AIR QUALITY
Division

The Air Quality Division (AQD) manages programs to protect ambient air quality as mandated by the state and federal Clean Air Acts. As part of this implementation, the Division permits sources, monitors ambient air, promotes compliance efforts, performs inspections, enforces rules, and develops strategies to reduce emissions thereby improving air quality.

An EPA-approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) provides the regulatory framework for the AQD. This SIP is reviewed and amended as necessary. It includes state rules and strategies for implementing the various federal air quality programs. DEQ has acquired delegation of all EPA air quality and lead-based paint programs that it was seeking.

There are many sources of air pollution, all of which are found in Oklahoma. AQD has strategies in place to permit stationary sources such as factories, power plants, and other industries. There are both national and state-specific strategies to help minimize emissions from mobile sources such as cars, trucks, and planes. However, natural sources such as wildfires, windblown dust, and plant decay are known to contribute to air pollution in the United States but are impossible to control.

The concept of national or regional, rather than state-specific, strategies to address air pollution issues has gained significant attention in the last few years. The AQD staff has devoted and will continue to devote significant effort to addressing air pollution on a regional basis. Regional Planning Organizations are instrumental to future regulatory and pollution reduction activities. State partnerships and data exchanges relative to how each State's emissions might impact its neighbors, allow for more effective control strategies resulting in greater air pollution reductions at lower costs.

For further information about the Air Quality Division, please call (405) 702-4100.

Compliance & Enforcement

The issuance of permits, review of emissions inventory records, on-site inspections and response to citizen complaints safeguard compliance and drive enforcement efforts.

Emissions Inventory

Air pollution sources are required to submit an annual emissions inventory by March 1 of each year. The AQD staff maintains a

" ... I SAW ABOVE ME THAT ENDLESS SKYWAY ..."

database of facilities and their annual emissions from which annual operating fees are determined. Processing of the documents occurs throughout the year, with the bulk occurring in the third and fourth quarters. A total of 2,300 emissions inventory documents ("Turn-Around") were received and processed in FY 2000. A new billing system was employed that offers a quarterly payment option to the larger sources. To accommodate this new billing system, billings occurred twice in FY 2000. In early FY 2000, 1,144 invoices were issued for FY99 fees. In the mid-FY 2000, 1,173 invoices were issued for FY 2000 fees.

In FY 2000, the emissions inventory staff employed a new tool (ENERAC Model 3000EHC portable emissions analyzer) for the evaluation of emissions. The ENERAC is capable of evaluating NOx, CO, SOx, and hydrocarbon emissions in exhaust streams. Using EPA protocols, a portable emissions analyzer may be used in select cases for formal stack test procedures and confirmation of submitted data. AQD plans to perform a thorough review of testing protocols as well as equipment reliability and accuracy before recommending the use of data from portable analyzers.

Inspections

In an effort to ensure fair, consistent and effective compliance with environmental laws, AQD performed a total of 1,442 facility inspections in FY 2000. AQD performed 583 compliance evaluation inspections, 75 follow-up enforcement inspections, 495 asbestos inspections and 250 performance inspections conducted as part of the overall permitting process requirements. The Division received and resolved 289 complaints in FY 2000. The Regional Office at Tulsa handled 122 of these complaints. Both the AQD and the Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division of DEQ receive complaints. One hundred percent of complaints received by AQD in FY 2000 were resolved.

AQD rules require emission sources to report releases of air pollution that exceed established limits. Under certain circumstances and with proper notification and reporting, these excess emissions may not be considered violations. Excess emissions that occur during start-up, shutdown, malfunction, or maintenance of air pollution control equipment may be temporarily exempt from enforcement. Proper notification

Air Quality Emissions Inventory

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Emissions Inventory					
Billings					
Major Sources	463	0	449	0	912
Minor Sources	710	0	695	0	1,405
Inventories Processed	250	150	686	1,214	2,300

requires that an initial notice is made no later than one business day after the excess emission and a written report is submitted to AQD within 10 business days. In FY 2000, AQD received and processed 2,170 excess emission reports.

