



# AGENDA

**LANE REGIONAL AIR PROTECTION AGENCY**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

**12:00 P.M.**

## **Virtual Participation**

By Video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88502781432>

By Audio: +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 885 0278 1432

## **In-Person Participation**

Due to LRAPA's Temporary office relocation, this meeting will be exclusively on Zoom.

*[Note: Start times for agenda items are approximate.]*

- |    |       |   |
|----|-------|---|
| 1. | 12:00 | Call to Order/Agenda Review             |
| 2. | 12:05 | Public Participation                    |
| 3. | 12:10 | Elect Chair & Vice-Chair                |
| 4. | 12:20 | Board Meeting Overview                  |
| 5. | 12:30 | Enforcement Data Review & Communication |
| 6. | 12:50 | Roundtable                              |
| 7. | 1:00  | Adjournment                             |

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*Nos esforzamos por proporcionar accesibilidad pública a los servicios, programas y actividades de LRAPA para personas con discapacidades. Las personas que necesiten adaptaciones especiales, como dispositivos de asistencia auditiva, formatos accesibles como letra grande, Braille, documentos electrónicos o cintas de audio, deben comunicarse con la oficina de LRAPA con al menos 72 horas de anticipación. Para las personas que requieren servicios de interpretación de idiomas, incluyendo la interpretación calificada de ASL, comuníquese con la oficina de LRAPA al menos con 5 días laborables de anticipación para que LRAPA pueda proporcionar los servicios de interpretación que sean lo más completos disponibles. Para todas las solicitudes, envíe un correo electrónico al Coordinador de Antidiscriminatoria de LRAPA a [accessibility@lrapa.org](mailto:accessibility@lrapa.org) o llame a la oficina de LRAPA al 541- 736-1056*



**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 28, 2025**

**MEETING VIA ZOOM**

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE PRESENT:</b>	<b>LRAPA STAFF PRESENT:</b>
Chair Jim Daniels	Travis Knudsen, Executive Director
Vice-Chair Kelly Wood	Matt Sorensen, Public Affairs & Project Manager
Chris Cline	Heather Gravelle, Administrative Assistant
Peter Dragovich	
Evelina Davidova-Kamis	
Ben Larson	
<b>COMMITTEE ABSENT/EXCUSED:</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>
Paul Metzler	Michael Koivula
Teresa Roark	Elle McLean

<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>REGULAR MEETING</b>	
1. Call to Order/Agenda Review.	<b>Chair Jim Daniels</b> convened the regular meeting at noon.
2. Public Participation.	None.
3. Board Meeting Overview.	<b>Chair Daniels</b> and Executive Director <b>Travis Knudsen</b> provided updates from the January 9, 2025 Board meeting.
4. Membership Application and Interview – Michael Koivula.	<b>Michael Koivula</b> introduced himself as an environmentalist and expressed his belief that there are significant opportunities for improving air quality in the region. <b>Mr. Koivula</b> identified several areas of concern, specifically the JH Baxter site and International Paper facility. He expressed interest in addressing these and other industrial operations that may have negative impacts on air quality. Discussion followed.

	<b>MOTION: Chris Cline moved, and Kelly Wood seconded, to refer Michael Koivula's application for CAC membership to the LRAPA Board and recommended approval. The motion passed unanimously.</b>
5. 2024 Permit Holder Draft Survey Summary.	Committee members reviewed the 2024 permit holder draft survey summary provided by <b>Vice-Chair Kelly Wood</b> . After discussion, <b>Chair Daniels</b> indicated he would draft an executive summary of the survey results for review at the February Board meeting.
6. Enforcement Data Review & Communication.	<b>Chair Daniels</b> indicated that Enforcement Data Review and Communication would be discussed at the February 25, 2025 CAC meeting. <b>Mr. Knudsen</b> noted that Colleen Wagstaff, Enforcement Manager, would attend the meeting.
7. Roundtable.	<b>Chair Daniels</b> announced his upcoming retirement and plans to relocate out of state within the next year. While stepping down from the CAC, he offered his assistance during the leadership transition period.
8. Adjournment.	<b>Chair Daniels</b> adjourned the Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m.

*(Minutes recorded by Heather Gravelle)*



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## Director's Report for January 2025

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Meeting Date: February 13, 2025  
Department: Director's Office  
[www.lrapa.org](http://www.lrapa.org)

Agenda Item No. 15  
Staff Contact: Travis Knudsen  
541-736-1056 ext. 217

### JANUARY 2025 AQI CHARTS AND STATS:

Site	Date	Max AQI	Pollutant
Eug/Spfld	23-Jan-25	109	PM
Oak	25-Jan-25	106	PM
CottGrv	26-Jan-25	87	PM

