule for communities, Tribes, tribal environmental professionals and small businesses. The Agency also will hold trainings on how to apply to use alternate test methods for detecting methane and on how to apply to be EPA-certified for the Super Emitter Program. Information on the trainings will be posted on this [web page](#) as they are scheduled.

Questions About the Final Rule?

If you have questions about the final rule for oil and natural gas operations, please send them to O&Gmethanerule@epa.gov.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas Operations: Where EPA's Rules Apply

Production & Processing

EPA's methane proposal covers equipment & processes at:

1. Onshore well sites
2. Storage tank batteries
3. Gathering & boosting compressor stations
4. Natural gas processing plants

Natural Gas

Transmission & Storage

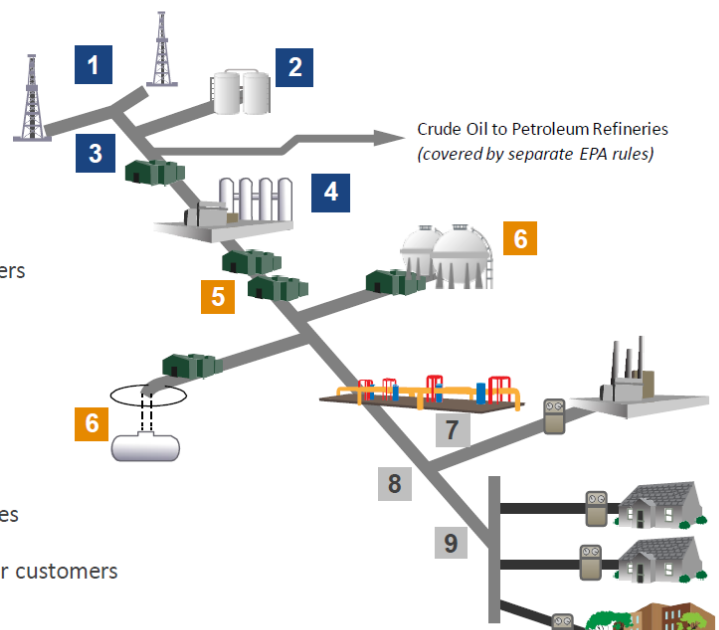
EPA's methane proposal covers equipment & processes at:

5. Compressor stations
6. Storage tank batteries

Distribution

(not covered by EPA rules)

7. Distribution mains/services
8. City gate
9. Regulators and meters for customers



MowGREENER 2024

MowGREENER is back and even better for 2024! We've heard our participants ask for more options, so we're giving you more options this year! Look at what's new for 2024:

1. Corded mowers can now be considered for the rebate program along with battery powered mowers. Just remember, you shouldn't chain together extension cords as that can damage your mower!
2. We're offering a \$25 rebate on purchases of battery or electric lawn care accessories like string trimmers, hedge trimmer, leaf blowers, etc. Individuals may receive a rebate on up to 4 accessories with or without swapping out their mowers.

Find all the details at: scph.link/MowGREENER

Swap Your Mower

Take your old mower to the scrap yard, send us a copy of receipts for the scrapping & the new electric mower...and receive \$100 gift card on us!



Ready for More?

If you have more than grass that needs wrangled in your yard, we'll give you a \$25 rebate per electric item you buy.
(Limit 4. Not all eligible items shown.)



Welcome to ARAQMD!

We are so pleased to introduce our newest Air Quality Engineer, Nana Sugden! Nana earned her engineering degree from Odesa Polytechnic National University in Odesa, Ukraine. Nana was most recently a part of the Summit County Public Health Water Quality team. When asked what excited her about coming to Air Quality, she stated, "Learning something new is always exciting for me, but working with such a supportive group of people is a bonus!" Nana is a big Cleveland Browns fan!

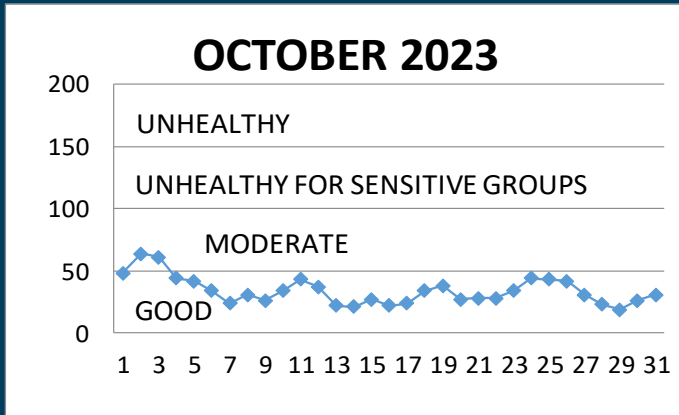
Welcome, Nana! We are happy to have you on the team.



