



New Mexico Environment Department

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, PRESERVING THE ENCHANTMENT

Air Quality Bureau

Ozone Monitoring in New Mexico

The Air Quality Bureau (AQB) operates 14 ozone monitors throughout New Mexico, (see Figure 1) with some operating since the late 1970s. The current health-based standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is .070 parts per million (ppm). Compliance with the standard is determined by calculating a 3-year average of the annual 4th highest 8-hour average recorded at each monitoring site. Measured ozone levels in New Mexico typically exceed .070 ppm several days each summer, depending on weather conditions.

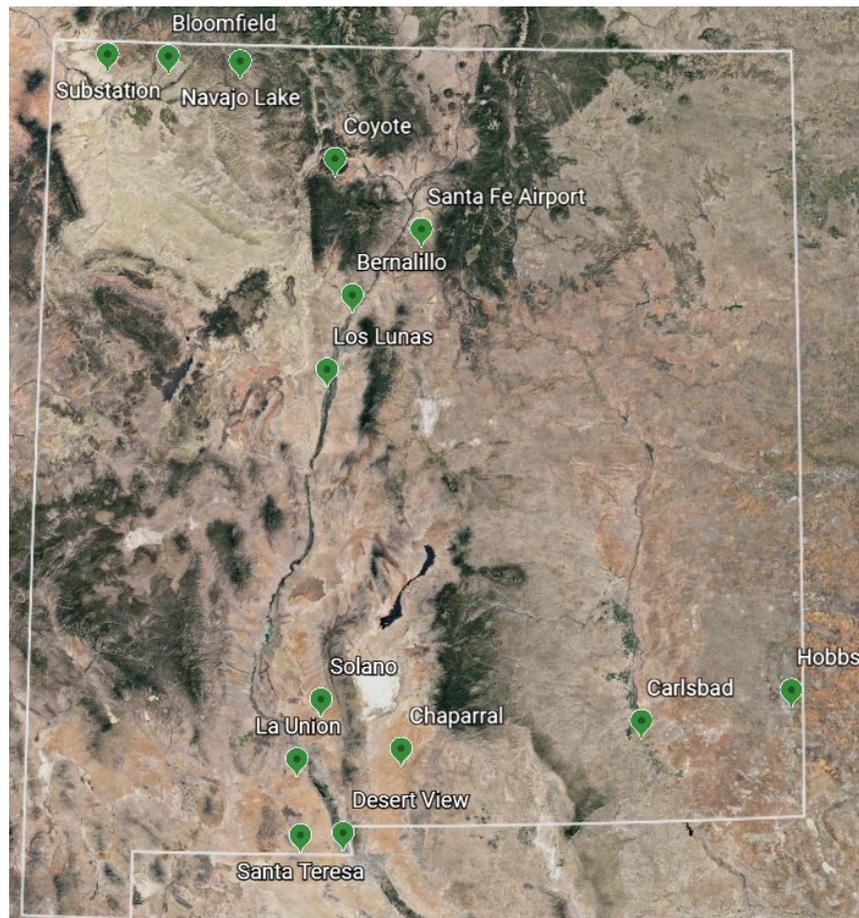


Figure 1. AQB Ozone monitors operated in the State.

Except for a small portion of Doña Ana County near the city of Sunland Park, all of New Mexico is currently classified as “attainment” for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The Sunland Park area’s ozone levels are largely influenced by sources beyond the control of the State or its residents. Weather conditions and variations can also have a significant impact on local ozone levels.

Although the health-based ozone standard is set at .070 ppm, New Mexico law requires that New Mexico Environment Department develop plans to reduce ozone once monitored design values reach 95% of the standard (.067 ppm). Several monitors in New Mexico have reached this threshold, and the Ozone Attainment Initiative (OAI) is AQB’s effort to comply with this state law.

Figure 2 shows the design value trends for counties throughout New Mexico. Some counties have multiple monitoring sites, but the sites with the highest design values are presented below. The initial focus for the OAI will be centered around these counties.