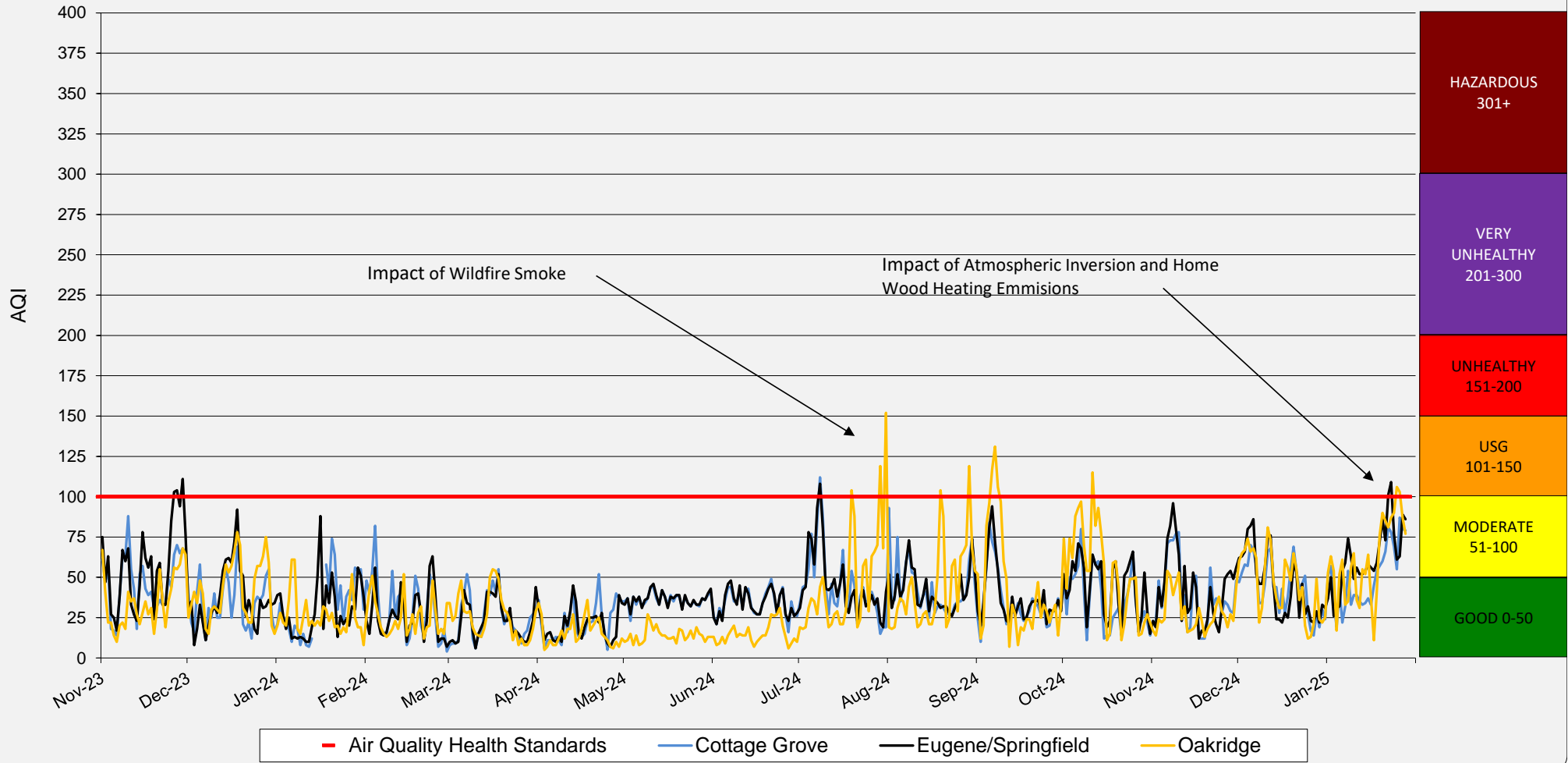
AQI	Eug/Spfld	Oak	CottGrv	AQI Range	PM2.5 Range, ug/m3	Ozone Range, ppb
Good	7	8	15	0-50	0-9	0-54
Moderate	22	21	16	51-100	9.1-35.4	55-70
USG	2	2	0	101-150	35.5-55.4	71-85
Unhealthy	0	0	0	151-200	55.5-125.4	86-105
Very Unhealthy	0	0	0	201-300	125.5-225.4	106-200
Hazardous	0	0	0	301+	225.5+	201+

Attachment No. 1: Air Quality Index (AQI) charts for Lane County (January 2025)

Attachment No. 2: PM2.5 index charts for Lane County (January 2025)

