

JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Air and Radiation Protection Division

de

Birmingham, Alabama

AIR QUALITY REPORT 2012



JEFFERSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND UNITS OF MEASURE

ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
APCE	Air Pollution Control Engineer
APCP	Air Pollution Control Program
AQI	Air Quality Index
СО	Carbon monoxide
EHS	Environmental Health Specialist
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FCE	Full Compliance Evaluation
μg/m³	Micrograms per cubic meter
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCore	National Core Multipollutant
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen oxides
O ₃	Ozone
Pb	Lead
PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter of size 2.5 microns or less in diameter
PM ₁₀	Particulate matter of size 10 microns or less in diameter
ppb	Parts per billion
ppm	Parts per million
RadNet	Radiation Network
SLAMS	State and Local Air Monitoring Station
SPM	Special Purpose Monitor
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
tpy	Tons per year
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound

1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Air Pollution Control Program (APCP) within the Air and Radiation Protection Division in Environmental Health Services at the Jefferson County Department of Health is to ensure that citizens of Jefferson County, Alabama, have access to air which meets the health standards established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A significant portion of resources by the APCP are devoted to monitoring pollutant levels in the ambient air, which it has done for over 40 years. Information received from the monitoring network concerning pollutant levels is used as the basis for developing any control strategies necessary to ensure that health standards are attained and maintained.

The APCP prepares this report annually by analyzing data from air monitoring sites throughout the Birmingham area. The pollutants monitored at the air monitoring sites include those that the EPA has established a national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) since they are considered harmful to public health and the environment. The six principal pollutants that have an NAAQS are: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), particulate matter smaller than 2.5 and 10 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

This report includes information on the NAAQS, the air monitoring network throughout Jefferson County, and the description, emission sources, health effects, attainment or nonattainment status, and monitoring data of each principal pollutant. Also included is how the Air Quality Index is used to report daily air quality. The compliance and enforcement activities and the air pollution emission source permitting done by the APCP are also discussed.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has two types of national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) – primary and secondary. The primary standards are designed to protect public health within an adequate margin of safety. The secondary standards are designed to protect public welfare (such as property damage, materials, damage to plants and animals, and visibility). Units of measure for the NAAQS are parts per billion (ppb), parts per million (ppm), and micrograms per cubic meter of air (μ g/m³). The Air Pollution Control Program utilizes the standards established by the EPA in Table 2.1.

Pollutant		Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form	
Carbon Monoxide		Primary	8-hour	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per	
		i iiiiai y	1-hour	35 ppm	year	
Lead		Primary and Secondary	Rolling 3 month average	0.15 μg/m ^{3 (1)}	Not to be exceeded	
		Primary	1-hour	100 ppb	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years	
Nitrogen Dioxide		Primary and Secondary	Annual	53 ppb ⁽²⁾	Annual mean	
Ozone		Primary and Secondary	8-hour	0.075 ppm ⁽³⁾	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8- hr concentration, averaged over 3 years	
		Primary	Annual	12 μg/m³	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years	
	DNA	Secondary	Annual	15 μg/m³	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years	
Particle Pollution	PM _{2.5} Primary and Secondary	Primary and Secondary	24-hour	35 μg/m³	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years	
	PM ₁₀	Primary and	24-hour	150 μg/m ³	Not to be exceeded more than once per	
	PIVI ₁₀	Secondary	24-110UI	του μβ/111	year on average over 3 years	
Sulfur Dioxide		Primary	1-hour	75 ppb ⁽⁴⁾	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years	
		Secondary	3-hour	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year	

Table 2.1: National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

(1) Final rule signed October 15, 2008. The 1978 lead standard ($1.5 \mu g/m^3$ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.

(2) The official level of the annual NO_2 standard is 0.053 ppm, equal to 53 ppb, which is shown here for the purpose of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard.

(3) Final rule signed March 12, 2008. The 1997 ozone standard (0.08 ppm, annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years) and related implementation rules remain in place. In 1997, EPA revoked the 1-hour ozone standard (0.12 ppm, not to be exceeded more than once per year) in all areas, although some areas have continued obligations under that standard ("anti-backsliding"). The 1-hour ozone standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with maximum hourly average concentrations above 0.12 ppm is less than or equal to 1.

(4) Final rule signed June 2, 2010. The 1971 annual and 24-hour SO₂ standards were revoked in that same rulemaking. However, these standards remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, where the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standard are approved.

3. AMBIENT AIR QUALITY NETWORK

Data provided through a complex network of air monitoring stations located throughout Jefferson County determine the quality of ambient air in the county. In 2012 the network consisted of 13 monitoring sites (Figure 3.1) with 39 air monitors and 7 collocated monitors. The criteria air pollutants monitored at these sites were carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), ozone (O₃), particulates 10 microns and less in size (PM₁₀), particulates 2.5 microns and less in size (PM_{2.5}), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). Most of the air monitors in the network are classified as one of the following: State and Local Air Monitoring Station (SLAMS), Special Purpose Monitoring (SPM), or National Core Multi-pollutant (NCore) based on the general monitoring objectives.

The objective of the SLAMS network is to collect data that provide an overview of the state's air quality used in the development of statewide control strategies. The NCore network is a nation-wide multipollutant network that integrates several advanced measurement systems for particles, pollutant gases, and meteorology. This multi-pollutant approach benefits health assessments, emissions strategy development, and future monitoring efforts. The monitoring sites in Jefferson County that observe criteria pollutant concentrations that are used for compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) come from the SLAMS and NCore networks and are shown in Table 3.1. Data shown in subsequent sections of this report are from these two networks.

The objective of the SPM network is to provide data for the development and refinement of local control strategies. The data also verify maintenance of air standards in areas not monitored by the SLAMS network.

There are also other networks within Jefferson County that provide data beyond compliance purposes with the NAAQS. The National Speciation Trends Network program's objectives are to measure current aerosol conditions in certain areas, to identify chemical species and emission sources responsible, and to document long-term trends for aerosol conditions. The Radiation Network (RadNet) provides important information on background levels of radiation in the environment. The objective of the near-real time air monitoring component of the RadNet is to provide verified decision-making data to federal and state agency decision makers and the public in hours instead of days. The Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) program's objectives are to establish current visibility and aerosol conditions in mandatory Class I areas, to identify chemical species and emission sources responsible for existing man-made visibility impairment, to document long-term trends for assessing progress towards the national visibility goal, and with the enactment of the Regional Haze Rule, to provide regional haze monitoring representing all visibility-protected Federal Class I areas where practical.

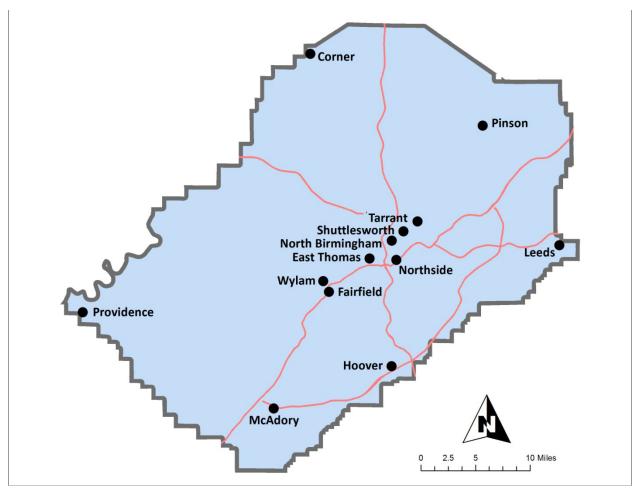


Figure 3.1: Location of monitoring sites in Jefferson County.