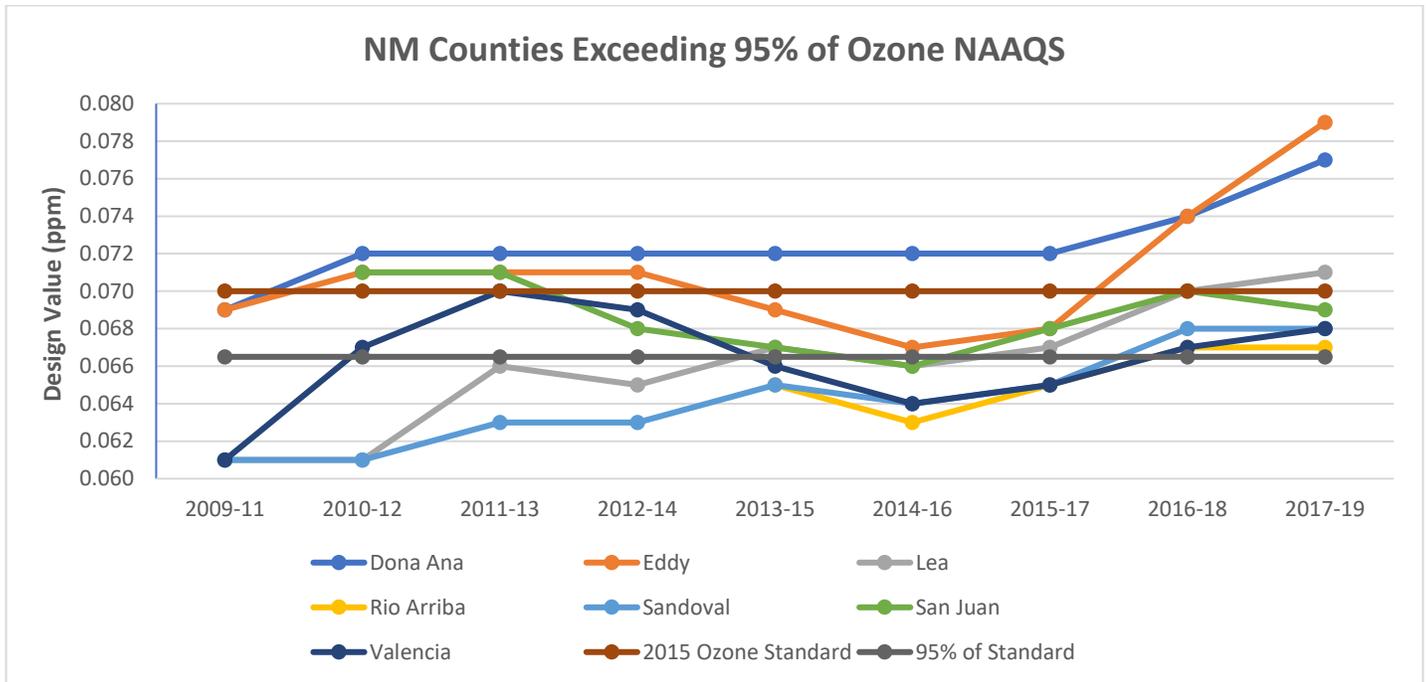


Figure 2: Design values for counties exceeding 95% of the 2015 Ozone NAAQS

AQB staff will analyze sources in counties adjacent to those exceeding the 95% threshold to determine whether they are significant contributors to high ozone levels in the OAI target areas.

For more information:

Stay informed and be part of the ozone conversation in New Mexico -- We're listening. To get the most current information, sign up for email alerts at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMED/subscriber/new> and visit our website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/o3-initiative/>.

Contact us:

OAI Project Manager

Robert Spillers, robert.spillers@state.nm.us, (505) 476-4324

or

nm.oai@state.nm.us