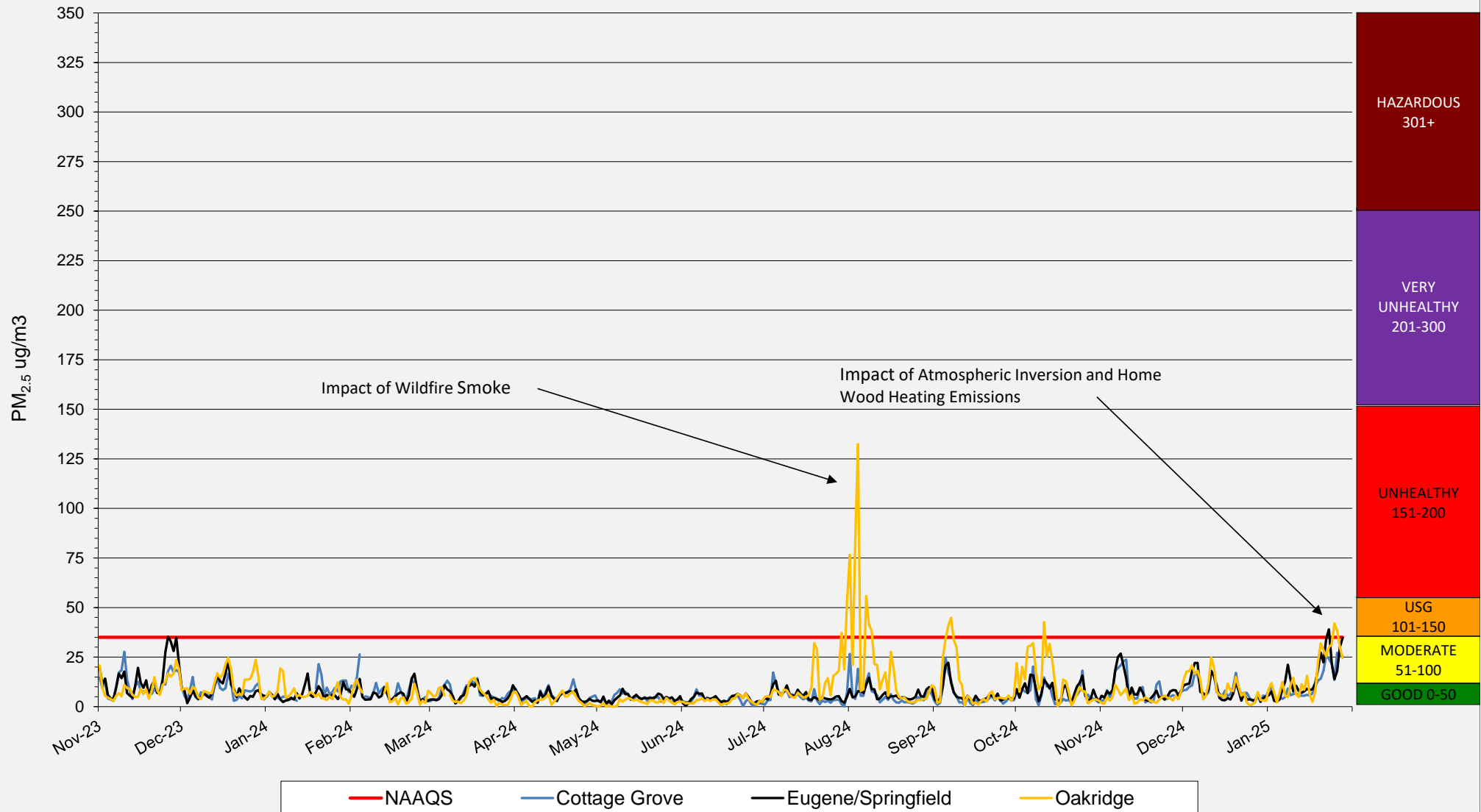
## Daily Air Quality Index Chart

This 15-month chart demonstrates the seasonality of the pollutants.



## Daily PM2.5 Levels

Daily Sampling, NAAQS Exceedance is Triggered on the 8th High



**COMPLAINTS RECEIVED: 1/1/2025 – 1/31/2025:**

<b>Smoke complaints: 43</b>
26 - Outdoor Burning
17 - Home Wood Heating
<b>Industry: 14</b>
6 - International Paper
4 – Short Mountain Landfill
1 – JH Baxter
1 – REV RV Service & Repair
1 – Pacific Recycling
1 - Andreason's Cremation & Burial Services
<b>Miscellaneous: 19</b>
3 - Asbestos
16 - Unknown
<b>Total: 76</b>

The calendar year 2025 compares to previous years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>*2025</b>
Dust	17	26	12	7	8	0
Ag Burning / Spraying	2	7	2	3	3	0
General Air Quality	4	8	1	25	32	12
Home Wood Heating	74	57	67	52	39	17
Industry	100	336	198	97	75	14
Outdoor Burning	423	243	292	254	253	26
Slash Burning	12	10	6	12	9	0
Miscellaneous	59	40	102	72	103	19
Unknown	74	71	45	65	79	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>104</b>

\* Year-To-Date

## ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS STATUS REPORT

### 1/1/2025 to 1/31/2025

Calendar year 2025 compared to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	*2025
Notices of Non-compliance and Warnings	55	15	21	24	19	9	5
Notices of Violation with Civil Penalties	37	26	17	24	15	5	5

\* Year-To-Date.

