

Air Quality Quarterly Update

Community Advisory Committee

November 2, 2015



Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission

Air Quality Program Updates

(For Information Only)

- July 29 - Air Quality Alert issued
- August 31 – Concluded marketing package with ABC6
- September 12 - NBC4 news story about air quality
- October 1 - U.S. EPA released new ozone standard
- Upcoming - November 24, 1:30p.m. – Energy & Air Quality Working Group meeting and sneak peak at end of ozone season report

New Ozone Standard Overview

- October 1, 2015 the U.S. EPA strengthened ground-level ozone standard to 70 parts per billion (ppb) from 75.
- EPA is updating the Air Quality Index (AQI) to reflect the new ozone standard.
- The ozone monitoring season will run from March 1 – October 31, effective 1/1/2017.

Air Quality Index

- AQI is used to report daily air quality, focusing on who may experience health effects based on level of pollution.
- MORPC issues Air Quality Alerts when the AQI is above 100 (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups). The Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups range (AQI of 101-150) will begin at 71ppb and will extend to 85ppb.

Updates to the Air Quality Index

AQI Category	Index Values	Breakpoints in the 2008 AQI (ppb, 8-hour average)	Updated Breakpoints (ppb, 8-hour average)
Good	0 - 50	0-59	0-54
Moderate	51 - 100	60-75	55-70
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 - 150	76-95	71-85
Unhealthy	151 - 200	96-115	86-105
Very Unhealthy	201 - 300	116-374	106-200
Hazardous	301 - 500	375 to the Significant Harm Level*	201 to the Significant Harm Level*

Columbus Region Ozone Data

- 2012-2014 ozone data - right at 75 ppb (attainment with current standard)
- 2013-2015 ozone data - 71 ppb
- Trend of improvement continues and we are very close to meeting the new standard.

Timeline

- **October 1, 2016** – State recommendation for designation areas due
- **January 1, 2017** – Expanded ozone monitoring season effective
- **June 1, 2017** – EPA responds to states’ designation recommendations
- **October 1, 2017** – EPA issues final area designations
- **2020-2021** – Implementation plans for pollution reduction plans in Nonattainment areas classified as “Moderate” and above are due
- **2020-2037** – Deadline for Nonattainment areas to meet primary health standard



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