Site Name	Site ID	со	Pb	O ₃	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO2
Corner	01-073-5003			•			
East Thomas	01-073-0028	•					
Fairfield	01-073-1003	•		•	•		•
Hoover	01-073-2006			•			
Leeds	01-073-1010			•	•	•	
McAdory	01-073-1005			•		•	
North Birmingham	01-073-0023	•	•	•		•	٠
Northside	01-073-0034				•		
Pinson	01-073-5002			•			
Providence	01-073-1009			•			
Shuttlesworth	01-073-6004	•					
Tarrant	01-073-6002			•	•		
Wylam	01-073-2003				•	•	

Table 3.1: Jefferson County air monitoring network.

4.1 Carbon Monoxide (CO)

General Information

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is emitted into the atmosphere by natural and man-made sources. Globally, total emissions of CO are greater than emissions of any other air pollutant, due to the widespread extent of low-level emissions from natural sources.

The major natural source of CO is the spontaneous oxidation of naturally occurring methane. Other natural sources include the oceans, plant growth and decay, terpene oxidation, and forest fires. Globally, natural sources account for nearly 90 percent of CO emissions. The major man-made source of CO is the incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels. Gasoline motor vehicles, primarily automobiles and light duty trucks, are the most common source. Other sources include industrial process losses, open burning and industrial or utility boilers. Figure 4.1 shows the emission sources of CO in Jefferson County.

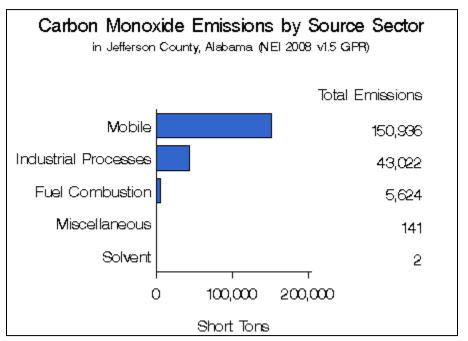


Figure 4.1: Sources of Carbon Monoxide in Jefferson County from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

CO poses a threat to human health because of its ability to react with hemoglobin that carries oxygen to cell tissue. Hemoglobin preferentially absorbs CO, thus reducing the amount of oxygen transported throughout the body. Most people will experience symptoms including dizziness and headaches when exposed to high levels of CO. Eliminating exposure causes blood to return to normal levels of oxygen.

Monitoring Data

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established two primary standards for CO. The 1-hour standard is set at 35 ppm and the 8-hour standard is set at 9 ppm. Neither standard is to be exceeded more than once per year [76 FR 54294, August 31, 2011].

In 2012, the CO monitoring network consisted of 4 monitoring sites. No monitoring sites exceeded the 1-hour or 8-hour standards during 2012 (Table 4.1). Compliance with the CO standards are based upon the most recent 2 years of data. During the most recent 2 years of monitoring data (2011-2012), all monitors were in compliance with both the 1-hour (Figure 4.2; Appendix) and 8-hour (Figure 4.3; Appendix) standards. There has been a downward trend in CO levels since the mid 1990s and are now well below the standards. The Birmingham area is designated as attainment of the standards for CO.

		1-H	our Avera	ages	8-Hour Averages		
Site Name	Site ID	1st	2nd	Obs >	1st	2nd	Obs >
		Max	Max	35.0	Max	Max	9.0
East Thomas	01-073-0028	2.0	1.9	0	1.7	1.6	0
Fairfield	01-073-1003	26.3	5.1	0	4.0	1.7	0
N. Birmingham	01-073-0023	2.1	2.0	0	1.4	1.4	0
Shuttlesworth	01-073-6004	3.2	2.4	0	1.3	1.0	0

Table 4.1: Highest 1-hour and 8-hour carbon monoxide concentrations (in ppm) and number of 1-hourand 8-hour observations exceeding the NAAQS in 2012.

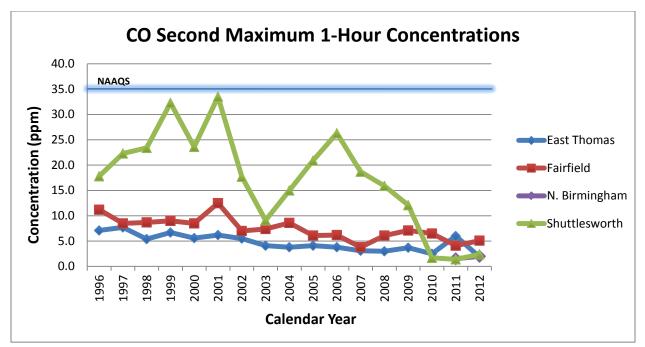


Figure 4.2: Carbon monoxide second maximum 1-hour average concentrations (in ppm) for 1996-2012. The highlighted blue line indicates the NAAQS, which is 35 ppm.

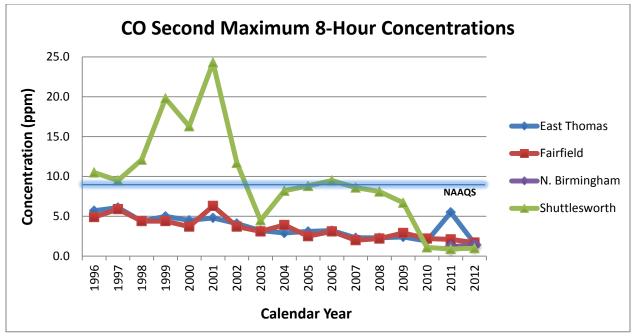


Figure 4.3: Carbon monoxide second maximum 8-hour average concentrations (in ppm) for 1996-2012. The highlighted blue line indicates the NAAQS, which is 9 ppm.

4.2 Lead (Pb)

General Information

Lead (Pb) is a naturally occurring, bluish-gray metal. Pb is persistent in the environment and accumulates in soils and sediments from air sources, direct discharge of waste streams to water bodies, mining, and erosion. The phase-out of leaded gasoline in the 1970s has led to dramatically reduced Pb concentrations across the United States.

The highest air concentrations of Pb today are found near lead-acid battery manufacturers and lead smelters. Other industrial sources are combustion of solid waste, metals processing, and iron and steel production. Pb can also be found in non-industrial sources such as older lead-based paints and in drinking water due to the presence of lead in certain older pipes, solder, and fixtures. Figure 4.4 shows the emission sources of Pb in Jefferson County.

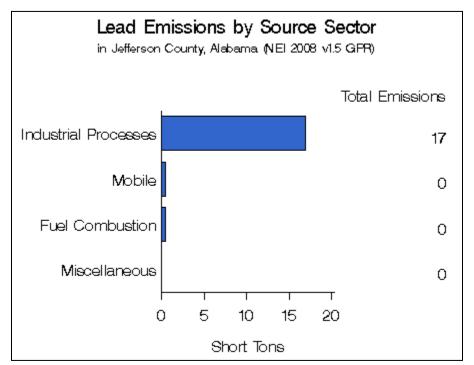


Figure 4.4: Sources of lead in Jefferson County from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

Human exposure to Pb occurs through inhalation and oral ingestion of Pb in food, water, soil or dust. Pb distributes throughout the body in the blood and accumulates in the bones. Pb can adversely affect the nervous system, kidneys, immune system, and other organs. Pb has recently been shown to have

cardiovascular effects (high blood pressure and heart disease). Childhood exposure to Pb can lead to learning deficits, behavior problems, and lowered IQ.