#### ENFORCEMENT: 1/01/2025 to 1/31/2025

Category of Violation	New	Follow-Up Action	Pending	Closed	Total
Asbestos	1	-	3	-	4
Industrial	3	-	5	-	8
Outdoor Burning	1	-	4	-	5
Fugitive Dust	-	-	-	-	-
Home Wood Heating	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17</b>

## ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS DETAIL REPORT

1/1/2025 -- 1/31/2025

Report of open and actions initiated since last report

#### NEW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:

1. SWANSON GROUP MFG. LLC (SPRINGFIELD)
  - A. Violation: Respondent failed to conduct required Modified EPA Method 9 monitoring during an upset condition and failed to immediately notify LRAPA when an excess emission event occurred. These monitoring and notification requirement violations are violations of Respondent's Title V Operating Permit No. 207510.
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3904 issued 1/10/2025
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3904 (\$6,900) issued 1/10/2025 - paid
  - D. Resolution: CASE CLOSED on 1/27/2025
  
2. SPADES ENVIRONMENTAL (EUGENE)
  - A. Violation: Conducted an asbestos abatement of asbestos containing material (ACM) without a proper enclosed area [LRAPA Title 43 Section 43-015(11)(F)(4)] and open accumulation of friable asbestos containing materials [LRAPA Title 43 Section 43-



- 010(1)] at 2155 Brittany Street, Eugene, Oregon. This resulted in open accumulation of ACM outside of the containment area.
- B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3911 issued 1/10/2025
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3911 (\$1,800) issued 1/10/2025: request for reduction under review 1/30/2025
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
3. CHRISTIANSEN, MICHAEL (CRESWELL)
- A. Violation: Respondent caused, allowed, initiated or maintained outdoor burning at a time when outdoor burning was prohibited and caused, allowed, initiated or maintained the outdoor burning of prohibited materials. It is alleged that the materials burned were under the ownership or control of Respondent. It is alleged that the outdoor burning was conducted on property under the ownership or control of Respondent located at 33830 Orchard Avenue, Creswell, OR. The alleged outdoor burning was in violation of LRAPA Rules and Regulations, Title 47, "Outdoor Burning".
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3912 issued 1/10/2025
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3912 (\$1,150) issued 1/10/2025
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
4. INTERNATIONAL PAPER (SPRINGFIELD)
- A. Violation: Between January 23, 2024, and June 30, 2024, International Paper Company failed to implement monitoring required by Title V Operating Permit #208850, issued January 23, 2024. It is alleged that the additional monitoring requirements were not implemented when the permit was issued and required monitoring was not performed for the first (6) six months of 2024 (1/23/2024 - 6/30/2024).
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3920 issued 1/30/2025
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3920 (\$9,000) issued 1/30/2025
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
5. SWANSON GROUP MFG. LLC (SPRINGFIELD)
- A. Violation: Allowed Secondary materials that are solid waste to be combusted in a boiler that did not qualify for a statutory exemption as provided is 129(g)(1) if the Clean Air Act. This was not reported in their semiannual report as intermittent compliance and is a violation of their current permit #207510. It is alleged that the violations occurred on a facility under guidance of the current management team. This is in violation of LRAPA Rules and Regulations, Title 34, "Stationary Source Notification Requirements".
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3916 issued 1/10/2025
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3916 (\$20,400) issued 1/10/2025 - paid
  - D. Resolution: CASE CLOSED on 1/27/2025

**PENDING ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:**

1. T.J. ROBBINS (FALL CREEK)
- A. Violation: Allowed for the outdoor burning of prohibited materials (machine parts, aerosol can, metal wire, canned food containers, etc.).
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3907 issued 09/06/2024
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3907 (\$275) issued 09/06/2024: no response and no payment received; a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property

