



Director's Report

JANUARY 2014

Air Quality Management Division

Director's Report

On April 29, 2013 the Air Quality Management Division lost their Director as he stepped up to the position of Interim District Health Officer. Since that day, the entire staff has stepped up to ensure not only the continuation of daily operations but the advancement of the program. The Planning Section produced major achievements in the distribution of information to the public with the launch of the Air Quality Facebook and Twitter accounts which proved to be a key component during the American and Rim Fires. The Keep it Clean branding has grown to include three campaigns – Know the Code, Rack 'Em Up, and nOzone. The Monitoring Staff successfully completed a Technical Systems Audit with EPA. The Permitting Staff has been able to maintain one of the most efficient permitting systems with application turnaround times of 2 – 4 weeks for minor sources, while still being able to get the Federal PSD/Title V permit issued for the Sparks Energy Park power plant. The Enforcement Staff continues to improve the process of compliance assistance and enforcement by responding to complaints within one hour, adapting to the ever increasing construction activity in the area, and ensuring permitted sources are operating in compliance with all of the regulations.

The culmination of all of these achievements is the reason I feel so privileged to be able to accept the position of Air Quality Management Division Director. The depth of technical knowledge and commitment to the protection of the air in Washoe County is evident in every staff member. We have achieved so much in the past year working as a team, I can't wait to see what we can do in the future.

AIR QUALITY COMPARISON FOR DECEMBER

Air Quality Index Range		# OF DAYS JANUARY 2014	# OF DAYS JANUARY 2013
GOOD	0 to 50	3	5
MODERATE	51 to 100	26	25
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	101 to 150	2	1
UNHEALTHY	151 to 200	0	0
VERY UNHEALTHY	201 to 300	0	0
TOTAL		31	31

Air Quality Management Division

Our future challenges include the ever present funding concerns which will be addressed by holding my previous Supervisor position open for a period of a couple of months to assist with savings of local dollars. The Regional Licensing & Permitting Software Project continues to approach approval and subsequent implementation which will be completed with staff members from AQMD, Environmental Health Services, and myself serving as Project Manager for the Health District at the request of the Health Officer. And, if that wasn't enough, the strengthening of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards will present an entire new set of challenges. The future does present a significant series of challenges but I can't think of a better staff to lead as we meet these challenges together with the ultimate goal being the protection of the citizens of Washoe County – Keep it Clean.

*Charlene Albee,
Division Director*

HIGHEST AQI NUMBER BY POLLUTANT

**Air Quality
Monitoring**

POLLUTANT	JANUARY 2014	YTD for 2014	JANUARY 2013	Highest for 2013
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)	31	31	24	30
OZONE 8 hour (O3)	42	42	39	93
PARTICULATES (PM _{2.5})	111	111	112	174
PARTICULATES (PM ₁₀)	85	85	76	97

For the month of January 2014, the highest Air Quality Index (AQI) values reported was one hundred eleven (111) for PM2.5. There were no exceedances of Carbon Monoxide, Ozone or PM10. There three (3) days the air quality was in the good range, twenty-eight (28) days the air quality was in the moderate range, and two (2) days the air quality was unhealthy for sensitive groups.

**Planning & Monitoring
Activity**

The particulate matter monitors at the Sparks monitoring station will be upgraded in Spring 2014 to provide additional monitoring data. The existing continuous fine particulate matter (PM2.5) monitor will be replaced. It will operate in combination with the existing PM10 monitor and provide PM10, PM10-2.5, and PM2.5 data. The Sparks monitoring station typically monitors the highest wintertime PM2.5 levels in the Truckee Meadows. AQMD was awarded a supplemental EPA grant to finance this project.

The EPA is proposing to significantly strengthen its requirements for new woodstoves, while establishing emission standards for new pellet stoves and hydronic heaters for the first time. The proposal would phase in particulate matter (PM) emission limits over a five-year period, beginning in 2015. In summary, the proposed changes are:

- Reducing non-catalytic woodstove PM rates from 7.5 to 1.3 grams per hour.
- Reducing catalytic woodstove PM rates from 4.1 to 1.3 grams per hour.
- Establishing a new pellet stove PM rate of 1.3 grams per hour.
- Establishing a new hydronic heater PM limit of 0.06 pounds per million btu output.

