

# The Air You Breathe

Free Quarterly Newsletter from **Akron Regional Air Quality Management District**

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## Updating Air Monitors

In 2021, the White House implemented the American Rescue Plan which provided \$100 million to the USEPA to address health outcome disparities from pollution. Half of that funding was specifically targeted at air quality monitoring priorities and was directed to the state, local and tribal air organizations for enhanced monitoring of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The national network for PM<sub>2.5</sub> was established in 1999 and the monitors being used, while still providing the gold standard of data quality, are aging and becoming more difficult to maintain. The funding was provided to the Ohio EPA and divided up amongst the eight local air agencies and the Ohio EPA, with over \$100,000 coming to ARAQMD.

ARAQMD's plan to utilize the funding includes updating two existing continuous PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitors (East High and Chippewa), expanding continuous PM<sub>2.5</sub> to an existing site that did not have a continuous monitor (5 Points), adding a black carbon monitor to our network (East High) and updating the sites to make them more safe and efficient.

The continuous monitors allow us to provide hourly data for our public, so that when there is a need to inform about elevated concentrations, it will be as up to date as possible. The new monitors will also require less staff time to operate and maintain.

In addition to PM<sub>2.5</sub> data, the new monitor at East High will also provide us with coarse particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), in accordance with USEPA monitoring requirements. We had stopped monitoring for PM<sub>10</sub> in the late 1990's, with USEPA's approval, due to the low concentrations and the increased need to establish a PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring network. In 2023, ARAQMD will have the capability to monitor for both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.



The black carbon monitor will be located at our East High site and will give data about the composition of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. That determination will allow us to focus on source reduction or at least identification of the sources. The site is located by a major road, train rail and highway, so identifying the different types of PM will be of importance for the health of our community.

Over the next few months, many new monitors will be out in our network and testing the air you breathe. Check our website ([scph.org/air-quality](http://scph.org/air-quality)) for upcoming updates and email ([araqmd@sched.org](mailto:araqmd@sched.org)) or call us (330-375-2480) for any additional questions.

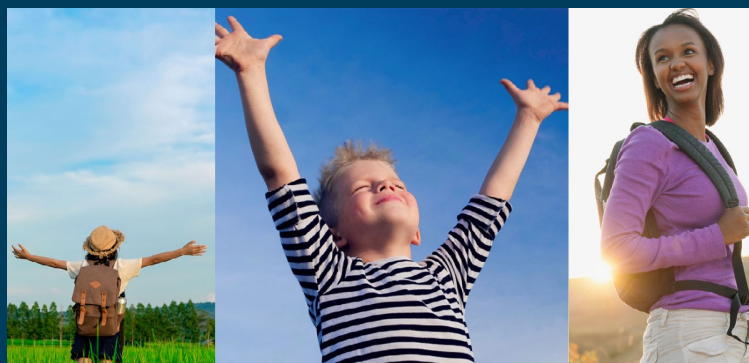
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## Air Quality Awareness Week

May 1-5, 2023 is AQA Week! It's our favorite week of the year. Each day has a theme so you can learn how air quality can effect you health and the health of those you love.

Read more on [the AirNow website](http://theAirNow.website).



# Proposed Standards Would Reduce Cancer Risks

Proposal would reduce the number of people with elevated cancer risk by 96% in communities surrounding chemical plants, cut more than 6,000 tons of toxic pollution per year.

On April 6, 2023 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a proposal to significantly reduce hazardous air pollutants from chemical plants, including the highly toxic chemicals ethylene oxide (EtO) and chloroprene. The reductions would dramatically reduce the number of people with elevated air toxics-related cancer risks in communities surrounding the plants that use those two chemicals, especially communities historically overburdened by air toxics pollution, and cut more than 6,000 tons of toxic air pollution a year.

The proposal advances President Biden's commitment to ending cancer as we know it as part of the Cancer Moonshot and to securing environmental justice and protecting public health, including for communities that are most exposed to toxic chemicals.

"For generations, our most vulnerable communities have unjustly borne the burden of breathing unsafe, polluted air," said **EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan**. "When I visited St. John the Baptist Parish during my first Journey to Justice tour, I pledged to prioritize and protect the health and safety of this community and so many others that live in the shadows of chemical plants. I'm proud that this proposal would help deliver on that commitment and protect people from toxic air pollution in communities across the country – from Louisiana and Texas, to Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio. Every child in this country deserves clean air to breathe, and EPA will use every available tool to make that vision a reality."