- D. Resolution: PENDING
- 2. DUST 2 DIAMONDS, LLC (SPRINGFIELD)
    - A. Violation: Performed an asbestos abatement project without possessing a license to perform asbestos abatement; openly accumulated friable asbestos-containing materials.
    - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3908 issued 09/06/2024
    - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3908 (\$8400) issued 09/06/2024: request for reduction under review.
    - D. Resolution: PENDING
  - 3. A & K DEVELOPMENT CO, PAC METAL FAB (JUNCTION CITY)
    - A. Violation: Failed to notify LRAPA prior to the construction of a new stationary source in accordance with LRAPA Rules and Regulations Section 34-010(1)(a); operating an air contaminant source which is listed in Section 37-8010 Table 1 without first obtaining and ACDP from LRAPA in accordance with LRAPA 37-0020(3).
    - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3903 issued 05/30/2024
    - C. Subsequent Action: PENDING – documents submitted by 9/20/2024 under review
    - D. Resolution: PENDING
  - 4. PETROCARD INC (GOSHEN) (GOSHEN)
    - A. Violation: The permittee failed to submit in a timely manner performance testing records to LRAPA which demonstrate compliance with vapor testing requirements outlined in permit conditions 5.1.a and 5.1.b. On 2/25/2022 the permittee was notified by LRAPA that they had exceeded the annual throughput threshold of 480,000 gallons of gasoline in 2019 and were therefore subject to the vapor recovery testing requirements outlined in the permit. On 4/8/2022 LRAPA was advised that vapor recovery testing could not be completed since the lines were manifolded and the issue was escalated to construction to isolate the lines. On 7/7/2022 LRAPA called and emailed the permittee requesting an update. On 8/2/2022 LRAPA called and emailed the permittee requesting an update. Permittee responded advising that they were still working to fix the issue. On 10/5/2022 LRAPA emailed the permittee requesting an update. On 10/26/2022 LRAPA called and emailed the permittee requesting an update.
    - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3872 issued 11/03/2022
    - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2022-3872 (\$3000) issued 12/08/2022: submitted the test results over 12-month late, therefore the request for reduction was not approved. No response to payment has been received, a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property.
    - D. Resolution: PENDING
  - 5. JOHN A. RANKIN AND STEVE FOWLKES (SPRINGFIELD)
    - A. Violation: 43-015(10)- ASBESTOS ABATEMENT NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. Except as provided for in 43-015-8, written notification of any asbestos abatement project must be provided to the Agency on a form prepared by and available from the Agency, accompanied by the appropriate fee; 43-015(11)(C)- Enclose the area of the asbestos-containing materials to be abated, in a negative pressure enclosure prior to abatement unless prior approval has been granted by the agency; 43-015(11)(G)- The asbestos abatement project area shall be adequately cleaned at the conclusion of the project to assure removal of all asbestos debris; 43-015(11)(N)- Open storage or open accumulation of friable asbestos-containing material or asbestos containing waste material is prohibited; 43-015(11)(P)- No person shall conduct an asbestos

abatement project unless they possess a current asbestos abatement Contractors license or worker's certification, issued by the Department under OAR 340-248-040 or OAR 340-248-0120 and OAR 340-248-0130, respectively, unless exempted by 43-015-8 and/or 43-015-9; 43-015(11)(S)- A certified supervisor is required to be present on each asbestos abatement project other than a small-scale short-duration activity; 43-015(11)(T)- An owner or operator of a facility shall not allow any persons other than those employees of the facility owner or operator who are appropriately certified or a licensed asbestos abatement contractor to perform an asbestos abatement project in or on that facility unless exempted by 43-015-8 or 43-015-9; 43-015-19(B)- Persons disposing of asbestos-containing waste material must notify the landfill operator of the type and volume of the asbestos-containing waste material; 43-015(19)(B)(1)- All asbestos-containing waste materials must be adequately wetted to ensure that they remain wet until delivered to an authorized landfill, and either: (a) processed into non-friable pellets or other shapes; or (b) packaged in leak-tight containers such as two plastic bags with a minimum thickness of 6 mil., or fiber or metal drum. Containers must be labeled as follows: (i) the name of the asbestos waste generator and the location where the asbestos waste was generated; and (ii) a warning label that states: DANGER Contains Asbestos Fibers Avoid Creating Dust Cancer and Lung Disease Hazard Avoid Breathing Airborne Asbestos Fibers Alternatively, warning labels specified by 29 CFR 1926.1101(k)(7)(8/19/94) may be used; 43-105(19)(E)- All asbestos-containing waste material must be deposited as soon as possible by the waste generator at: (1) An asbestos-containing waste disposal site authorized by the Department and operated in accordance with the provisions of this rule;

- B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3877 issued 03/06/2023
- C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2023-3877 (\$10400) issued 03/06/2023: request for reduction approved and reduced to \$5,200 on 04/19/2023 with a payment schedule of \$400 per month and is on schedule with payments with a balance of \$400.
- D. Resolution: PENDING

6. KYLE MCLENNAN, BRUCE R MCLENNAN (VENETA)

- A. Violation: Failure to obtain an asbestos survey from an accredited asbestos inspector prior to conducting the demolition of a facility; Burning construction/demolition waste without first obtaining an LRAPA letter permit.
- B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3880 issued 04/11/2023
- C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2023-3880 (\$3,650) issued 04/11/2023; no response and no payment received; a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property
- D. Resolution: PENDING

7. APRO LLC DBA UNITED PACIFIC ROCKET # (SPRINGFIELD)

- A. Violation: The permittee failed to submit performance testing records to LRAPA which demonstrate compliance with triennial vapor testing requirements outlined in permit conditions 5.0. Permittee last submitted testing results relative to conditions 5.1.a and 5.1.b on February 4th, 2020, and therefore is required to have testing conducted by February 4th, 2023. Condition 7.1.c of the permit requires notification of upcoming testing be submitted to LRAPA and condition 7.2 requires test results be submitted to LRAPA no later than 30 after testing has occurred.
- B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3886 issued 04/25/2023
- C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2023-3886 (\$2,250) issued 06/12/2023: no response and no payment received; a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property
- D. Resolution: PENDING