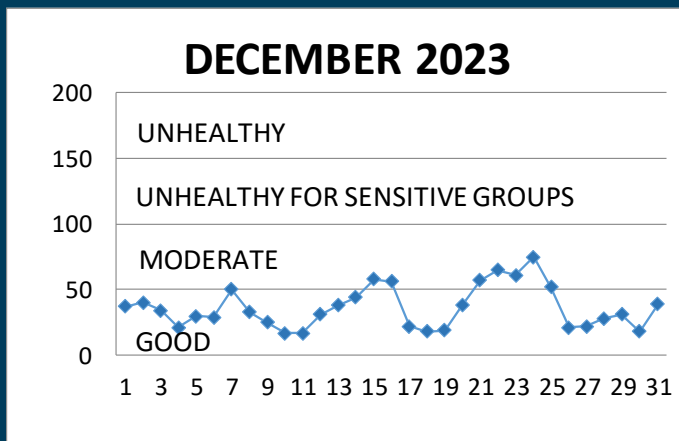
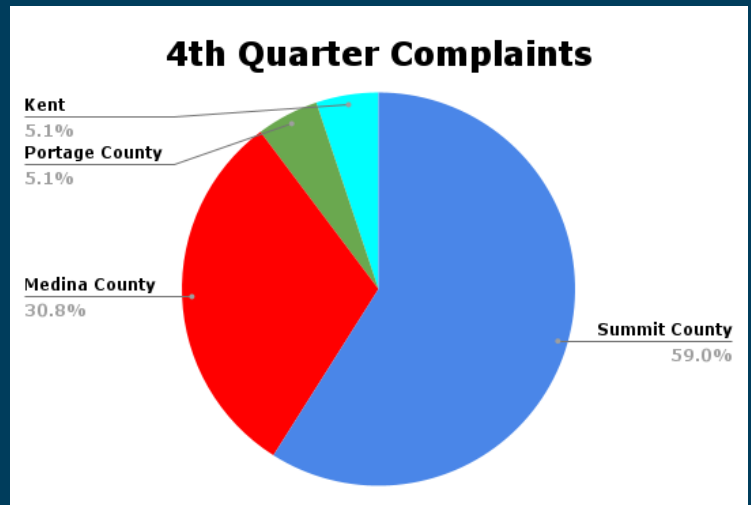
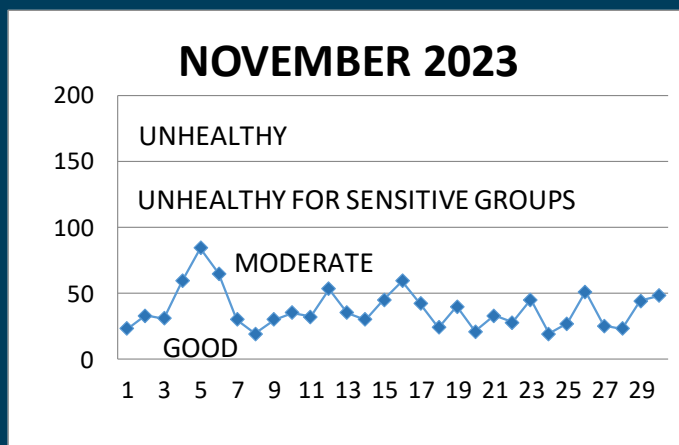
AQ by the Numbers: 4th Quarter 2023

Air Quality Index

Complaints & Inspections



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	7	16	23
Medina County	2	10	12
Portage County	0	2	2
Kent	2	0	2



Site Visits	4th Quarter 2023
FEPTIO	7
Title V	2
Non Title V	21
Full Compliance Evaluations	19

Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
4th Quarter 2023	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	2	1	0	19	0	1	3

Asbestos	
4th Q- Notifications	47
4th Q- Inspections	17