



Ambient air quality monitoring stations are located throughout the state.

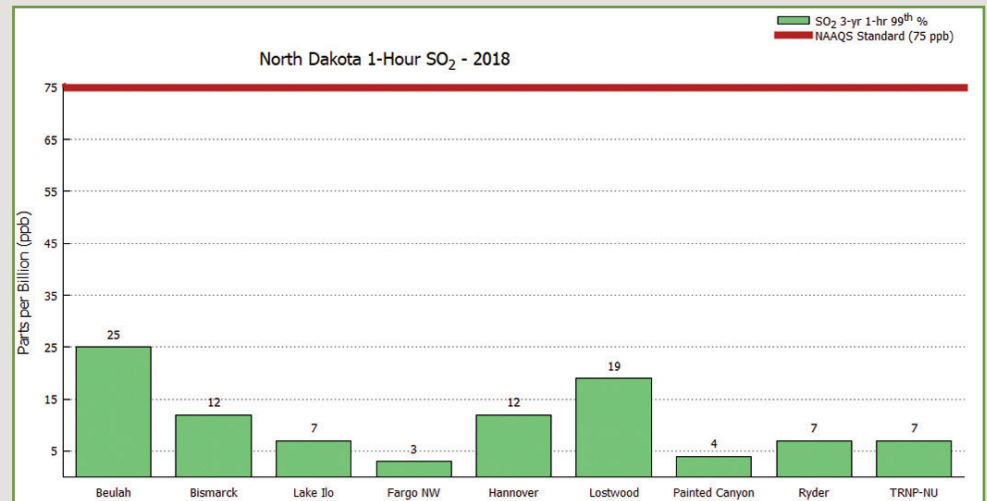
The Division of Air Quality is responsible for protecting North Dakota's air quality. Scientists, engineers and technicians oversee permitting and compliance of state and federal program requirements. The division maintains federal delegation of responsibility for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs and provides technical assistance on environmental matters and during emergency response efforts. In addition, industry is regulated with the issuance of permits that include specific emission limits to ensure proper operations and clean air. Division staff work proactively with industry to address emissions as well as citizen concerns and complaints.

The Clean Air Act

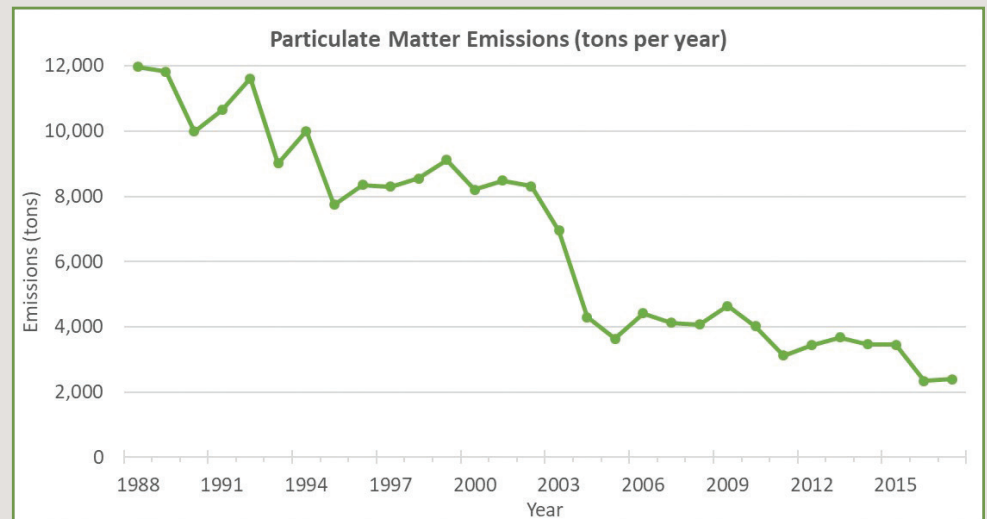
In 1963, Congress created the first of the Clean Air Acts, which established funding for the study of air pollution and for cleanup. In 1970, a more defined Clean Air Act was passed, giving the newly formed EPA the mandate to establish health-based air quality standards and rulemaking authority to reduce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

Air Quality in North Dakota

The Clean Air Act establishes health-based concentration limits for several pollutants including carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen oxides, ozone, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). These limits establish a ceiling that the states are not allowed to exceed. States that meet these National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are designated as "in attainment."



North Dakota maintains attainment status for all health-based state and national standards, including the SO₂ standard illustrated above.



North Dakota has seen a dramatic reduction in emissions.



Air quality is protected by issuing permits and conducting inspections.

Division Programs

- Ambient Air Monitoring
- Permitting
- Compliance
- Oil and Gas



North Dakota has over 15,000 producing oil and gas wells.

Programs in the Division of Air Quality - What We Do

Ambient Air Monitoring

- Operates a statewide ambient air quality monitoring network.
- Completes annual reviews of the network to ensure EPA standards are being met and identify possible necessary modifications.
- Completes five-year assessments of the network to ensure that it has and will meet monitoring obligations.
- Provides health information materials to the public during wildfire smoke and other environmental events specific to air.
- Reviews data to ensure clean air and monitors trends.

Permitting

- Evaluates approximately 75 to 100 permit applications annually for the construction of new sources.
- Reviews applications to determine applicable rules, regulations, emissions and emission limits.
- Conducts computer dispersion modeling to evaluate potential impacts to air quality.
- Issues permits that restrict emissions to ensure that air quality standards are met.

Compliance

- Conducts inspections at a wide variety of sources to evaluate compliance with rules and permits.
- Reviews reports to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and emission limits.
- Investigates air pollution complaints.
- Issues enforcement actions as necessary.
- Regulates more than 1,000 permitted sources.
- Administers and oversees the Volkswagen Settlement's environmental mitigation trust that uses EPA grants to retrofit or replace older diesel school buses with new, clean diesel buses.

Oil and Gas

- Reviews and processes thousands of oil and gas facility registrations annually.
- Conducts hundreds of oil and gas facility inspections annually.
- Uses infrared optical gas imaging (OGI) technology to determine compliance.
- Proactively works with industry to address emissions as well as citizen concerns and complaints.
- Issues enforcement actions as necessary.
- Regulates over 15,000 producing oil and gas wells.

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