8. SEALS, MARK (ELMIRA)
  - A. Violation: Outdoor burning of prohibited materials (metal, plastic, rubber, etc.).
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3888 issued 06/13/2023
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2023-3888 (\$550) issued 07/31/2023: no response and no payment received; a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
9. CARTER, LARRY; VERNON VENSON (SPRINGFIELD)
  - A. Violation: Allowing for the open burning of prohibited materials (pressure treated wood, railroad ties, plastics, clothing, drywall, metal, etc.)
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3895 issued 12/14/2023
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2023-3895 (\$550) issued 12/18/2023; no response and no payment received; a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
10. WOOLMAN, TIM (VENETA)
  - A. Violation: Allowing for the burning of prohibited materials (plastics).
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3898 issued 03/01/2024
  - C. Subsequent Action: NCP #2024-3898 (\$850) issued 03/07/2024; no response and no payment received; a default order judgment is in process for a lien on the property
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
11. EMERALD PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT (EUGENE)
  - A. Violation: Submitted a partial 2023 annual report a 12-month rolling PSEL calculation spreadsheet which demonstrated that the facility emissions for PM2.5, CO and NOx were in excess of the permitted emission limits during the 12-month periods ending in September - December 2023 and in 2024.
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3902 issued 06/06/2024
  - C. Subsequent Action: PENDING – reviewing additional documents submitted.
  - D. Resolution: PENDING
12. AURORA INNOVATIONS / HYDROFARM (EUGENE)
  - A. Violation: Failure to submit 2023 semi-annual report required by Condition #28 in their ACDP #200053. The 2023 semi-annual report was due February 15, 2024; failure to submit their 2023 ATEI report by July 1, 2024.
  - B. Initial Action Taken: NON #3910 issued 07/31/2024
  - C. Subsequent Action: Submitted reports are under review
  - D. Resolution: PENDING

#### **OUTDOOR BURNING LETTER PERMITS: 1/01/2025 TO 1/31/2025**

**There were no Outdoor Burning Letter Permits (OBLP) issued in January 2025.**

## ASBESTOS ABATEMENT: 1/01/2025 to 1/31/2025

For perspective, here is how the total number of asbestos abatement notices filed, how many were schools, and the number of notices inspected for calendar year 2025 compares to previous years:

Calendar year 2025 compares to previous years:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	*2025
Total Asbestos Abatement Notices	488	439	408	465	466	436	38
School Asbestos Abatement Notices (NESHAP)	16	25	20	16	17	21	0
Number of Asbestos Abatements Inspected	94	93	104	115	91	109	9

\* Year-To-Date.

## PERMITTING (TITLE V AND ACDP):

- Currently 15 sources, Title V permits
- Currently approximately 275 sources, Air Contaminant Discharge Permits (ACDPs)

Permits Currently in Queue:

Category of Permit Activity	Title V	ACDP	Total In Queue
New	1	2	3
Renewals	2	12	14
Modifications		1	1
Constructions			
General TV			
Terminated Permits			

Permit Activities Issued Year-to-Date (1/1/25 – 1/31/25):

- Title V = 1
- ACDP = 5

Permits on public notice during 1/01/2025 to 1/31/2025:

Source Name	Reason for Public Notice	Type of Permit
Whittier Wood Products	Renewal of Simple ACDP	Simple ACDP renewal. Off public notice 2/11/25
Gheen Irrigation Works dba Lake Eugene	Renewal of Simple ACDP	Simple ACDP renewal. Off public notice 3/6/25

Permits with public hearing notice during 1/01/2025 to 1/31/2025:

Source Name	Reason for Public Hearing	Date of Public Hearing
NA		

Permit backlog as of 2/1/25:

Permit Type	Total Number of Permits by Type	Number of Permits Extended Administratively	Percentage of Total (%)
Title V	15	0	0%
Standard	24	5	21%
Simple	27	3	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11%</b>

## MEDIA INTEREST, EXTERNAL COORDINATION AND OUTREACH

Date	Media	Person	Topic
1/23/2025	KLCC	Rachael McDonald	Air stagnation and wood burning advisories
1/23/2025	KEZI	Ryan Bonham	Air stagnation and cleaner woodstove burning
1/28/2025	KEZI	Ryan Bonham	Air Quality Advisory E. Lane County and Red Advisory for Oakridge, Yellow EUG/Spring

## PUBLIC EVENTS AND OUTREACH

### **Asbestos Training for Rainbow Valley Construction** (Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, Eugene)

Rainbow Valley Construction, one of the area's biggest remodeling and home construction teams requested LRAPA staff, Robbye Robinson and Mandy Ramirez, provide a refresher and general asbestos safety and best practices training for their staff. LRAPA shared the shadow box with samples of asbestos containing materials and answered questions from staff regarding best practices. There were approximately 25 people in attendance.