Anti-Tampering Program

Oklahoma's vehicle Anti-Tampering Program affects two major metropolitan areas, Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The goal of this pollution prevention program is to reduce motor vehicle emissions. It is conducted in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

As part of the annual vehicle safety inspection, emission systems are visually checked to ensure the emission components are properly installed and functioning effectively. Vehicles registered to individuals living in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa metropolitan areas are subject to this inspection. All vehicles weighing up to 8,500 pounds and built in 1979 or after must undergo this anti-tampering inspection. Approximately 1,051,000 anti-tampering inspections were performed in FY 2000. AQD staff conduct covert audits of state vehicle inspection stations. Staff performed 123 covert audits in FY 2000. Stations that are performing improper inspections are subject to enforcement actions by DPS.

Enforcement

In FY 2000, the AQD issued 26 Notices of Violations (NOVs) and 14 formal enforcement actions (e.g. consent orders, administrative compliance orders, etc.). Normally, an NOV will precede an administrative compliance order (ACO) or a consent order (CO). An ACO is used when it is necessary to order a facility to comply and a CO is used when agreement can be reached between the facility and DEQ. When the violation is considered a High Priority Violation (HPV), a penalty is assessed in the order. AQD collected $316,400 in penalties and allowed industry to

Air Quality Inspection

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Air Inspections					
Compliance Evaluation Inspections	119	86	128	250	583
Follow-up Enforcement Inspections	25	19	14	17	75
Asbestos Inspections	114	109	141	131	495
Complaint Inspection	55	116	52	66	289
Mobile Sources					
Inspections (in thousands)	281	252	268	250	1,051
Covert Audits	28	33	35	27	123

undertake an additional $313,000 worth of Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) during the fiscal year.

Monitoring

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish standards to protect the environment and the public from adverse health and welfare effects of air pollution. **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** were set to define the maximum allowable concentrations for certain pollutants, known as **criteria pollutants**. NAAQS currently exist for six criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and particulate matter (PM). There are two categories of PM, particulate matter less than 10 micrometers (PM 10) and particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers (PM 2.5).

A nationwide network of air quality monitoring stations routinely measure concentrations of the criteria air pollutants in the ambient air. The Oklahoma air quality monitoring network consists of 70 monitors located at 37 sites throughout the state. Monitors are sited in counties according to the number of significant air pollution sources and population exposure.

As a result of the new fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) NAAQS, a national network of 500 monitoring sites was established. Oklahoma established a statewide PM 2.5 monitoring network of 19 monitors that were fully operational as of January 2000. The PM 2.5 Network covers the following towns and metropolitan areas:

Oklahoma City	Tulsa	Enid
Stillwater	Shawnee	Pryor
Ponca City	Ardmore	Lawton
McAlester	Moore	Clinton
Muskogee		

Promulgation of the PM 2.5 NAAQS also included the requirement for chemical speciation of ambient suspended particulate matter.

Air Quality Enforcement Administration

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Air Enforcement					
Notices of Violation	3	5	6	12	26
Formal Actions	2	4	4	4	14
Asbestos Actions	0	0	0	0	0
Fines Paid (in thousands of dollars)	6.5	65	221.9	23	316.4
SEP Dollars (in thousands)	219	0	24	70	313

Air Quality Compliance Monitoring (Excess Emissions)

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Compliance Monitoring					
Excess Emissions Report	724	466	446	534	2,170

Oklahoma will be adding two chemical speciation monitors to their PM 2.5 monitoring network. A core speciation site in Tulsa will be one of 50 national trend sites and should be operational in January 2001. A second speciation site in Oklahoma City will be one of 250 additional sites that EPA plans for national expansion over the next five years. At a minimum, the chemical speciation network will quantify mass concentrations and significant PM 2.5 constituents which include trace elements, sulfate, nitrate, ammonium, water-soluble sodium and potassium, total organic, carbonate carbon and elemental carbon. Samples will be taken every three days in Tulsa and every six days in Oklahoma City. An EPA certified laboratory will conduct the sample analysis to ensure national consistency.