Monitoring Data

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a primary rolling 3-month average standard for Pb. The rolling 3-month average standard is set at 0.15 μ g/m³. The standard is not to be exceeded at any point over a 3-year period [73 FR 66964, November 12, 2008].

In 2012, the Pb monitoring network consisted of 1 monitoring site (North Birmingham). The North Birmingham monitoring site did not have any rolling 3-month average Pb concentrations or any daily average observations over the Pb standard in 2012 (Table 4.2). The most recent 3 years of data are used to determine compliance with the Pb standard. However, there has only been 1 year of Pb data, so compliance with the standard cannot be determined. All 3-month average Pb concentrations in 2012 were well below the standard.

Table 4.2: Highest rolling 3-month average lead concentrations (in $\mu g/m^3$) and number of 24-hou	ır
average observations exceeding the NAAQS in 2012.	

Site Name	Site ID		Obs >			
Site Name	Sile iD	1st Max	2nd Max	3rd Max	4th Max	0.15
N. Birmingham	01-073-0023	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0

4.3 Ozone (O₃)

General Information

Ozone (O_3) is a colorless gas that is photochemically produced in the atmosphere when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) combine with nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the presence of sunlight. In the lower atmosphere, O_3 is the predominant component of photochemical smog and is most likely to reach high concentration levels on hot, dry, summer days when sunlight is intense and wind movement is low.

In urban areas, emissions of NOx and VOCs lead to the formation of O_3 in the lower atmosphere. NOx is primarily emitted from combustion sources such as motor vehicles and boilers. Primary sources of VOCs include motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline evaporation from storage facilities or tanker trucks, paint, dry cleaners, industrial use of solvents or coatings, and biogenic emissions from natural sources. The emission sources of VOCs and NOx in Jefferson County are shown in Figures 4.5 and 4.6, respectively.

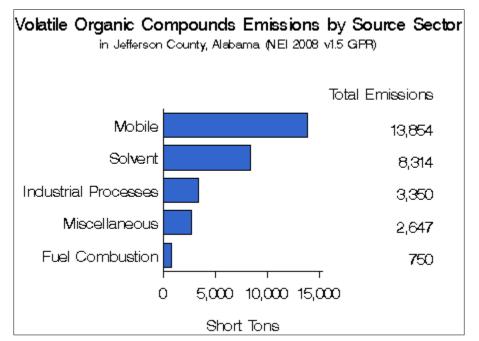


Figure 4.5: Sources of Volatile Organic Compounds in Jefferson County from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

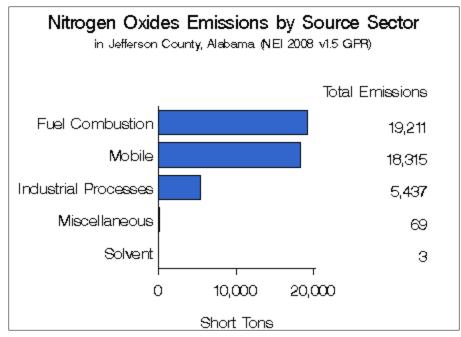


Figure 4.6: Sources of Nitrogen Oxides in Jefferson County from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

 O_3 is a pulmonary irritant. Symptoms include irritation of the eyes, nose, throat and lungs as well as reduced lung function, asthma, stuffy nose, reduced resistance to colds and other infections. O_3 also damages plants, trees, rubber, and fabrics.

Monitoring Data

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a primary 8-hour standard for O_3 . The 8-hour standard is set at 0.075 ppm. The annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average concentration is averaged over 3 years (design value) to determine compliance with the standard [73 FR 16436, March 27, 2008].

The O_3 monitoring season in the Birmingham area begins on March 1st and ends on October 31st. In 2012, the O_3 monitoring network consisted of 10 monitoring sites throughout the Birmingham area (9 in Jefferson County and 1 in Shelby County). There were 38 daily maximum 8-hour averages that were greater than 0.075 ppm during 2012 (Table 4.3). The design values for O_3 are based upon the most recent 3 years of data. During the most recent 3 years of monitoring data (2010-2012), 4 monitors (Hoover, Leeds, McAdory, and Tarrant) were above the 8-hour standard (Figure 4.7; Appendix). There has been a general downward trend in O_3 levels since the mid 1990s. The Birmingham area was designated as attainment of the 8-hour O_3 standard during 2012 based on 2008-2010 data [77 FR 30088, May 21, 2012].

			Daily Maxi	mum 8-Hoւ					
Site Name	Site ID	1st Max	2nd Max	3rd Max	4th Max	Obs > 0.075			
Corner	01-073-5003	0.076	0.073	0.072	0.071	1			
Fairfield	01-073-1003	0.082	0.079	0.077	0.077	5			
Helena ¹	01-117-0004	0.085	0.084	0.081	0.076	4			
Hoover	01-073-2006	0.090	0.084	0.077	0.074	3			
Leeds	01-073-1010	0.094	0.082	0.081	0.080	4			
McAdory	01-073-1005	0.083	0.080	0.079	0.078	4			
N. Birmingham	01-073-0023	0.086	0.086	0.080	0.079	6			
Pinson	01-073-5002	0.088	0.082	0.081	0.075	3			
Providence	01-073-1009	0.083	0.079	0.075	0.073	2			
Tarrant	01-073-6002	0.090	0.089	0.085	0.084	6			

Table 4.3: Highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone averages (in ppm) and number of 8-hour averageobservations exceeding the NAAQS in 2012.

¹ Monitor operated by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management

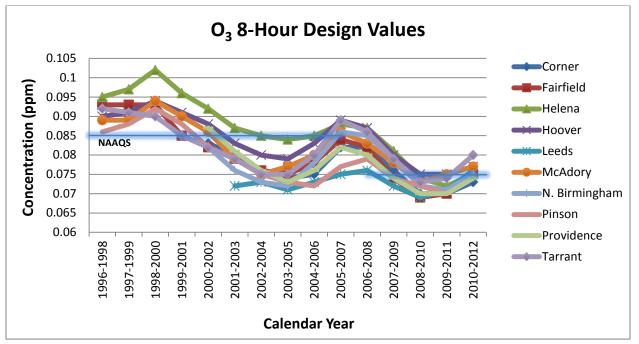


Figure 4.7: 8-hour ozone design values (in ppm) for 1996-2012. The highlighted line indicates the NAAQS, which is 0.075 ppm (previously set at 0.085 ppm, in which 0.084 ppm rounded to 0.080 ppm).

4.4 Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀)

General Information

Particulate matter consists of solid particles and liquid droplets. Particulate matter includes dust, soot and other tiny bits of materials released into and moving around in the air. $PM_{2.5}$ consists of fine particles that are less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers in diameter, and PM_{10} consists of coarse particles that are less than or equal to 10 micrometers in diameter. These are used as the basis for the ambient air quality standard. PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ are both subsets of the total airborne particles in the air.

