



Ambient air monitoring stations are located throughout the state.

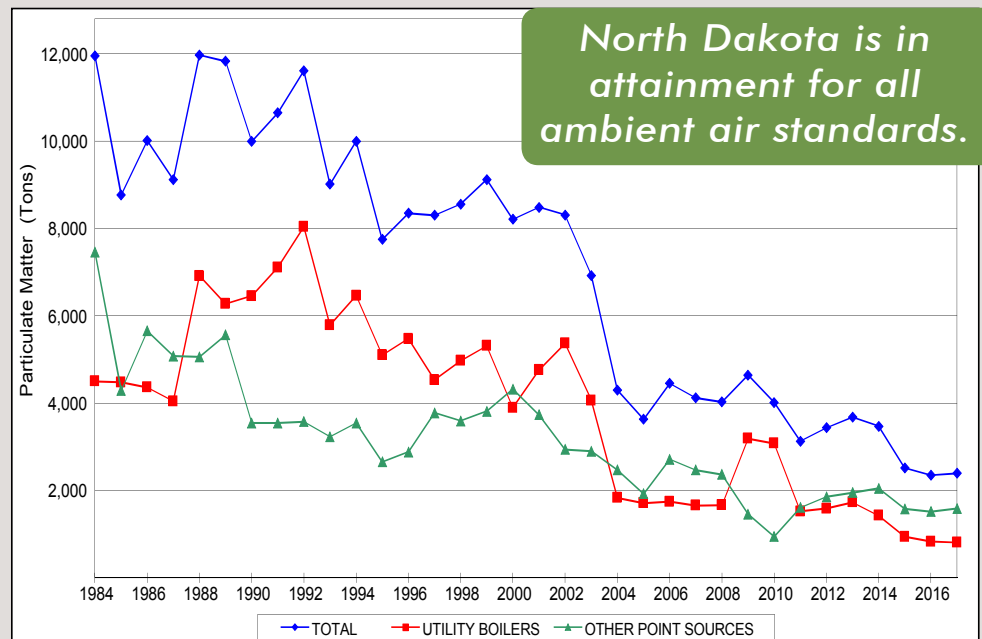
The Division of Air Quality consists of programs responsible for protecting North Dakota's air quality resources and for ensuring the control of radiation. Staff scientists, engineers and technicians oversee permitting, licensing and compliance of state and federal air and radiation rules. They also provide technical assistance during environmental issues and emergency response efforts.

A little history – the Clean Air Act

In 1963, Congress established the first of the Clean Air acts, which established funding for the study of air pollution and for cleanup. In 1970, a more defined Clean Air Act was passed, giving the newly formed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the mandate to establish health-based air quality standards and rulemaking authority to reduce air pollution. In 1990, the Clean Air Act Amendments expanded requirements.

How is the air quality in North Dakota?

The Clean Air Act established several health-based concentration limits for several pollutants including carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particle pollution and sulfur dioxide. These limits create a ceiling that states are not allowed to exceed. States that meet these National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are designated as "in attainment." In addition, industry is regulated using permits that include specific emission limits to ensure proper operations and clean air.



North Dakota has seen a dramatic reduction in emissions.

Programs in the Division of Air Quality

Permitting and Compliance

- Evaluates approximately 75 to 100 permit applications annually for construction of new sources.
- Issues permits that restrict emission levels to ensure air quality standards are met.

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Air quality is protected with permits and inspections.

Division Programs

- Permitting and Compliance
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Radiation and Indoor Air Quality*

Proper removal of lead-based paint protects the public from exposure.



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- Conducts inspections at a wide variety of sources to evaluate compliance with rules and permits.
- Investigates air pollution complaints.
- Issues enforcement actions as necessary.
- Maintains attainment status for all health-based state and NAAQS.
- Oversees EPA grants for replacing older diesel school buses with funds for new clean diesel buses or retrofit technology.

Data Collection and Analysis

- Operates a statewide ambient air quality monitoring network
- Uses computer dispersion modeling to evaluate potential impacts to air quality

Radiation and Indoor Air Quality*

RADIATION

- Regulates the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing devices to protect the public and the environment.
- Licenses/permits and inspects radioactive material users and x-ray facilities.
- Tracks 85 radioactive materials licenses and more than 700 x-ray registrants.

INDOOR AIR

- Conducts radon testing in schools and local, state and federal government buildings in North Dakota.
- Provides assistance for North Dakotans in testing their homes for radon, understanding their radon results and providing resources for radon mitigation on homes with elevated radon levels.
- Licenses contractors and certifies workers for asbestos and lead-based paint (LBP) abatement activities.
- Enforces the emission standards for asbestos under the North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules.
- Ensures LBP materials in pre-1978 target housing and child-occupied facilities are managed to minimize exposure.

** The Radiation and Indoor Air programs will be moving to the Division of Waste Management effective July 2019.*

Feel free to use this information, but please credit the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.