All ambient air monitoring stations in the state are equipped with EPA approved instruments. Qualified AQD personnel provide maintenance and calibration. Data from the network provide an overview of the state's air quality and are used in the development of statewide control strategies. Likewise, these data are an integral component for measuring the success of national pollution control initiatives.

Through the cooperative efforts of DEQ's Monitoring and Quality Assurance (QA) Sections, AQD ensures that accurate and complete data are collected from ambient air monitoring stations. Quality Assurance certifies all devices used to perform routine evaluations of DEQ's air analyzers. The analyzers are also audited regularly to ensure they are functioning correctly. An audit involves checking site equipment against QA equipment and a known concentration of gas. If results of the audit are not within 15% accuracy, the data from the site may be invalidated and the site equipment may have to be recalibrated.

Air Quality Ambient Monitoring

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Ambient Monitoring					
Continuous Monitoring Systems	23	23	23	23	0
Non-continuous Stations	27	27	27	27	0
Number of Air Samples Collected					
Ozone (in thousands)	18.5	19.6	17.7	18.9	74.7
Sulfur Oxides (in thousands)	10.1	10.9	10.8	10.7	42.5
Nitrogen Oxides (in thousands)	26.7	27	27.4	26	107.1
PM-10	142	146	132	143	563.0
PM-2.5	422	432	595	620	2,069.0
Lead	0	0	0	0	0.0
Carbon Monoxide (in thousands)	13.1	13.1	13	12.7	51.9
Special Purpose (in thousands)	19.2	15.8	17.4	23.6	76.0
Precision Tests	206	232	216	300	954.0

Data from the continuous monitors are reported in hourly averages. Precision checks performed by the Monitoring staff are reviewed and compiled for submission to EPA. Filters from the PM10 monitors are rechecked after each weighing under similar climatic conditions as the original checks.

During FY 2000, gaseous pollutant data were collected at 23 sites across the state. At these sites, approximately 51,900 carbon monoxide hourly averages, 107,100 nitrogen oxides hourly averages, 42,500 sulfur dioxide hourly averages, and 74,700 ozone hourly averages were collected. Noncontinuous monitors collected data at 27 sites. From these sites, 563 samples of PM 10 and 2,069 samples of PM 2.5 were collected and analyzed. In FY 2000, a total of 2,632 samples from noncontinuous monitors and approximately 352,200 hourly averages from continuous monitors were collected by AQD. In addition, the division conducts special purpose monitoring projects as needed.

Permitting

The Air Quality Division continues to assure that Oklahoma's air quality standards are maintained through issuance of both construction and operating permits to both minor and major facilities. The emphasis in FY 2000 was to issue permits in a timely manner as well as to implement several new initiatives designed to streamline the permitting process and to ease the regulatory burden on industry and the agency. This is being accomplished through a concerted effort to coordinate permitting, rulemaking, inventory, enforcement, and customer assistance activities.

Staff coordinates inventory, permitting, compliance, enforcement, and customer assistance activities to better serve both the public and regulated community. The primary focus of these efforts has been to refine, enhance, and expand the capabilities of AQD's in-house tracking system, the TEAM database. For example, TEAM now allows access to information in one place to coordinate outreach, permitting, and compliance activities associated with MACT standard implementation, new source identification, or sector-specific compliance initiatives.

Title V Program

AQD staff continues to dedicate resources to obtain final delegation of the federal Title V permitting program. Under DEQ's

Air Quality - Quality Assurance

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Quality Assurance					
Audits					
Continuous	24	18	16	27	
Non-Continuous	21	20	17	22	80
Interlab	0	12	0	0	12
Data Validation	560	609	609	1,079	2,857
Standards Certified	98	98	98	96	390
Filter Checks	369	340	331	288	1,328

interim approval status, the AQD is authorized to issue Part 70 permits and has done so for 56 percent of Oklahoma's universe of 428 Part 70 facilities. Just as important as issuing Part 70 permits, AQD issues "synthetic minor" permits and 411 such permits have been issued since March 6, 1996, the effective date of AQD's program.