Residential wood combustion accounts for approximately half of the wintertime PM2.5 emissions in the Truckee Meadows. If this proposed rule becomes final, then the new emission standards will greatly reduce those emissions and improve our air quality. It will also require changes to our woodstove program including revisions to DBOH Regulations Governing Air Quality Management Sections 040.051 (Wood Stove / Fireplace Insert Emissions) and 040.052 (Hydronic Heaters).

*Dan Inouye, Branch Chief
Planning and Monitoring*

Permitting Activity

TYPE OF PERMIT	2014		2013	
	JANUARY	YTD	JANUARY	ANNUAL TOTAL
Renewal of Existing Air Permits	104	104	105	1356
New Authorities to Construct	6	6	7	71
Dust Control Permits	9 (118.120 acres)	9 (118.120 acres)	4 (30 acres)	119 (1150 acres)

Wood Stove Certificates	17	17	17	36
WS Dealers Affidavit of Sale	6 (5 replacements)	6 (5 replacements)	7 (7 replacements)	99 (83 replacements)
WS Notice of Exemptions	570 (8 stoves removed)	570 (88 stoves removed)	633 (5 stoves removed)	8356 (88 stoves removed)

<i>Combined Total for both: Asbestos Assessments and Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)</i>	78	78	85	1027
Asbestos Assessments	65	65	65	-828
Asbestos Demo and Removal (NESHAP)	13	13	20	199

Compliance &
Inspection Activity

Staff reviewed sixteen (16) sets of plans submitted to the Reno, Sparks or Washoe County Building Departments to assure the activities complied with Air Quality requirements.

Staff conducted forty (40) stationary source renewal inspections and fifty-five (55) gas station inspections in January 2014. Staff also conducted inspections on asbestos removal and construction/dust projects.

Permitting & Enforcement Report

The Permitting Staff has seen a reduction in the number of applications being submitted for new permits to operate but that is typical for the post-holiday season. The encouraging news is that there has been a significant increase in the issuance of Acknowledgement of Asbestos Assessments which are required for the issuance of building permits. This increase in activity is an indication of the continued recovery of the construction industry in the area. It is important to realize this level of activity is by no means an indication of complete recovery, it is a positive sign that the region is experiencing a slow and steady recovery.

Another indicator of economic recovery in the area is the continued improvement and expansion of the University of Nevada, Reno Campus. The Enforcement Staff has been actively involved in the asbestos abatement and demolition of the Getchell Library. Recently, an additional 300 foot section of asbestos piping was discovered and staff was able to coordinate the abatement activities without disrupting the student activities in the area. Additionally, notifications of abatement and demolition were recently submitted for five (5) residences located north of the University Inn between Virginia and Sierra Streets. These homes will be demolished to allow for the expansion of the campus housing. The Enforcement Staff will be monitoring all of the abatement and demolition activities to ensure compliance with the District/Federal Regulations in order to maintain a safe environment for the University students, faculty, and staff.

*Charlene Albee, Branch Chief
Permitting & Enforcement*

Enforcement Activity

COMPLAINTS	2014		2013		
	JANUARY	YTD	JANUARY	YTD	Annual Total
Asbestos	2	2	0	18	18
Burning	0	4	0	8	8
Construction Dust	2	27	0	30	30
Dust Control Permit	0	11	1	7	7
General Dust	2	41	2	46	46
Diesel Idling	0	2	1	8	8
Odor	2	14	1	16	16
Spray Painting	0	10	1	5	5
Permit to Operate	2	25	2	55	55
Woodstove	1	12	0	16	16
TOTAL	8	168	8	209	209
NOV'S	JANUARY	YTD	JANUARY	YTD	Annual Total
Warnings	2	2	1	45	29
Citations	5	5	1	41	31
TOTAL	7	7	2	86	60

* Discrepancies in totals between monthly reports can occur because of data entry delays.

Notices of Violation (NOVs):

There were seven (7) Notice of Violations (NOV's) issued in the month of January 2014. There were two (2) NOV Warnings and four (4) NOV Citations.