Particulate matter can be emitted directly from a source (primary) or forms from chemical reactions in the atmosphere (secondary). Primary sources include burning of diesel fuels by trucks, buses and other diesel engines; incineration of garbage; mixing and application of fertilizers and pesticides; road construction; vehicular tire wear and exhaust; windblown dust; operation of fireplaces and wood stoves; forest fires; and industrial processes (such as steel making and mining operations). Secondary formation of particulate matter occurs with the presence of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxides that are emitted from automobiles, industries, and power plants. Figures 4.8 and 4.9 show the emission sources of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, respectively, in Jefferson County.

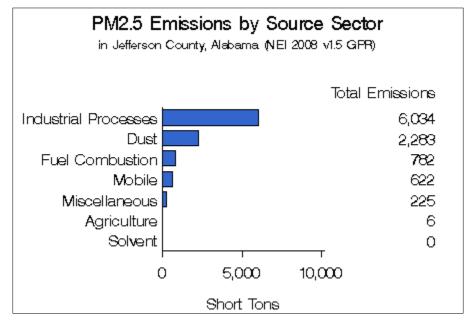


Figure 4.8: Sources of PM_{2.5} in Jefferson County 2008 from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

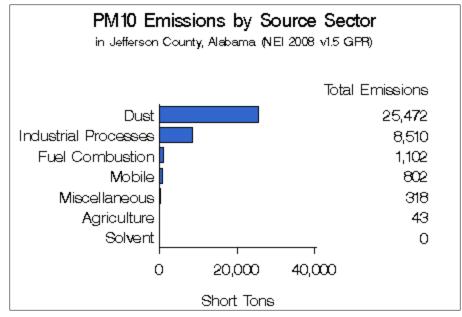


Figure 4.9: Sources of PM₁₀ in Jefferson County from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ are such small particles that they are able to penetrate deep into the lungs and can possibly get into the bloodstream, especially PM_{2.5}. Therefore, these particles can affect the function of both the lungs and the heart. Exposure to high concentrations of particulate pollution causes eye, nose and throat irritation, aggravation of chronic lung disease, and symptoms of heart and respiratory problems. Particulates are the main source of haze that reduces visibility.

Monitoring Data

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established two primary standards for $PM_{2.5}$. The annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard is set at 15 µg/m³ and the annual mean is averaged over 3 years (design value) to determine compliance with the standard. The 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard is set at 35 µg/m³ and the 98th percentile concentrations are averaged over 3 years (design value) to determine compliance with the standard [71 FR 61144, October 17, 2006].

In 2012, the $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring network consisted of 4 monitoring sites. No monitoring sites exceeded the annual or 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standards during 2012 (Table 4.4). The design values for both $PM_{2.5}$ standards are based upon the most recent 3 years of data. During the most recent 3 years of monitoring data (2010-2012), all monitors were in compliance with both the annual (Figure 4.10; Appendix) or 24hour (Figure 4.11; Appendix) standards. There has been a downward trend in $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations since the late 1990s and are now below both standards. The Birmingham area was designated as nonattainment of the annual PM_{2.5} standard in 2005 [70 FR 944, January 5, 2005]. In May 2011, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) submitted a request to EPA to redesignate the Birmingham area to attainment of the annual PM_{2.5} standard. A month later in June the EPA made a determination that the Birmingham area had attaining data for the annual PM2.5 standard [76 FR 38023, June 29, 2011]. The EPA proposed to approve the redesignation request in November 2011 [76 FR 70078, November 10, 2011] and has not issued a final rule on this through 2012. The Birmingham area was designated as nonattainment of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard in 2009 [74 FR 58688, November 13, 2009]. In March 2010, ADEM submitted a request to EPA to redesignate the Birmingham area to attainment of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard. Later that year in September EPA made a determination that the Birmingham area had attaining data for the 24-hour PM2.5 standard [75 FR 57186, September 20, 2010]. The EPA proposed to approve the redesignation request in November 2011 [76 FR 70091, November 10, 2011] and has not issued a final rule on this through 2012.

Table 4.4: 24-hour 98th percentile and annual mean of $PM_{2.5}$ (in $\mu g/m^3$) and number of 24-hour averageconcentrations exceeding the NAAQS for 2012.

Site Name	Site ID	98th Percentile	Obs > 35	Annual Mean
Leeds	01-073-1010	20.8	0	10.5
McAdory	01-073-1005	20.8	0	10.1
N. Birmingham	01-073-0023	22.6	0	11.9
Wylam	01-073-2003	22.7	0	11.2

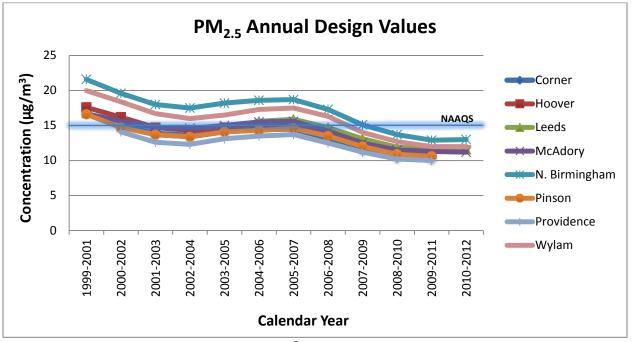


Figure 4.10: Annual PM_{2.5} design values (in μ g/m³) for 1999-2012. The highlighted blue line indicates the NAAQS, which is 15 μ g/m³.

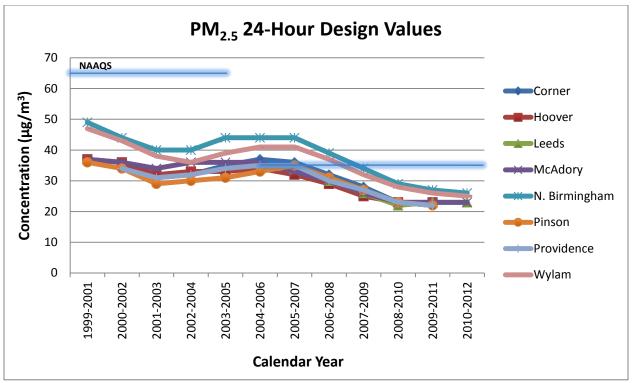


Figure 4.11: 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ design values (in $\mu g/m^3$) for 1999-2012. The highlighted line indicates the NAAQS, which is 35 $\mu g/m^3$ (previously set at 65 $\mu g/m^3$).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a primary 24-hour standard for PM_{10} . The 24-hour PM_{10} standard is set at 150 μ g/m³. The estimated number of days with a maximum 24-hour concentration above the standard is not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years to determine compliance with the standard [71 FR 61144, October 17, 2006]. If a site reports concentrations on a daily basis, then the actual number of days that exceed the standard is equal to the estimated number of days that exceed the standard. When a site does not report concentrations on a daily basis, a calculation determines the estimated number of exceedances.