MACT Program

DEQ diligently works toward full federal delegation of the Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) standard program. Under DEQ's interim approval status, the AQD has implemented and does enforce the MACT standards for sources subject to the Part 70 program. EPA's newly promulgated MACT standards were adopted by reference in OAC 252:100-41-15 (effective June 1, 2000) and an updated delegation package was submitted to EPA on May 5, 2000. This package detailed AQD's incorporation by reference of EPA's MACT standards promulgated/amended between July 1, 1998 and July 1, 1999 (40 CFR Part 63, Subparts HH, SS, TT, UU, WW, YY, CCC, DDD, EEE, GGG, HHH, III, LLL, MMM, NNN, PPP, TTT, XXX). AQD worked diligently to gain the expertise necessary to assure the regulated community is in compliance with these standards, to provide technical assistance and outreach to subject facilities, and to ease the regulatory burden through streamlined permit processes. General Permits for both Dry Cleaning Facilities and Chrome Plating/ Organic Degreasing Facilities were specifically developed and issued in FY 2000 to meet this goal. In addition, outreach was also provided to those facilities in Oklahoma potentially subject to the MACT standard for Oil & Natural Gas Production and Natural Gas Transmission and Storage.

Streamlined Permits

DEQ's efforts continue to streamline permitting programs. A permit by rule (PBR) became effective for particulate matter facilities in June 1999 through OAC 252:100-19. General Permits (GPs) for Dry Cleaning Facilities and Chrome Plating/Organic Degreasing Facilities were issued on August 12, 1999 and October 13, 1999 respectively. In addition, a GP for Minor Non-metallic Mineral Processing Facilities was issued on May 9, 2000. Other GPs in development include those for asphalt plants, natural gas compressor stations, coating facilities, and printing facilities.

Lead-Based Paint Management Program

The federal Lead-Based Paint (LBP) Certification and Accreditation Program was delegated to DEQ's LBP Management Program on August 10, 1998. DEQ rules (OAC 252:110) apply to all individuals and firms engaged in LBP services in target housing and child-occupied facilities. These rules contain procedures and requirements for the certification of individuals and firms engaged in LBP services, and for work practice standards for performing such services. LBP services include: LBP hazard evaluations; detection, reduction or abatement of LBP renovation or remodeling of structures that contain LBP; and evaluation of any other activity that may create a LBP hazard.

Certification is required of all individuals and firms who perform or offer to perform LBP services in target housing and child-occupied facilities. Certification is available in six disciplines. In FY 2000, certifications were issued to 3 Inspectors, 38 Risk Assessors, 25 Abatement Workers, 18 Supervisors and 55 Firms. Educational institutions and government agencies may seek accreditation to offer LBP training in Oklahoma for the purposes of certification. In FY 2000, DEQ accredited one training institution. There were 24 inspections conducted by DEQ at LBP abatement sites in FY 2000.