### **Lane Pollution Prevention Coalition P2C Meeting** (Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, Virtual)

Matt Sorensen represents LRAPA with this coalition which is comprised of city and county government agencies, businesses, and utility providers who work together to help educate and engage Lane County on activities and behaviors that help minimize pollution and preserve water, air, reduce electrical waste, and preserve our quality of life. BRING Recycling presented on their Green Business certification program which is designed to help local businesses adopt practices that are environmentally friendly and allows them to proudly share their status as a 'Green Business.' The group also is in the process of planning their shared booth at the Lane County Home Show in March which LRAPA will be sending staff to participate and help share information on asbestos, air quality, and wildfire smoke impacts.

### **J.H. Baxter Communication Meeting** (Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, Virtual)

Matt Sorensen is representing LRAPA in this group. This is a monthly meeting between EPA, DEQ, and LRAPA to discuss the ongoing cleanup efforts at J.H. Baxter and the transition from DEQ being the lead agency to EPA as they try to get the site approved as a superfund site after the Time Critical Removal Action. The site has had a few issues with campus security and break ins in addition to a small fire that was reported by a community

member over the weekend which was petroleum mixed with water smoldering in a holding tank after a welding project had completed and the smoldering wasn't noticed by staff. LRAPA did approve an asbestos removal permit for the project that is underway to remove the three large retort tanks used to infuse wood with chemicals. Visit [https://response.epa.gov/site/site\\_profile.aspx?site\\_id=15559](https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=15559) for details and pictures on the project.

***Air Stagnation and Home Wood Heating Advisories*** (Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> to Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>)

Starting on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> Lane County experienced a large air stagnation and extreme cold air event that created ideal conditions for poor air quality, especially overnight, in Eugene, Springfield, and Oakridge. During this time YELLOW advisories were issued for both areas due to extreme spikes in poor air quality primarily caused by home wood heating emissions. Two press releases were issued, one at the onset of the event and a second with the first RED advisory in Eugene.

Eugene/Springfield was issued one RED advisory on 1/24 and Oakridge had two RED Advisories on 1/28 and 1/29 which were promoted by Oakridge Air to minimize community surprise or frustration. Fortunately, the weather pattern did break up and the air quality (AQI) never exceeded Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150) for any region in Lane County during the stagnation event.

***Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Environmental and Public Health Workgroup Meeting*** (Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, Virtual)

Matt Sorensen is participating on behalf of LRAPA in the development of the CWPP specifically in the Environmental and Public Health workgroup which also has the University of Oregon's Center for Wildfire Smoke Director Heidi Huber-Stearns as a workgroup member. The goal of the workgroup is to ensure there is adequate thought built into the plan regarding messaging and warning systems to the community during air quality impacts from wildfire smoke. This workgroup will continue monthly through June.

***State of the City Address Springfield*** (Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, Wildish Community Theater)

Matt Sorensen attended the event on behalf of LRAPA and was able to connect with Commissioner David Loveall, Rep. John Lively, SPD Officer George Crowley, Springfield School District Superintendent Todd Hamilton, Rexius Leader Ken Brown, Springfield Mayor Sean VanGordon, and other community members. This was a great opportunity to connect and celebrate Springfield along with many other community leaders.

***Rivers to Ridges (R2R) Prescribed Burning Committee*** (Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, Virtual)

The Rivers to Ridges Prescribed burning committee helps organize and plan the prescribed burns operations that occur at numerous parks and open spaces in the Eugene and Springfield area. Matt Sorensen is participating on behalf of LRAPA, and we are in the first phase of planning for the 2025 fall prescribed burn operations.

***Northwest Air Quality Communicators (NWAQC) Meeting*** (Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, Virtual)

Matt Sorensen is participating on behalf of LRAPA. This group is a forum for Public Affairs and Executive leaders from their respective Air Quality agencies or Government departments to connect on public communication best practices and pool resources for optimizing messaging and shared learning that is commonly utilized in the air quality communications space.

## **AGENCY GOALS AND UPDATES**

*In January 2022, the Board established the following goals to drive LRAPA's efforts in protecting public health, community well-being, and the environment. Below is an overview of each goal, accompanied by recent updates and milestones, with specific focus on activities in September 2024.*

### **1. Oakridge/Westfir Air Quality Improvement**

Objective: Seek EPA approval to improve air quality in Oakridge/Westfir.

- Following the redesignation of Oakridge in September 2022, LRAPA continues to implement two targeted airshed grants in the area to further improve progress.
- On January 29, 2025, LRAPA paused activities under the Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) grant program following federal executive actions

### **2. Internal Efficiency Enhancement**

Objective: Streamline internal processes and policies for improved efficiency.

- LRAPA has fully established its operations at the Lane County Public Service Building. Staff are splitting time between working from home and working at the Lane County Public Service Building.
- LRAPA is assessing project management software solutions to improve workflows and reduce workload related to tracking and accounting for shared and group tasks.