In 2012, the PM_{10} monitoring network consisted of 4 monitoring sites. No monitoring sites exceeded the 24-hour PM_{10} standard during 2012 (Table 4.5). Compliance with the 24-hour PM_{10} standard is based upon the most recent 3 years of data. During the most recent 3 years of monitoring data (2010-2012), all monitors were in compliance with the 24-hour (Figure 4.12; Appendix) standard. There has been a downward trend in PM_{10} concentrations since the early 2000s and are now well below the standard. The Birmingham area is designated as attainment of the standard for PM_{10} .

		24-hour Average							
Site Name	Site ID	1st Max	2nd Max	3rd Max	4th Max	Obs > 150	Estimated Obs > 150		
Fairfield	01-073-1003	36	35	33	32	0	0		
Leeds	01-073-1010	49	38	36	36	0	0		
Northside*	01-073-0034	35	34	34	34	0	0		
Tarrant	01-073-6002	39	36	34	31	0	0		
Wylam	01-073-2003	69	46	43	43	0	0		

Table 4.5: Highest 24-hour average PM_{10} concentrations (in $\mu g/m^3$) and actual number and estimatednumber of 24-hour average observations exceeding the NAAQS for 2012.

*Incomplete data set; therefore it is not used for compliance with the NAAQS for 2012.

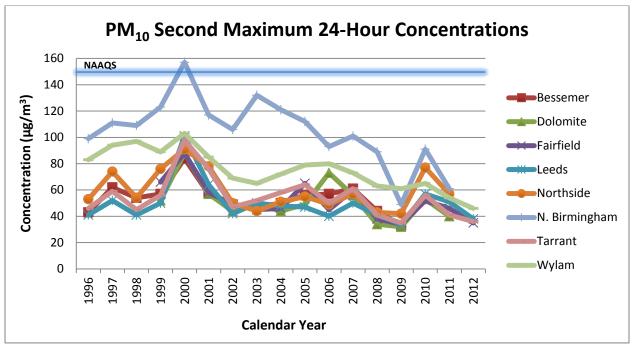


Figure 4.12: The second maximum 24-hour average concentrations of PM_{10} for 1996-2012. The highlighted line indicates the NAAQs, which is 150 μ g/m³.

4.5 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

General Information

Sulfur dioxide (SO_2) is a colorless gas formed during combustion of sulfur-containing fuels such as coal and oil. Partly converted by photochemical and catalytic reactions in the atmosphere, sulfur dioxide becomes sulfur trioxide, sulfuric acid, and various sulfate particles that can also have adverse health and welfare effects.

The major man-made source of SO_2 emissions are from coal-burning power plants and industrial facilities. The burning of sulfur-containing fuels from locomotives, large ships, and non-road equipment allows the sulfur to be oxidized to form SO_2 , which can react with other pollutants to form aerosols. Of the natural emissions, most are hydrogen sulfide released from the decay of organic matter or sulfate particles released in sea spray. Figure 4.13 shows the emission sources of SO_2 in Jefferson County.

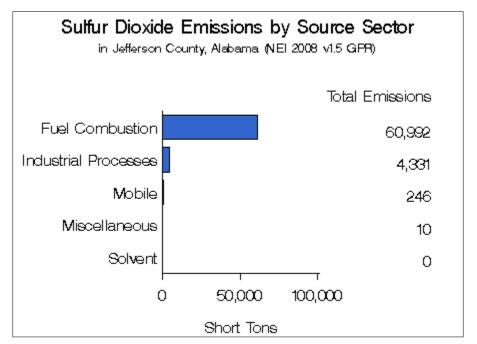


Figure 4.13: Sources of SO₂ in Jefferson County from the 2008 National Emissions Inventory (from EPA's State and County Emission Summaries).

 SO_2 is an irritant to the respiratory system and is an aggravation of existing respiratory, cardiovascular, and pulmonary disease. Damage to lungs occurs with deep inhalation of particles absorbing SO_2 . SO_2 plays an important role in the production of acid rain, which causes the acidification of soil, lakes, and streams and damages trees. Acid rain also erodes stone used in buildings, statues, and monuments.

Monitoring Data

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established a primary 1-hour standard for SO₂. The 1-hour standard is set at 75 ppb. The 99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations are averaged over 3 years (design value) to determine compliance with the standard [75 FR 35520, June 22, 2010].

In 2012, the SO₂ monitoring network consisted of 2 monitoring sites. No monitoring sites exceeded the 1-hour standard during 2012 (Figure 4.14; Table 4.6). The design values for SO₂ are based upon the most recent 3 years of data. During the most recent 3 years of monitoring data (2010-2012), the design value for the Fairfield monitor (the North Birmingham monitor only has 2 years of data so a design value cannot be calculated) was below the 1-hour standard (Appendix). SO₂ levels are currently well below the standard at both monitoring sites. As of the end of 2012, the Birmingham area does not have a final designation for the current SO₂ standard. In a letter to EPA [May 25, 2011], the Alabama Department of Environmental Management recommended that Jefferson County be designated as attainment of the SO₂ standard.

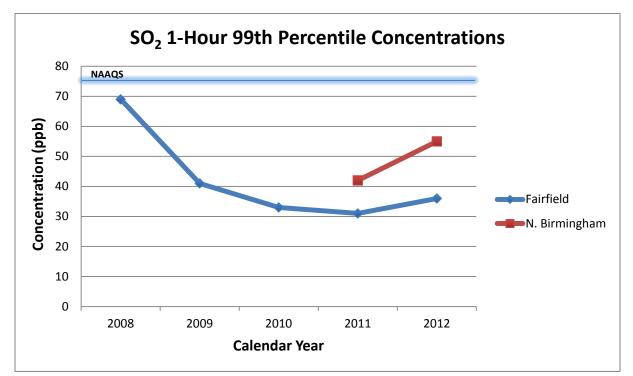


Figure 4.14: Sulfur Dioxide 1-hour 99th percentile concentrations for 2008-2012. The highlighted line indicates the NAAQS, which is 75 ppb.

Site Name	Site ID	1st Max	2nd Max	99th Percentile	Obs > 75
Fairfield	01-073-1003	58.7	37.6	35.7	0
N. Birmingham	01-073-0023	68.8	56.5	55.1	0

Table 4.6: Highest 1-hour average sulfur dioxide concentrations (in ppb), the 99th percentile of 1-hour average concentrations, and number of 1-hour average observations exceeding the NAAQS for 2012.

5. AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI)

The air quality index (AQI) is a standard way to report daily air quality and was developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The AQI explains how clean or polluted the air is and the associated health effects that might be of concern. The higher the AQI value is, the greater the amount of air pollution and health concern. The AQI is based on the pollutants for which primary short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been established by the EPA: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide.

As shown in Figure 5.1, the AQI is scaled on a range from 0 to 500 with values above 100 corresponding to the level at which the pollutant is considered unhealthy. Air quality alerts are issued for the Birmingham area when an AQI value is forecast to be above 100 since this corresponds to the level a pollutant is over the air quality standard. The overall daily air quality of the area is based upon the highest AQI value for any pollutant at any monitoring site within the Birmingham area.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0-50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51-100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Members of sensitive groups (children, older adults, and those with lung or heart disease) may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151-200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects. Members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	301-500	The entire population is more likely to be affected.