Air Quality Permit Administration

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Air Quality Permitting					
Construction Applications/Permits Issued					
Minor Received	16	22	20	30	88
Minor Issued	17	19	22	21	79
Major Received	8	16	3	12	39
Major Issued	8	5	14	9	36
PSD Received	0	4	2	6	12
PSD Issued	0	5	2	3	10
Operating Applications/Permits Issued					
Minor Received	50	106	53	42	251
Minor Issued	38	43	102	54	237
Major Received	3	1	0	1	5
Major Issued	1	3	1	0	5
PSD Received	0	0	0	0	0
PSD Issued	1	0	0	1	2
Title V Received	3	5	9	9	26
Title V Issued	20	20	21	16	77
Acid Rain Received	0	0	0	0	0
Acid Rain Issued	0	0	0	0	0
Relocation Received	8	7	7	9	31
Relocation Issued	10	9	3	12	34
Applications Withdrawn	5	6	8	4	23
Applicability Determination Received	27	29	17	58	131
Applicability Determination Issued	17	49	16	19	101
Permits Denied	0	0	0	0	0
Total Applications Received	115	190	111	167	583
Total Permits Issued	112	153	181	135	581
Permits Issuance > Timelines	0	0	1	4	5
Tests Observed	1	3	0	5	9
Performance Inspections	64	37	101	48	250
Permit Protest Hearings	0	0	0	0	0
Open Burning Requests	7	6	13	7	33

Air Quality Issues

AQD devotes great efforts to providing accurate, timely and relevant information to customers. This is accomplished through the joint efforts of each AQD section, other DEQ Divisions, state and local agencies, company representatives and interested citizens.

Attainment Issues

The AQD's greatest challenge in recent years has been maintenance of attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Currently, all areas within the state are designated as in **attainment** with respect to the NAAQS. Both Oklahoma City and Tulsa are precariously close to non-attainment designations for ozone. EPA projections show that it is possible for Lawton, Muskogee and Ponca City to join them. DEQ believes that regional transport contributes greatly to the ozone problems in Oklahoma.

Unprecedented research in the formation and transport of ozone continues to take place in and around Oklahoma. While AQD continues to expand Oklahoma's monitoring network and make more information available, the regional approach gains momentum. The *TexAQS 2000* is the largest air quality study in the Southwestern United States ever conducted. The *TexAQS 2000* study is designed to improve understanding of the chemical and physical processes that control air pollutant formation in the greater Houston area and transport along the Gulf Coast of southeastern Texas and perhaps into neighboring states as well.

AQD participates in this study by sharing air quality data with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and by supporting aircraft sampling activities in Oklahoma. The results of this study should prove to be invaluable in allowing us to better understand how ozone is formed and transported as well as the control strategies that would be most effective in the future.

Historically, management of air pollutants has been addressed at the local level within designated non-attainment areas. The local level approach has begun to change as research has demonstrated that ozone, fine particulate matter, and the compounds that lead to their formation can be transported over long distances. Thus, regional approaches have been proven necessary for effective air quality management.

Air Quality Lead Based Paint

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Lead Based Paint Certification					
Inspector	0	0	0	3	3
Risk Assessor	2	1	0	35	38
Abatement Worker	1	4	0	20	25
Supervisor	0	1	0	17	18
Project Designer	0	0	0	0	0
Firm	2	1	1	37	41

Recognizing this change, CenSARA (Central States Air Resource Agencies) was awarded a $500,000 grant to form a Regional Planning Organization (RPO). CenSARA will work with other RPOs, state and local governments, tribes, industry groups, EPA and other federal agencies to assess long-term strategies and recommend solutions for regional air quality issues. AQD staff is integrally involved in CenSARA's RPO.

Ozone and Particulate Matter Standard Changes

An overwhelming consideration for AQD is the changes and additions to the NAAQS for substratospheric ozone and particulate matter (PM) that EPA has adopted. Standards for ozone has changed from 0.12 ppm measured over one hour to 0.08 ppm measured over eight hours. A three-year average of the fourth highest daily maximum eight-hour average ozone concentration will be used to determine violations. On May 14, 1999, an appeals court remanded the eight-hour standard to EPA. The case is being appealed to the United States Supreme Court and the final legal outcome is still unknown. The EPA and the AQD continue to evaluate options.

A new PM standard has been added to consider particles 2.5 mm and smaller. Most of the provisions of the old standard that dealt with particles less than 10 mm were also retained. Additionally, EPA promulgated new regional haze regulations aimed at improving visibility in national parks and wilderness areas.