EPA's proposal would update several regulations that apply to chemical plants, including plants that make synthetic organic chemicals, and regulations that apply to plants that make polymers such as neoprene. The proposed updates would reduce 6,053 tons of air toxics emissions each year, which are known or suspected to cause cancer and other serious health effects. Those reductions include a 58 ton per year reduction in ethylene oxide (EtO) and a reduction of 14 tons per year in chloroprene.

Facilities that make, store, use or emit EtO, chloroprene, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylene dichloride or vinyl chloride would be required to monitor levels of these air pollutants entering the air at the fence line of the facility, a requirement that would deliver on one of the commitments the Administrator made following his 2021 Journey to Justice tour. This powerful tool would help make sure EPA's rules deliver: if annual average air concentrations of the chemicals are higher than an action level at the fence line, owners and operators would have to find the source and make repairs.

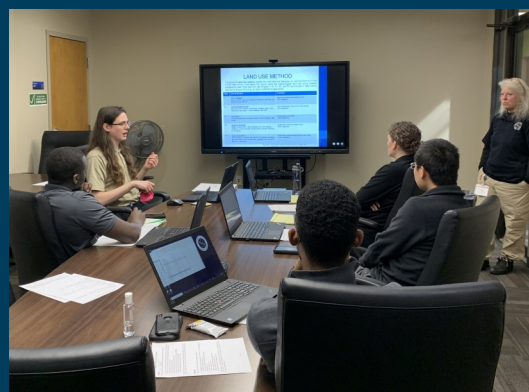
In order to ensure this data is transparent and available to communities, EPA would make the monitoring data public through its WebFIRE database tool. These fence line monitoring provisions are based on similar Clean Air Act requirements for petroleum refineries nationwide, which have been highly successful in identifying and reducing emissions of benzene for more than four years.

The proposal would reduce cancer risks from breathing in toxic air pollutants that are emitted from the specific processes and equipment covered under the rules. These pollutants are linked to a number of cancers, including lymphoma, leukemia, breast cancer and liver cancer, among others. EPA also expects the proposal to benefit children, who are more susceptible to the effects of EtO and chloroprene.

Learn more about this [exciting proposal](#).

## Staff In-Service Training

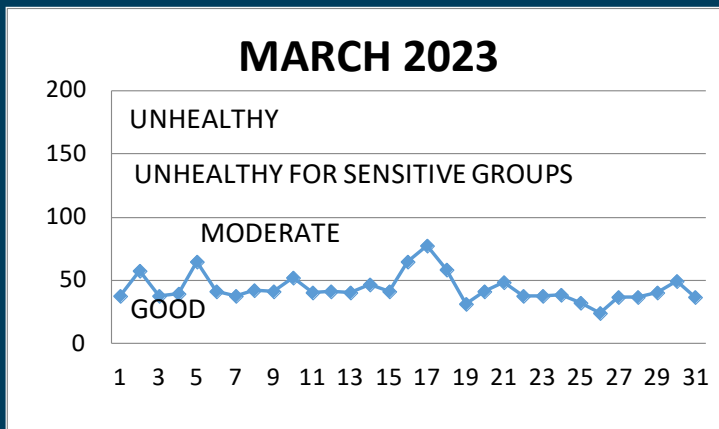
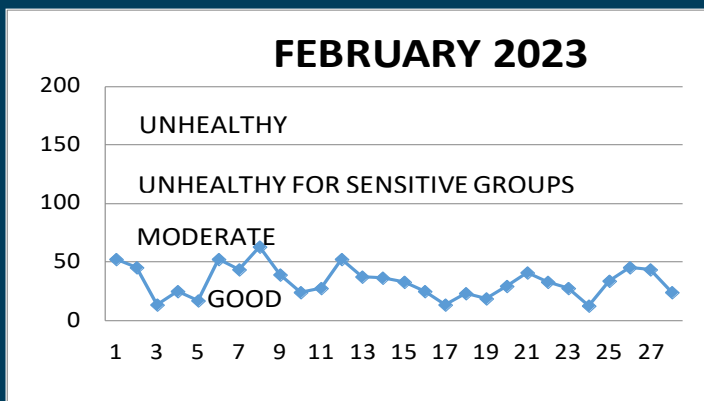
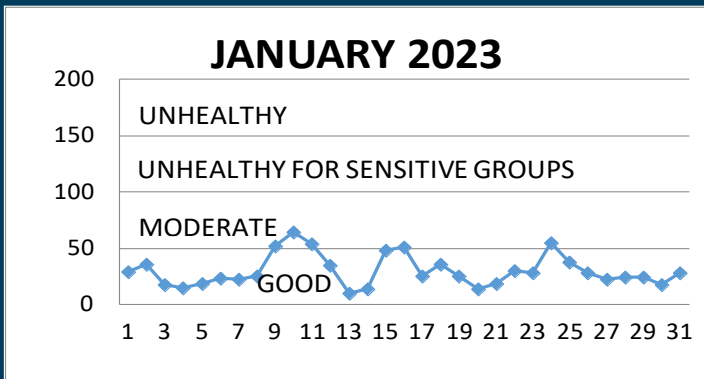
This in-service was regarding the practical usages of the AERSCREEN Dispersion Modeling program. AERSCREEN has replaced all previously acceptable programs for basic dispersion modeling due to its greater ability to manage complicating factors such as meteorological data and building downwash, resulting in the need for training to get all of our employees proficient with the modern systems. Knowledge of how to run the AERSCREEN program will allow us to better serve the smaller businesses who cannot afford a consultant for their projects, as we can now step in when a business has an emissions unit which requires modeling but lacks the knowledge of how to do so.