Figure 5.1: The Air Quality Index

An air quality forecast for the Birmingham area, based on the AQI, is done for every single day of the year by the Jefferson County Department of Health. Fine particle pollution ($PM_{2.5}$) is forecast year-round and ozone is forecast during the warm season. The forecast is available by phone at (205) 933-0583,

online at <u>www.jcdh.org</u>, via email by signing up at <u>http://birmingham.enviroflash.info</u>, and on Twitter @JCDH_AirQuality.

The AQI value for each day of the year is based on the pollutant that had the highest AQI value on that day for monitors within the Birmingham area. The AQI value is based on all monitors in Jefferson County that measure CO, O_3 , SO_2 , $PM_{2.5}$, and PM_{10} and the Helena monitor in Shelby County that measures O_3 . Figure 5.2 shows a percentage of days in 2012 within each AQI range for the Birmingham area.

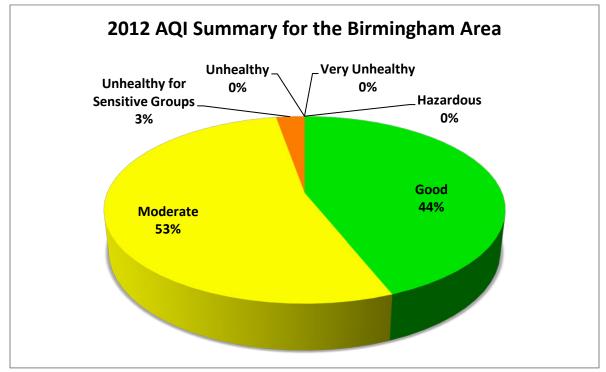


Figure 5.2: The percentage of days in each Air Quality Index (AQI) level based on the pollutant (CO, O_3 , SO₂, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀) that had the highest AQI value each day for the Birmingham area in 2012.

6.1 Compliance Activities

Permitted and non-permitted sources in Jefferson County are subject to the *Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations*. Compliance for non-permitted sources involves observations by field patrol and permitted sources are subject to regular compliance monitoring by Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) and Air Pollution Control Engineers (APCE). Minor and Synthetic Minor permitted air pollution sources receive a Full Compliance Evaluation (FCE) by the assigned EHS or APCE at least once every five years. Major permitted air pollution sources receive an FCE at least every two years by an APCE. A FCE includes a thorough review of relevant records and an on-site inspection of the facility. The APCE or EHS prepares a comprehensive inspection report that is placed in the facility's file maintained by the Air Pollution Control Program (APCP). Further, emissions for all permitted facilities are calculated annually to ensure compliance with their permit. During 2012, the APCP performed 21 visible emissions evaluations, 21 stack test observations, conducted 102 permitted inspections, and issued 3 Notices of Violations. The APCP investigated a total of 266 air pollution complaints in 2012 (Figure 6.1), of which 39 were for permitted facilities. When compared to 2011, there was a decrease in complaint investigations in 2012 as a result of fewer complaints received.

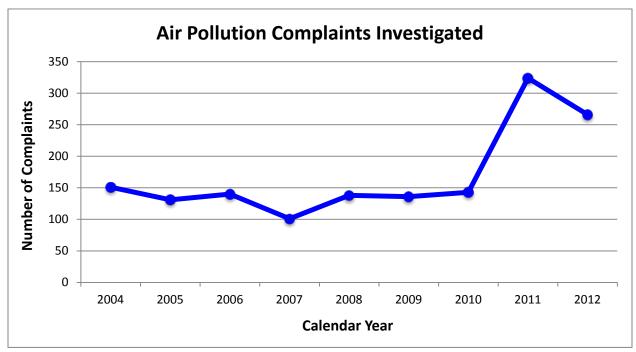


Figure 6.1: The number of air pollution complaints investigated for 2004-2012.

6.2 Open Burning

The APCP regulates open burning due to smoke nuisance, as well as particulate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emissions. Generally, open burning is prohibited except under specific circumstances allowed by the Department. All open burning for construction and right-of-way clearing is prohibited during the months of May through October. The issuing of open burning authorizations for land-clearing operations requires a site evaluation by an EHS to determine if the material and circumstances meet regulation requirements and to set distance restrictions for the burning site. During 2012, the APCP issued 20 open burning authorizations, which continues a downward trend over the last nine years (Figure 6.2).

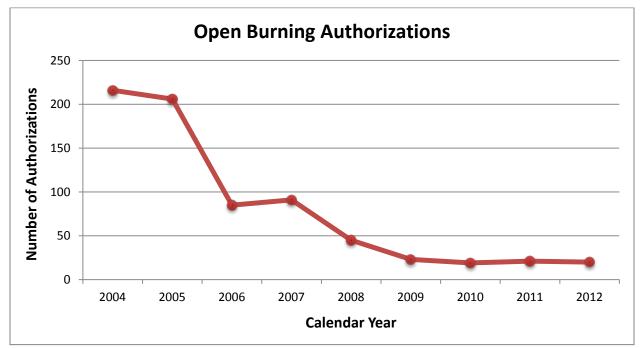


Figure 6.2: The number of open burning authorizations for 2004-2012.

The APCP also investigates complaints regarding open burning. An Advisory Notice or Official Notice of Violation is issued if the investigation determines a violation of the regulations. During 2012 the APCP investigated 134 open burning complaints (Figure 6.3) and wrote 72 Notices of Violation.

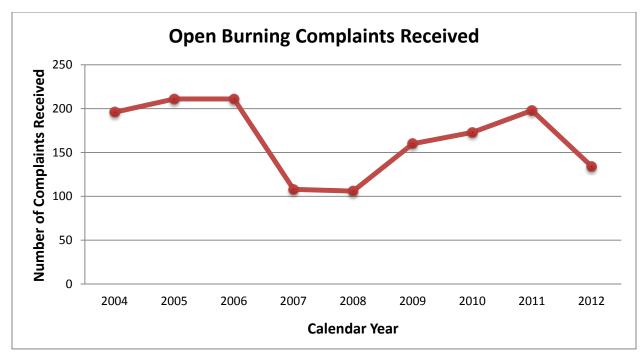


Figure 6.3: The number of open complaints received for 2004-2012.

6.3 Gasoline Dispensing Facilities and Tanker Trucks

The APCP regulates gasoline-dispensing facilities and tanker trucks due to emissions of VOCs. Gasolinedispensing facilities must have and use Stage I Vapor Balance equipment while filling storage tanks. Gasoline tanker trucks are required to recover gasoline vapors while filling or emptying the truck vessels. Gasoline tanker trucks must certify vapor tightness annually and display an Air Sticker issued by the APCP. Regulatory activities for this segment of the gasoline marketing industry are performed by EHS. During 2012, the APCP issued 710 Air Stickers.

6.4 Indoor Air Quality

The APCP acts as an information and referral resource regarding indoor air quality problems. Indoor air quality complaints in institutional buildings (i.e., hospitals and schools) are investigated to a limited degree. Owners are often referred to other resources for more complex investigations or solutions. Individuals complaining about residential indoor air quality problems are also referred to other resources for additional information. The APCP has no regulations or enforcement policies regarding indoor air quality at this time. Complainants may be referred to other agencies like the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, if appropriate. During 2012, the APCP investigated 4 indoor air complaints.

6.5 Asbestos Abatement

Asbestos is a mineral fiber that is used in thousands of consumer products, many of them building materials. Breathing asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer and other respiratory diseases. The EPA has banned some uses of asbestos but has been unsuccessful in its efforts to expand the ban to most other asbestos-containing products.