### **3. Pre-Budget Planning**

Objective: Plan ahead for budget committee meetings to ensure financial stability.

- The FY24 audit timeline has been extended from December 31, 2024, to March 31, 2025, with approval from the Oregon Secretary of State. This extension was necessary due to several compounding factors: the implementation of a new accounting system during FY24, turnover in executive and finance leadership, and the temporary relocation of administrative offices in early FY25. Reconciliation challenges between the old and new systems have been particularly significant, especially given the departure of key personnel who led the system implementation.

### **4. Financial Stability Assessment**

Objective: Evaluate LRAPA's costs and explore funding sources for long-term stability.

- LRAPA's budget forecast and assumptions indicate the agency's finances are stable.
- LRAPA is bringing a supplemental budget to the Board in February 2025 meeting. This supplemental budget is only utilizing contingency dollars, and is not a request for more appropriations, this action does not need budget committee approval.

### **5. Website Redesign**

Objective: Improve LRAPA's website for better user access to air quality information.

- The website continues to be updated to accurately reflect current operations at the Organization, such as updates to the staff directory to reflect new hires.
- Facility Specific Cleaner Air Oregon webpages are updated for existing sources and created for new sources.



## **6. Community Engagement**

Objective: Increase interaction with communities to raise air quality awareness.

- LRAPA continues to engage collaboratively with various stakeholders and agencies on soil remediation activities concerning J.H. Baxter in West Eugene. LRAPA was supportive in connecting community members who observed overnight activities at the site and were concerned directly with the EPA for reflection, information, and details on the observed activities.

## **7. Collaboration and Partnerships**

Objective: Strengthen relationships with local communities and industry for problem-solving.

- LRAPA participated in several regional collaborative groups and committee meetings in January. These included Lane Pollution Prevention Coalition P2C; Rivers to Ridges (R2R) Prescribed Burning Committee; Lane County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP); Northwest Air Quality Communicators (NWAQC); ODEQ-R10 Semi-Annual Monitoring-Planning Call; Quarterly Check-In with DEQ Air Quality Administrator; Lane Regional Resiliency Collaborative.

## **8. Funding Source Diversification**

Objective: Seek new funding opportunities to support air quality programs.

- LRAPA has been informed by DEQ that the governor's proposed budget does not include Agency cuts that would impact LRAPA. Our state support is currently proposed to remain consistent.

## **9. Airmetrics Enterprise Evaluation**

Objective: Objective: Assess the effectiveness of Airmetrics in monitoring air quality.

- Following the board's decision in late 2023, Airmetrics has ceased all operations. LRAPA provided a 30-day notice to terminate the lease on the Airmetrics warehouse space, which concludes on July 24, 2024. LRAPA has fully vacated the space and removed all references to Airmetrics from its website in early June 2024.

## **10. Complaint Intake Process Improvement**

Objective: Enhance the process for receiving and responding to air quality complaints.

- LRAPA continues to make improvements to our complaint intake and response processes, as new staff settle into the workflow. LRAPA's focus on complaints is now centered on the quality of information retained and stored in the database.

## **11. Regulatory Engagement**

Objective: Stay updated on air quality regulations through engagement with relevant organizations.

- LRAPA successfully implemented the annual 4% fee increases for ACDP and Asbestos Notification fees, as well as a 3% increase for Cleaner Air Oregon (CAO) fees, effective July 1, 2024, ensuring the agency's ability to continue its critical air quality work and adapt to emerging challenges.
- LRAPA is implementing a state-mandated fee increase for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities,

raising the annual fee from \$201 to \$605 and the Cleaner Air Oregon annual fee from \$52 to \$156, effective in 2025, to support more stringent air quality regulations. This fee adjustment reflects the reclassification of Gasoline Dispensing Facilities from ACDP Fee Class 5 to Fee Class 4 by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, necessitating additional regulatory oversight and work to further reduce air pollution from gasoline vapors.

- LRAPA plans to review fee increases set by rule with the Board in April of 2025. LRAPA will engage with the regulated community to assure awareness of this engagement with the Board, identifying the opportunity to participate publicly at the meeting.

## **12. Succession Planning and Staff Training**

Objective: Prepare for staff transitions through succession planning and training.

- Following two Permit Writer's departures in January, LRAPA has placed new positions and plans to interview candidates in February.
- Consideration on organizational structure are still underway, a recent change is moving the inspector positions from the enforcement department to the operations department. This aligns teams better and promotes sharing more knowledge.

## **TENTATIVE UPCOMING LRAPA BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

This schedule outline is a preview of anticipated upcoming agenda items.

### **March 2025**

- First Budget meeting, FY 25-26, review budget
- Remodel Update

### **April 2025**

- Second Budget meeting, FY 25-26, approve budget
- Board Review of annual fee increases set by rule

### **May 2025**

- Public Hearing and adoption of approved budget for FY 25-26
- Executive Director performance evaluation, contract renewal.
- Dashboard Report

### **June 2025**

- LRAPA open house