



**pennsylvania**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Bureau of Air Quality**



# **Proposed 2023 Ambient Air Quality Annual Monitoring Network Plan**

**Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee**

**August 17, 2023**

**Harrisburg, PA**

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Richard Negrin, Secretary

# ▶ Annual Network Plan Requirements

Federal law requires state, local and tribal agencies to submit an annual monitoring network plan. Among other details the network plan must include:

- A statement of purpose for each monitor along with evidence that siting and operation of each monitor meets the necessary requirements
- The street address and geographical coordinates of each site
- The sampling and analysis method(s) for each measured parameter
- The operating schedules for each monitor
- The Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA), Combined Statistical Area (CSA), or other area represented by the monitor
- Any proposals to remove or move a monitoring station within a period of 18 months following plan submittal

# Summary of Changes in the 2022 Plan

In 2022, DEP changed the following within its ambient air monitoring network:

## Discontinued Sites

- Hookstown in Beaver County (ozone and sulfur dioxide)
- Moshannon in Clearfield County (ozone)
- Wilkes-Barre in Luzerne County (ozone)

# 2023 Proposed Changes

In 2023, DEP is proposing to change the following within its ambient air monitoring network:

## Discontinue Sites

- Conemaugh in Westmoreland County
- New Castle in Lawrence County
- Palmerton High School in Carbon County
- Towanda in Bradford County
- Tunkhannock in Wyoming County
- Collegeville and Evansburg United Methodist in Montgomery County
- Glasgow in Beaver County

# 2023 Proposed Changes Cont'd

Discontinue PM<sub>2.5</sub> at Holbrook in Greene County

Install NO<sub>2</sub> and VOC monitors at Bristol in Bucks County

# Conemaugh

- Conemaugh currently monitors for lead.
- The reasons for discontinuation:
  - Facility emissions are below 0.5 tpy threshold for required lead monitoring.
  - Ambient lead concentrations are below or near the reporting limit and well below the NAAQS which is  $0.15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .
  - Lead network design requirements will continue to be met.

# New Castle

- New Castle currently monitors for ozone.
- The reasons for discontinuation:
  - Ozone concentrations are not the highest in the area.
  - There are no ozone monitoring requirements.
  - The abundance of ozone monitors in close proximity to New Castle and Lawrence County.
  - The 32-year decline in ozone precursor emissions.

# Palmerton High School

- Palmerton High School was installed as a special study site, monitoring for lead and metals.
- The reason for discontinuation:
  - Ambient concentrations of lead and metals are significantly lower than concentrations at Palmerton and Palmerton Electric, DEP's long-established lead and metals sites, respectively.



# Towanda

- Towanda currently monitors for ozone, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and VOCs.
- The reasons for discontinuation:
  - Ozone and NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations are not the highest in the area.
  - There are no ozone and NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring requirements.
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations are below 80% of the NAAQS.
  - VOCs are below the state average.

# Tunkhannock

- Tunkhannock currently monitors for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and VOCs.
- The reasons for discontinuation:
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations are below 80% of the NAAQS.
  - VOCs are below the state average.

# ▶ Collegeville and United Methodist

- Collegeville and United Methodist currently monitor for VOCs.
- The reasons for discontinuation:
  - Local emission sources have modified their processes to limit the emission of trichloroethene, the main VOC of concern.
  - VOC concentrations have shown a significant decrease.

# Glasgow

- Glasgow was installed as a special study site, monitoring for metals.
- The reasons for discontinuation:
  - Measures were taken to reduce fugitive emissions.
  - There is a downward trend in metals concentrations.
  - Average concentrations for all metals remain below the Reference Concentration (RfC).

# Discontinuation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> at Holbrook

- Holbrook currently monitors for ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.
- The reason for discontinuation:
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations are below 80% of the NAAQS.

# Installation of NO<sub>2</sub> and VOCs at Bristol

- DEP is proposing to install NO<sub>2</sub> and VOCs at its Bristol site in Bucks County.
- Bristol currently monitors for ozone.
- The reasons for installation:
  - VOCs and NO<sub>2</sub> are precursors for ozone.



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bureau of Air Quality

**Ellen Davies**

**Environmental Group Manager**

**Air Quality Monitoring Division**

**(717) 787-9480**

**[elldavies@pa.gov](mailto:elldavies@pa.gov)**