Without proper precautions, renovations, demolitions, and even routine maintenance can cause asbestos-containing materials to release microscopic asbestos fibers into the air we breathe. Undisturbed asbestos materials can be safely maintained if they are kept in good condition. Before renovating or demolishing a structure, it should be checked for asbestos by a qualified professional and the removal must be done by a certified contractor.

The APCP enforces the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) for asbestos during renovation and demolition operations. An Environmental Health Program Supervisor for Field Services serves as the Asbestos Abatement Coordinator for Jefferson County and is responsible for the regulatory activities in this program area. During 2012, there were 214 regulated asbestos abatement or demolition notifications received and reviewed, of which 119 were subject to Federal asbestos standards. Regarding asbestos, there were 79 inspections conducted, 12 complaints investigated, and 0 Notices of Violation issued. Some of these statistics during the last nine years can be found in Figure 6.4.

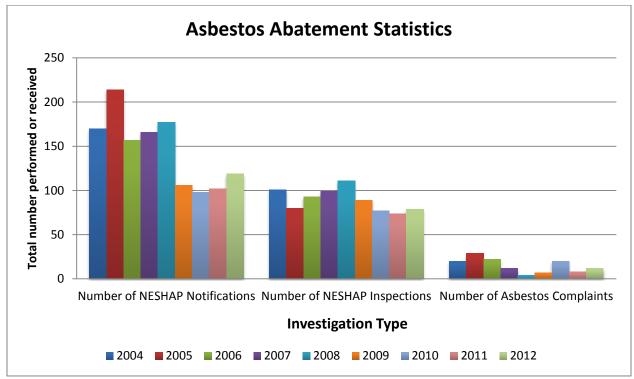


Figure 6.4: The number of NESHAP notifications, NESHAP inspections, and asbestos complaints for 2004-2012.

6.6 Dry Cleaners

The APCP regulates dry cleaners in Jefferson County that use perchloroethylene. Perchloroethylene, also known as perc, is a solvent used in dry cleaning. Approximately 28,000 U.S. dry cleaners use perc, which is the only air toxic emitted from the dry cleaning process (24 facilities located in Jefferson County). The APCP inspects freestanding small dry cleaners commonly located in a strip shopping center or as a stand-alone building. These dry cleaners are classified as "area sources," which means they emit less than 10 tons of perc each year. These dry cleaners are covered by emissions standards known as generally available control technology (GACT) standards. During 2012 there were 24 inspections of dry cleaning facilities in Jefferson County.

Permit applications must be submitted prior to the construction of new sources that have the potential to emit air pollutants and before the modification of existing air pollution sources. The type of emission source determines the information required in the application. The Engineering Section evaluates the degree of air pollution control required for all emission points within each industrial/commercial facility. Field Services Section staff are responsible for processing all permit applications for gasoline tanker trucks and dispensing facilities. Using established emission factors to ensure allowable air emission standards, calculations are made to determine the estimated emissions for the proposed source. During 2012 air permits were issued for 102 new, renewed, or modified sources (Table 7.1).

· · · · ·	, ,
Source Type	Number of Permits Issued
Industrial/Commercial	49
Gasoline Tanker Trucks	53

Table 7.1: Number of permits issued by source type in 2012.

The Air Pollution Control Program issues three types of permits for industrial and commercial sources (Table 7.2): Title V Major, Synthetic Minor, and Minor. Title V Major Source Operating Permits are issued under Chapter 18 of the *Jefferson County Board of Health Air Pollution Control Rules and Regulations* (*Rules and Regulations*) for sources that have the potential to emit 10 tons per year (tpy) or more of any one hazardous air pollutants, 25 tpy or more of any combination of hazardous air pollutants, or 100 tpy or more of any regulated air pollutant. Qualified sources may apply for and receive a Synthetic Minor Operating Permit under Chapter 17 of the Regulations if the source's potential to emit is restricted to less than a major source threshold. Minor sources receive air permits under Chapter 2 of the *Rules and Regulations*.

	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Type of Permit	Number of Permits Issued
Title V Major	6
Synthetic Minor	15
Minor	28

Table 7.2: Number of industria	al and commercial r	nermits issued hy	nermit type in 2012
Table 7.2. Number of muustin	ai anu commerciai p	Jerminus Issueu by	permit type m 2012.

Carbon Monoxide

	Second Maximum I nour Average concentrations (in ppm)																
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
East Thomas	7.1	7.7	5.4	6.7	5.6	6.2	5.5	4.1	3.8	4.1	3.8	3.1	3.0	3.7	2.5	6.0	1.9
Fairfield	11.2	8.5	8.7	9.0	8.5	12.5	7.0	7.4	8.6	6.1	6.2	3.8	6.1	7.1	6.5	4.1	5.1
N. Birmingham																1.5	2.0
Shuttlesworth	17.8	22.3	23.4	32.3	23.6	33.5	17.7	9.1	15.0	20.9	26.3	18.7	15.9	12.1	1.7	1.4	2.4

Second Maximum 1-Hour Average Concentrations (in ppm)

								<u> </u>			<u>\ </u>						
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
East Thomas	5.7	6.1	5.4	5.0	4.5	4.8	4.1	3.2	2.9	3.1	3.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	1.9	5.5	1.6
Fairfield	4.9	5.9	4.4	4.4	3.7	6.3	3.7	3.1	3.9	2.5	3.1	2.0	2.2	2.9	2.2	2.1	1.7
N. Birmingham																1.2	1.4
Shuttlesworth	10.5	9.5	12.1	19.8	16.3	24.3	11.7	4.5	8.2	8.8	9.5	8.6	8.1	6.7	1.1	0.9	1.0

Values in red indicate an exceedance of the NAAQS.

Ozone

Fourth-Highest Daily Maximum 8-Hour Average Concentrations (in ppm)

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Corner					0.087	0.081	0.083	0.077	0.068	0.077	0.081	0.090	0.077	0.062	0.072	0.076	0.071
Fairfield	0.093	0.086	0.101	0.092	0.086	0.078	0.084	0.075	0.070	0.081	0.084	0.088	0.074	0.062	0.073	0.075	0.077
Helena	0.095	0.084	0.107	0.100	0.099	0.089	0.090	0.083	0.084	0.085	0.087	0.094	0.082	0.068	0.074	0.076	0.076
Hoover	0.095	0.083	0.094	0.097	0.092	0.086	0.086	0.077	0.077	0.085	0.089	0.093	0.079	0.069	0.077	0.080	0.074
Leeds						0.071	0.077	0.070	0.073	0.071	0.075	0.081	0.072	0.065	0.072	0.077	0.080
McAdory	0.093	0.079	0.096	0.092	0.094	0.084	0.081	0.073	0.073	0.085	0.084	0.091	0.075	0.070	0.074	0.081	0.078
N. Birmingham					0.085	0.079	0.082	0.068	0.070	0.079	0.086	0.093	0.078	0.068	0.070	0.077	0.079
Pinson	0.089	0.078	0.092	0.096	0.089	0.080	0.078	0.081	0.068	0.072	0.078	0.081	0.079	0.063	0.075	0.074	0.075
Providence					0.088	0.086	0.088	0.070	0.070	0.079	0.081	0.087	0.074	0.061	0.075	0.076	0.073
Tarrant	0.094	0.088	0.095	0.092	0.085	0.080	0.083	0.075	0.068	0.084	0.088	0.095	0.076	0.066	0.077	0.079	0.084

