

Monthly CAPCOG Air Quality Newsletter for the Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee: December 2016

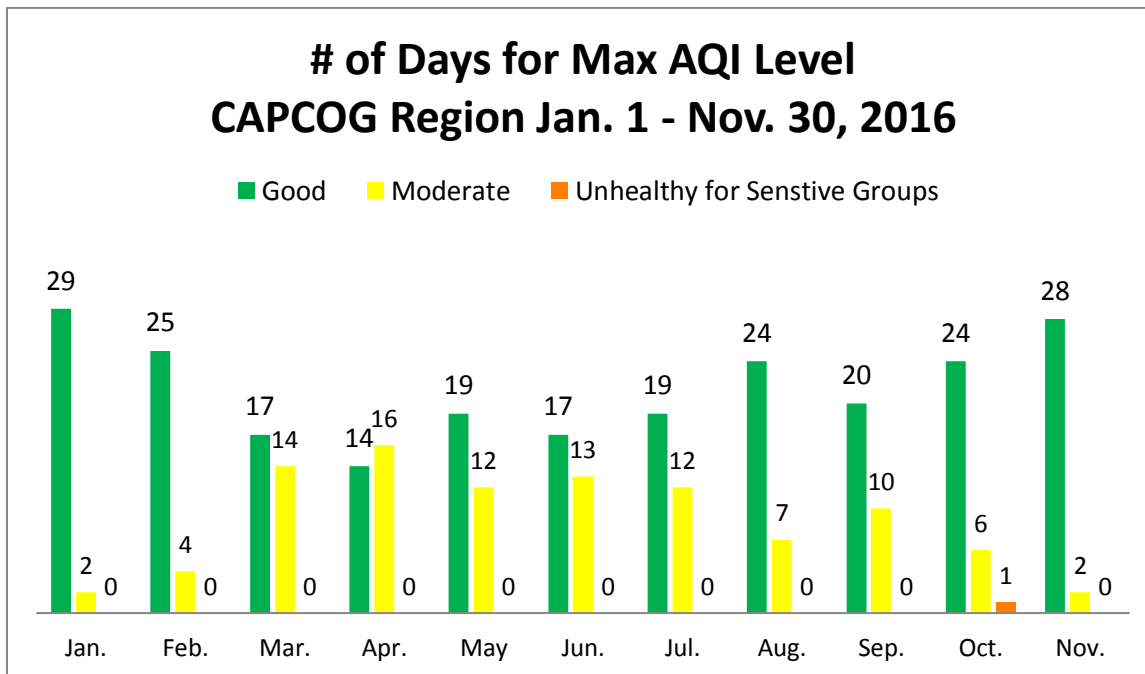
Prepared by the Capital Area Council of Governments

December 5, 2016

Air Monitoring

Austin-Round Rock MSA 2014-2016 “Design Value” through November 30, 2016: **66 ppb**

Figure 1. Air Quality Index (AQI) Summary for 2016 Year to Date



- Two “moderate” PM_{2.5} days recorded at CAMS 326 (Zavala Elementary school) in Nov.
- May Max 8-hour ozone concentration November: 51 ppb (73% of NAAQS)
- May Max 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentration November: 13.8 µg/m³ (39% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration October: 49 ppb (49% of NAAQS)
- May Max 1-hour sulfur dioxide (SO₂) concentration October: 2.0 ppb (3% of NAAQS)