These new standards are based on health risk data produced by and for EPA. EPA has interpreted the data to indicate that the new standards will significantly improve human health. Oklahoma City and Tulsa, which were in attainment with the old standards, will likely fall out of attainment with the new ones. It is possible that Lawton, Muskogee and Ponca City will join these cities. Nonattainment status would mandate additional control measures at a cost to Oklahoma citizens and industries. Since these changes originated at the federal level, DEQ and local officials have urged that future EPA actions continue only if and when they have provided compelling scientific, economic, health and other information to justify the need for changes. Implementation of these new standards could result in considerable costs to the citizens of Oklahoma due to increased control of emissions. Also, Oklahoma could lose economic advantages associated with being an attainment area.

Since there has been no monitoring for particles of this size in the past, the determination of Oklahoma attainment status with the new PM 2.5 standard will require analysis of data from the new PM 2.5 monitoring network consisting of about 20 monitors. Some of these monitors began daily sampling in January 2000.

DEQ will continue to perform modeling and analyses to develop contingency plans to reduce hydrocarbon, nitrogen oxide and other pollutants as warranted. DEQ activities related to the proposed Regional Haze rules could involve increased inventory, planning, and monitoring activities. Congress is considering several actions to overturn or delay implementation of these standards. Likewise, interested parties requesting that these new standards be revoked have filed numerous petitions. For the latest information on the new standards, consult the Internet at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg.

TEAM Database

The AQD's TEAM database continues to serve as AQD's information sharing structure and additional improvements are planned. Over the last year, new tools have been added to TEAM. Some of these include the ability to view the compiled emissions inventory reports, an AQD-CSD new source tracking system, a MACT source tracking and outreach documentation section, and the tracking of the dry cleaners outreach. All of this was accomplished while maintaining and improving the quality of

data shared between the AQD and the EPA's AIRS database. AQD's method of data sharing continues to gain national recognition from both EPA and other state agencies. Improvements are planned in the near future to include electronic submittal of emissions inventory documents and permit applications. Although many of these improvements are transparent to customers, the database allows AQD's efficiency and service to customers, both internal and external, to increase.

Outreach Services

AQD devoted significant resources to various outreach projects. The DEQ web site, the Clean Air Alert program, the Air Quality Index (AQI), project-specific outreach programs for new sources and the AQ Education Committee help keep the public and the regulated community informed of Oklahoma's air quality status and potential health effects.

Web Availability

Customer service is the main focus of DEQ's web site evolution. AQD staff continue to post forms, monitoring site data, AQI data, reports, newsletters, proposed rules, Air Quality Council hearing announcements and summaries as well as a list of effective dates for amended rules. As general permits are issued, both the permit and application are made available from the web. Most recently this includes Dry Cleaning Facilities and Chromium Electroplating and Anodizing Facilities. Please visit the AQD web site for additional information (http://www.deq.state.ok.us/air1/air.html).

Clean Air Alerts

Air Quality Division (AQD) staff participate in activities with the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) and the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG). The Clean Air Alert programs for Oklahoma City, Tulsa and Lawton are an example of the cooperative efforts of AQD and these groups. Oklahoma City and Tulsa have also received Clean Cities status through these activities.

Clean Air Alert (Ozone Alert!) days are called when there is high probability that the ozone will reach levels that could have health impacts on the most sensitive groups. The alerts are announced the day before to give the public adequate warning time not only to take health precautions but also to reduce the emissions that contribute to the formation of ozone. The Clean Air Alert day forecast is based on a number of parameters including wind speed, cloud cover, air-mixing height, and other weather data collected from the National Weather Service.

When an alert is called, a series of events takes place. In Oklahoma City, AQD contacts the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) and in turn, ACOG makes the official announcement to the media. The Regional DEQ Office in Tulsa makes the official announcements and notifications for the Tulsa area in cooperation with INCOG. In Lawton, AQD contacts the Association of South Central Governments (ASCOG) and in turn, ASCOG makes the announcement to the media. These announcements allow industry and the public to plan accordingly and avoid activities that contribute to the problem.

