

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Monday, June 30, 2025, 11:00 a.m.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Larry Burns, Rock Island County
Matthew Johnson, IA DNR
Lisa Perry, City of Rock Island

Others Present:

David Kovarik, Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Introductions and Consideration of December 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Minutes from the December 19, 2004 meeting were approved by consensus.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues – Matthew Johnson of Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided updates for Iowa. All monitors in Iowa are in attainment, and the governor sent recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that they be listed as such. The federally accepted standard for PM_{2.5} levels dropped to 9 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in May 2024. Per Mr. Johnson, the current administration has scheduled a review of the standard. While it is unlikely that the designation will be dropped entirely, there is a possibility that the standard may be raised to a higher threshold. When asked about wildfire particulates, Mr. Johnson stated that this only becomes critical when the particulates cause the design value to exceed the standard. Current conditions are not as bad as 2023 conditions. The process for requesting extraordinary circumstances is only undertaken when the standard is exceeded.
3. Local Status Report and Air Quality Issues – Lisa Perry of the City of Rock Island spoke about her concerns for exceedances with the Mill Street Water Treatment facility. The facility has had an air quality permit to operate its emergency generators and was required to do engine stack testing annually. After proving to Illinois EPA that the generators were for emergency use only, and providing multiple passing engine stack test results, the plant no longer has to submit these tests. Mr. Kovarik then reviewed the status report provided in the agenda packet. The report is attached to these minutes.
4. Grant and Funding Opportunities – There were no new grants or funding opportunities available at this time.
5. Other Business
 - a. The Task Force will monitor the Vehicle Technologies Offices for future funding opportunities.
 - b. Iowa is adding an excise tax on all EV charging that occurs within the state.
6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:26 a.m.

AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE
June 2025
Status Report on Bi-State Regional Commission Activities

Ozone Design Value: Design values are calculated as the average of the 4th highest annual daily maximum 8-hour value for the most recent three years. A design value greater than the associated standard signifies non-attainment.

8-hour standard - 70 ppb (3-year average of the 4th highest value)

- Iowa QC –67 ppb (2022-2024), up from 65 ppb (2021-2023)
- Illinois QC – 68 ppb (2021-2023), up from 63 ppb (2020-2022)

There have been no ozone exceedances in 2025 for Iowa or Illinois Quad Cities as of May 22nd.

PM_{2.5} Design Value: Design values for PM_{2.5} are calculated from three years of data gathered at specific monitoring sites. A design value is greater than the associated standard signifies non-attainment.

24-hour standard – 35ug/m³ (3-year average of 98th percentile for the daily 24-hour standard)

- Illinois QC – 24 ug/m³ (2021-2023), up from 21 ug/m³ (2020-2022)
- Iowa QC – 19 ug/m³ (2022-2024) down from 21 ug/m³ (2021-2023)
- Muscatine – 19 ug/m³ (2022-2024), unchanged from 19 ug/m³ (2021-2023)

Annual Standard – 9.0 ug/m³; updated from 12.0 ug/m³ February 7, 2024 (3-year average of the annual averages measured at monitoring sites)

- Illinois QC – 8.9 ug/m³ (2021-2023), up from 8.8 ug/m³ (2020-2022)
- Iowa QC – 8.2 ug/m³ (2022-2024) down from 8.4 ug/m³ (2021-2023)
- Muscatine – 8.0 ug/m³ (2022-2024) down from 8.3 ug/m³ (2021-2023)

There have been no PM_{2.5} exceedances in 2025 for Iowa or Illinois Quad Cities as of May 22nd.

2023 Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force Meetings Held: 6/16/2023, 12/14/2023

2024 Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force Meetings Held: 6/24/2024, 12/19/2024

a.) **Bi-State Regional Commission Website**

-See www.bistateonline.org Refer to: Planning/Other Programs: Air Quality
<https://bistateonline.org/planning-other-programs/air-quality>

b.) **General Public Outreach Efforts**

Carbon Reduction Program funding prioritizes projects that directly reduce carbon dioxide emissions. <https://bistateonline.org/transportation-and-mobility/quad-cities-metro-planning/tip-and-funding-projects-quad-cities-mpo>

- **Presentations made:** None specific to air quality.

- **Other: Congestion Management Process Updated; Participate in Eastern Iowa EV Readiness Plan Work Group, Participate in IL EV Infrastructure Plan Steering Committee.**

c.) **Media release:** None.

d.) **Other Activities**

- Monitor values for ozone and fine particulates

- Continued hosting www.qctransit.org webpage and monitoring QCRideshare