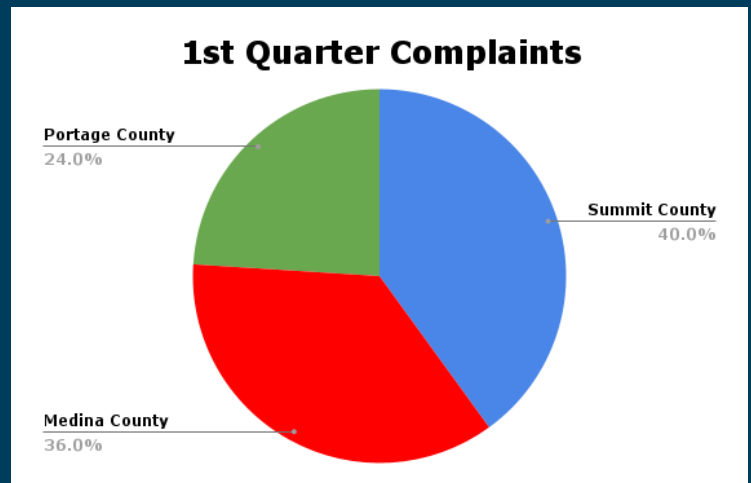
# AQ by the Numbers: 1st Quarter 2023

## Air Quality Index

## Complaints & Inspections



Area/ Health District	Commercial/ Industrial	Residential	Total
Summit County	7	3	10
Medina County	5	4	9
Portage County	6	0	6
Kent	0	0	0



Site Visits	1st Quarter 2023
FEPTIO	3
Title V	9
Non Title V	52
Full Compliance Evaluations	5

## Additional Stats

Permits Issued							
1st Quarter 2023	Permit to Install		Permit to Install & Operate		Title V		Permit by Rule
	Draft	Final	Draft	Final	Draft**	Final	Total
**Includes - Preliminary Proposed Permits & Proposed Permits	0	0	2	19	2	1	41

Asbestos	
1st Q- Notifications	43
1st Q- Inspections	33





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A service of Summit County Public Health

## MowGREENER 2023 UPDATES!

Registration for MowGREENER 2023 is open until through May 31st.

We have 152 active participants and we have room for up to 500 households to participate!!

Medina: 26      Portage: 19      Summit: 107

As of 04/27/2023

We were fortunate to receive a one time financial assist from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to increase our capacity for 2023. OEPA is supporting initiatives that can have a positive impact on our region's Ground Level Ozone. The 8 county NE Ohio region, including Medina, Summit, and Portage, have been found to be non-compliant with the 2015 US EPA Ozone standards. This means that our ozone pollution remains too high, and a large contributing factor is vapors from gasoline, and the exhaust created by burning it. Small lawn care equipment does not have the same air pollution control equipment that cars do, so they are pretty rough on air quality. Consider making the switch today! [scph.link/mowGREENER](https://scph.link/mowGREENER)



### Top 3 Reasons to MowGREENER

1. Don't fuss with gas cans & oil ever again!
2. Mowers are light weight & easy to store.
3. ARAQMD will give MowGREENER participants a \$100 Visa® gift card.

Learn more at:  
[scph.link/MowGREENER](https://scph.link/MowGREENER)