Clean Air Alert days are usually necessary for carbon monoxide and ozone only, since they are the more problematic pollutants in Oklahoma. In FY 2000, Tulsa called 14 "alert" days for ozone while Oklahoma City and Lawton called 10 "alert" days for ozone. No "alert" days were called for carbon monoxide.

Air Quality Index

The AQI was developed by EPA to provide a simple, uniform way to report daily air pollution concentrations and any possible adverse health effects to the public. It places the maximum

emphasis on acute health effects occurring over short periods of time. The AQI is used to measure five of the six criteria pollutants. Lead is excluded since it has only a quarterly value and because ambient lead values have fallen so low that monitoring is no longer required in Oklahoma.

The AQI represents pollutant concentrations on a scale numbered 0 to 500. The numbers on the scale relate to potential health effects of the criteria pollutants. An AQI value of 100 corresponds to the NAAQS (or proposed NAAQS for ozone) for the criteria pollutant. An AQI value below 100 is satisfactory, but a value above 100 indicates that an unhealthful level of that pollutant exists. To further describe air quality, the scale is divided into six "descriptors." An AQI value between 0 and 50 indicates good air quality, and the range of 51 to 100 indicates moderate air quality. The categories above 100 are unhealthy for sensitive groups (101 to 150), unhealthy (151 to 200), very unhealthy (201 to 300), and hazardous (301 and above). Values in these categories can result in actions ranging from an open burning ban to the required cessation of some industrial and commercial activities. AQI values are calculated for five criteria pollutants. The pollutant with the highest calculated AQI determines the reported value for the day. Thus, the AQI represents the worst daily air quality experienced in a given area. The AQI for Oklahoma City can be obtained by calling (405) 702-4234 and the AQI for Tulsa can be obtained by calling (918) 744-7664. The recording is updated daily and provides the index number, the pollutant that sets the index, a descriptor word, and any necessary precautions. Values for Oklahoma City and Tulsa are usually in the good to moderate range.

AQI LOGO

AQI CHART

Index Value	Descriptor
0 - 50	Good
51 - 100	Moderate
101 - 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
151 - 200	Unhealthy
201 - 300	Very Unhealthy
301 - 500	Hazardous

New Source ID/Tracking Project

As regulations and regulatory activities change, new sources of air pollution are identified. Through the cooperative efforts of DEQ's Customer Services Division and several AQD Sections (Rules & Inventory, Permitting, Compliance, Enforcement, and Technical Resources & Projects), a new outreach tool was developed that expedites assistance to newly discovered sources. The main goal of this project is to afford opportunities for smaller sources to gain knowledge of the regulations and seek compliance without involving enforcement protocols.

Most of the new sources are minor sources that pose little environmental risk. Likewise, most of the new sources are small businesses with limited knowledge of environmental regulations and very limited resources. In this process, DEQ staff offers informational letters, fact sheets, applications and fact-finding

visits. These visits are an opportunity for DEQ staff to gain familiarity with facility processes that might have air emissions. Based on those processes and the associated emissions, DEQ staff can advise the facility on how to proceed with an emissions inventory submittal and/or a permit application. The entire process is tracked through the TEAM database.

Dry Cleaners

As part of Air Quality's request for delegation of the MACT program from EPA, the AQD began bringing all of Oklahoma's dry cleaners into compliance with the Perchloroethylene (perc) Dry Cleaner MACT (NESHAP M) by completing the permitting of subject facilities. Air Quality developed a general permit for dry cleaners and an easy to use registration form that allowed facilities to determine if they were subject to the NESHAP and/or permitting requirements. As an incentive, facilities were allowed to waive construction permit fees if they applied for operating permits. About 600 facilities were initially identified and were invited to six workshops across the state. Although most were drop-off sites, 153 perc dry cleaners subject to the NESHAP were identified with 101 requiring permits. Also, 48 petroleum solvent dry cleaners were identified, with 16 of those facilities requiring permits. AQD continues to work with 106 facilities that are in varying stages of the registration and permitting processes.