State & Federal Updates

- **TERP Grants**
 - Emission Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program:
 - Addendum 1 added to Request for Grant Applications (RFGA)
 - Accepting applications through **January 10, 2017**
 - \$51.6 million available
 - Rebate Grants:
 - Next grant round expected to open in February 2017.
 - \$5 million expected to be available.
 - Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program:
 - Accepting applications through May 26, 2017, on 1st come, 1st-serve basis
 - \$37.8 million total available, only \$1.9 million awarded to date
 - **Surplus money from this program CANNOT be transferred to other programs**
 - For more info on TERP grants, visit: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp>
- **VW Settlement**
 - Federal judge approved settlement on October 25, 2016;
 - Claims can be filed online
 - \$192 million in mitigation funds will be made available to Texas for vehicle replacement/repower projects
 - Replacement of government-owned heavy duty vehicles and certain non-road equipment can be funded at 100% of replacement cost
 - “Trust Effective Date” expected to be in June
 - State has 60 days after “Trust Effective Date” to certify that it wishes to take advantage of the money
 - State has 90 days after that to submit a mitigation plan for approval
 - Earliest that funding might be available for disbursement would be June
 - One-third of the money should be available right away
 - More info: <https://www.vwcourtsettlement.com/en/>
- **Proposal for nonattainment area SIP requirements for 2015 O₃ NAAQS**
 - EPA proposed the rulemaking on November 2, 2016, and it was published in the Federal Register on November 17, 2016
 - The proposal sets State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements for areas that will be designated nonattainment for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
 - EPA proposed to use the same basic approach it relied on for the 1997 8-hour standard and the 2008 8-hour standard
 - **Comments are due January 17, 2017**
 - CAPCOG staff are working with AACOG staff to develop comments
 - Webinar scheduled for Wed., Dec. 7, 2016, from 1 pm – 2:30 pm, Central Time
 - More info at: www.epa.gov/ozone-pollution/implementation-2015-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-ozone-state

- **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Updates**

- On Nov. 8th, EPA took final action to approve redesignation substitutes for the DFW and Houston areas for the 1-hour standard and 1997 8-hour standard
 - Permitting requirements for reverted to the “Moderate” classification for Dallas-Fort Worth and “Marginal” classification for Houston, consistent with the area’s 2008 Ozone NAAQS nonattainment area classifications;
 - Effective date: December 8, 2016;
- On December 15, 2016, TCEQ is scheduled to consider adoption of State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions for the Houston area for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS, showing attainment of the standard by the end of 2017;
 - SIP is required due to the Houston area’s failure to attain the 2008 Ozone NAAQS by the end of 2014 as is required for “Marginal” areas
 - EPA is in the process of finalizing a reclassification rulemaking proposed on September 27, 2016,
 - TCEQ’s proposed SIP revision available at:
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/hgb/hgb-latest-ozone>

- **Other Periodic NAAQS Reviews**

- Effective date of lead NAAQS review completed on 9/16/2016 was 11/17/2016
- PM planning document expected to be finalized this fall (complete review due December 2017)
- Primary NO₂ draft policy assessment released on 9/19/2016, CASAC call to discuss on 11/9/2016 (complete review was due February 2015)
- Primary SO₂ draft integrated science assessment expected fall/winter 2016/2017
- Secondary NO₂/SO₂ – anticipated 1st draft integrated science assessment and planning documents in fall 2016 (complete review due April 2017)
- No schedule for next CO or O₃ periodic reviews yet (due August 2016 and October 2020, respectively)

- **State Legislative Issues**

- TCEQ TERP Report to the Legislature available online at:
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/comm_exec/pubs/sfr/079-16.pdf
- Interim Report from Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development now available online at:
<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/scanned/interim/84/N219E.pdf>

- **Other**

- EPA held a workshop in Dallas on treatment of data influenced by exceptional events on 11/30/2016
- Awaiting action by EPA on final rulemaking for modeling guidelines for PM_{2.5} and ozone (received by OMB 9/2)
- By end of 2016: EPA expected to publish interstate O₃ transport modeling for 2015 NAAQS.
- End of 2016: NO₂ near-road monitoring rule revision finalization

- TCEQ Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Advisory Committee meeting from 10 am – 12 pm, December 12, 2016, at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Building F, Room 201-S, Austin, TX 78753
 - Opening on the committee – applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Dec. 19, 2016
 - More info:
https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/taxrelief/advisory_group.html
- Stakeholder meeting for emissions banking and trading rulemaking regarding mobile source and area source credits, Dec. 9, 2016, 9 am – 11:30 am.

Other Updates

- Regional Air Quality Phone Survey:
 - Completed Nov. 30
 - Results will be posted online at www.capcog.org/airquality under “Technical Reports”
 - Analysis & report should be completed by the end of January
- CAPCOG staff are developing a draft near-nonattainment grant work plan for FY 2018-2019
- CAPCOG staff are also developing a work plan for a 2017 contract with the City of Austin
- CAPCOG staff are evaluating options for pursuing an EPA Environmental Education Grant and are seeking partners to work on this project