8-Hour Design Values (in ppm)

	1996-	1997-	1998-	1999-	2000-	2001-	2002-	2003-	2004-	2005-	2006-	2007-	2008-	2009-	2010-
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Corner					0.083	0.080	0.076	0.074	0.075	0.082	0.082	0.076	0.070	0.070	0.073
Fairfield	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.085	0.082	0.079	0.076	0.075	0.078	0.084	0.082	0.074	0.069	0.070	0.075
Helena	0.095	0.097	0.102	0.096	0.092	0.087	0.085	0.084	0.085	0.088	0.087	0.081	0.074	0.072	0.075
Hoover	0.090	0.091	0.094	0.091	0.088	0.083	0.080	0.079	0.083	0.089	0.087	0.080	0.075	0.075	0.077
Leeds						0.072	0.073	0.071	0.073	0.075	0.076	0.072	0.069	0.071	0.076
McAdory	0.089	0.089	0.094	0.090	0.086	0.079	0.075	0.077	0.080	0.086	0.083	0.078	0.073	0.075	0.077
N. Birmingham					0.082	0.076	0.073	0.072	0.078	0.086	0.085	0.079	0.072	0.071	0.075
Pinson	0.086	0.088	0.092	0.088	0.082	0.079	0.075	0.073	0.072	0.077	0.079	0.074	0.072	0.070	0.074
Providence					0.087	0.081	0.076	0.073	0.076	0.082	0.080	0.074	0.070	0.070	0.074
Tarrant	0.092	0.091	0.090	0.085	0.082	0.079	0.075	0.075	0.080	0.089	0.086	0.079	0.073	0.074	0.080

Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5})

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Corner		16.8	14.7	13.3	13.5	13.7	15.4	14.5	13.9	11.5	9.7	10.7	10.8	
Hoover	18.7	18.5	15.6	14.4	14.1	14.4	15.7	15.3	14.3	12.1	10.3	11.8	11.2	
Leeds						14.7	16.7	15.3	15.7	13.2	10.3	12.1	12.3	10.5
McAdory	18.4	16.9	15.0	15.0	14.1	14.6	16.3	15.6	14.9	12.2	10.4	11.8	11.7	10.1
N. Birmingham	23.4	22.3	19.1	17.5	17.4	17.7	19.6	18.4	18.0	15.5	11.7	13.8	13.3	11.9
Pinson	19.1	16.5	14.3	13.3	13.5	13.5	15.2	14.3	14.3	11.9	9.9	10.9	10.8	
Providence		16.7	13.3	12.3	12.2	12.4	14.5	13.4	13.3	10.8	9.6	10.1	10.3	
Wylam	21.3	20.7	17.7	16.6	15.6	15.9	17.9	18.0	16.4	14.4	11.3	12.4	12.3	11.2

Annual Average Values (in μg/m³)

Annual Design Values (in μg/m³)

							10. 1					
	1999-	2000-	2001-	2002-	2003-	2004-	2005-	2006-	2007-	2008-	2009-	2010-
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Corner		14.9	13.8	13.5	14.2	14.5	14.6	13.3	11.7	10.6	10.4	
Hoover	17.6	16.2	14.7	14.3	14.7	15.1	15.1	13.9	12.2	11.4	11.1	
Leeds						15.6	15.9	14.7	13.1	11.9	11.6	11.6
McAdory	16.7	15.6	14.7	14.6	15.0	15.5	15.6	14.2	12.5	11.5	11.3	11.2
N. Birmingham	21.6	19.6	18.0	17.5	18.2	18.6	18.7	17.3	15.1	13.7	12.9	13.0
Pinson	16.6	14.7	13.7	13.4	14.1	14.3	14.6	13.5	12.0	10.9	10.6	
Providence		14.1	12.6	12.3	13.1	13.5	13.7	12.5	11.2	10.2	10.0	
Wylam	20.0	18.4	16.7	16.0	16.5	17.3	17.5	16.3	14.0	12.7	12.0	12.0

Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) continued

									-					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Corner		39.3	32.3	33.3	28.6	34.5	41.8	33.4	32.5	30.0	21.3	18.3	26.6	
Hoover	39.2	39.9	32.2	34.4	29.9	36.1	34.3	31.9	29.8	25.9	20.4	21.6	25.5	
Leeds						31.8	37.6	32.5	33.0	24.6	19.1	22.3	26.1	20.8
McAdory	41.1	38.1	32.9	35.7	33.7	37.3	35.5	33.9	30.9	25.8	21.3	22.7	26.2	20.8
N. Birmingham	52.7	52.5	42.8	37.6	39.1	42.3	50.3	39.6	42.8	33.5	24.4	28.7	27.9	22.6
Pinson	19.1	40.3	28.7	32.7	26.7	29.3	37.2	33.2	34.2	26.4	21.3	20.0	23.6	
Providence		38.5	29.7	34.2	29.5	32.4	39.8	32.7	31.4	27.3	22.1	18.4	26.6	
Wylam	46.9	50.4	42.7	35.8	35.3	37.8	44.5	40.3	37.7	33.5	25.2	25.4	25.9	22.7

24-Hour 98th Percentile Values (in μg/m³)

24-Hour Design Values (in $\mu g/m^3$)

[1000	2000	2001	2002	2002		2005	2000	2007	2000	2000	2010
	1999-	2000-	2001-	2002-	2003-	2004-	2005-	2006-	2007-	2008-	2009-	2010-
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Corner		35	31	32	35	37	36	32	28	23	22	
Hoover	37	36	32	33	33	34	32	29	25	23	23	
Leeds						34	34	30	26	22	23	23
McAdory	37	36	34	36	36	36	33	30	26	23	23	23
N. Birmingham	49	44	40	40	44	44	44	39	34	29	27	26
Pinson	36	34	29	30	31	33	35	31	27	23	22	
Providence		34	31	32	34	35	35	30	27	23	22	
Wylam	47	43	38	36	39	41	41	37	32	28	26	25

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)

											· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Bessemer	43	62	54	57	84	57	49	47	50	56	57	61	44	33			
Dolomite				52	88	57	44	49	44	49	73	56	34	32	53	40	
Fairfield				66	88	58	49	45	46	65	45	60	38	34	52	46	35
Leeds	41	52	41	50	101	64	42	50	48	47	40	50	41	34	57	51	38
Northside	53	74	54	76	91	78	50	44	51	55	49	57	43	42	77	57	
N. Birmingham	99	111	109	123	157	117	106	132	121	112	93	101	89	49	91	61	
Tarrant	46	59	45	56	98	76	47	52	58	64	50	61	41	35	56	41	36
Wylam	83	94	97	89	103	85	69	65	72	79	80	73	63	61	65	54	46

24-Hour Second Maximum 24-Hour Average Concentrations (in μg/m³)

Sulfur Dioxide

1-Hour 99th Percentile Values (in ppb)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Fairfield	69	41	33	31	36
N. Birmingham				42	55

1-Hour Design Values (in ppb)

	2008- 2010	2009- 2011	2010- 2012
Fairfield	48	35	33
N. Birmingham			