Oil & Natural Gas NESHAP

AQD conducted an outreach to oil and gas facilities that are potentially affected by a new NESHAP requirement. 40 CFR Part 63, Subparts HH and HHH affect two separate sectors of the oil and gas industry, particularly those facilities that operate glycol dehydration units (to remove moisture from produced natural gas). Facilities that have the actual or potential emissions of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) above the major source threshold are subject to the NESHAP. Initial notification for affected existing sources was required by June 16, 2000 and these sources have until June 17, 2002 to either comply with the NESHAP requirements or receive a federally enforceable permit ensuring emissions are limited below major source thresholds.

AQD mailed registration/initial notification forms to 59 oil and gas companies. Registrations were received covering at least 630 Oklahoma facilities. Registrations indicated that 25 of these facilities are subject to either Subpart HH or HHH. Responses are currently under AQD staff review with the next step being assisting the facilities with permit applications or modifications.

Open-Molded Plastics Industry

In August 1999, AQD identified an under-estimation problem with emission factors for the open-molded plastic industry, generally known as fiberglass manufacturers. This industry sector includes many small businesses such as small boat manufacturers. AQD and DEQ's Customer Services Division jointly contacted 33 facilities and held workshops in Oklahoma City and Tulsa in September 1999 to inform them of the new emission factors and the effect upon permitting requirements. Because of the change, facilities were given a revised deadline of November 1, 1999 to submit permit applications. Of the 23 facilities identified, five required Title V permits, 2 required minor source permits, and 10 were issued formal Requests for Information regarding operations at their facilities.

Public Education

The Air Quality Education Committee works to coordinate environmental education through the DEQ education network as well as the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee. The Air Quality Education Committee is comprised of enthusiastic Air Quality employees who volunteer to actively promote environmental awareness and education in Oklahoma, by developing and distributing teaching materials to educators and by giving presentations to the public.

This year, the committee participated in the design and development of a new Air Quality Index (AQI) brochure. The brochure, along with other materials, provides information on the health effects of pollutants, lists actions individuals can take to reduce pollution, and explains how obtain the AQI for Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Speakers from AQD staff are provided for a variety of events such as classroom lectures, conservation resource days, conferences and environmental fairs. AQD staff also present specialized information at workshops for industry. These workshops are usually part of a public outreach by the DEQ to inform a specific industry sector of new or expanded regulations. In FY 2000 the Air Education Committee and staff participated in 35 outreach events impacting over 9,300 children and adults. The committee distributed 643 Teacher Packets to Oklahoma educators.

Environmental Impact Assessments

The Air Quality Division regularly receives Environmental Assessment requests from other regulatory agencies, tribal officials and consultants. Tribes are required to conduct environmental assessments for construction projects that depend on federal funds. The majority of Tribal Projects include new home construction, rehabilitation of existing homes, and the expansion of utilities. Industry requests concern everything from clearing right-of-way for and expansion of public utilities to a fire management plan. Requestors specifically want to know the impact their proposed projects will have on local air quality. The AQD reviews each project to determine the extent of impact on air quality and issues response letters with the findings. Staff issued 125 response letters in FY 2000.

Air Quality Public Information and Education

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Clean Air Alerts					
Oklahoma City	11	0	0	0	11
Tulsa	17	0	0	0	17
Lawton	10	0	0	0	10
Environmental Education					
Events					
Conference Presentations	3	2	0	0	5
Conference Displays	2	0	0	1	3
Community Wide Events	0	1	0	3	4
Education Presentations					
K-12	3	2	1	5	11
Community/Adult Education	17	4	1	1	23
Teacher Packets Distributed	625	0	0	18	643
Contacts	1,515	1,571	510	5,750	9,346

Air Quality Environmental Impact Assessments

	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Environmental Impact Assessments	41	27	32	25	125