



State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Statewide Prioritization of Air Toxics Monitoring - 2019

Prioritized Locations

The following is a prioritization of identified areas of interest for DEQ to site annual full spectrum air quality monitoring stations. DEQ reviewed locations using Standard Operating Procedure DEQ17-LAB-0016-QAPP based on: 1) sources of pollution, 2) number of pollutants, 3) relative toxicity, 4) lack of information, 5) community factors, and 6) DEQ program and regional needs.

Medford and Bend were previously on this list for annual air toxics, but DEQ is establishing long-term air toxics trend sites at those locations so they have been removed from this list.

DEQ will re-prioritize and update this list once a year based on new information. Time frames are estimated for the next stations.

Corvallis – Summer 2019

Corvallis is a city of about 50,000 people with neighborhoods that range from affluent to lower middle class. Corvallis has industrial, commercial, mobile, non-mobile, and area pollutant sources. DEQ Western Region staff have recently been involved in the evaluation of one industrial source of concern to local residents. DEQ has been monitoring for PM_{2.5} in North Corvallis for almost two decades, but has not conducted any air toxics monitoring. The PM_{2.5} levels have been well below the standard. However, concerned citizens feel that we need to monitor in the southern part of Corvallis near the river where they believe the air quality to be worse. This is a valid argument, since this area is at a lower elevation and may experience stronger winter inversions.

Albany – Summer 2019

Albany is a working class community of around 50,000 people with lower income housing spread throughout the community. Albany is adjacent to Millersburg (North of Albany) which has three Title V companies that emit volatile organic compounds, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons and possibly metals. The relative toxicity is unknown at this time. DEQ does not have any recent air toxics monitoring data in this area. We do have PM_{2.5} monitoring data in south Albany, many miles from Millersburg. This area is below the health standard. DEQ Western Region management has requested air toxics monitoring in the north Albany area.

Lebanon – Fall/Winter 2019

Lebanon is a small community near Albany that has one large industrial facility and a few smaller commercial operations close to downtown. DEQ has no air monitoring information for the area. Residents live directly adjacent to the commercial/industrial district and Oregon Health Authority and Western Region DEQ are concerned about long- and short-term health risks.

Grants Pass – Spring 2020

Grants Pass is a community of approximately 30,000 people with a variety of neighborhoods, from affluent to working class. There is one major Title V source in the area. PM_{2.5} monitoring is well below the standard, but continues to be monitored for wildfire and wood smoke incursions. Carbon monoxide monitoring was discontinued because the pollutant was found at very low levels. DEQ does not have air toxics monitoring data in this area. Residents have voiced concerns about air toxics in their neighborhood.

North Portland Harbor – Summer 2020

North Portland Harbor is a community of approximately 32,000 people with a large commercial area on the Columbia River, and a large portion of the population living on floating homes offshore of Hayden Island. In 2015, based on odor nuisance complaints, monitoring conducted on and near the island revealed several instances of elevated volatile organic compounds. The levels were not shown to pose an immediate health risk to the public. However, DEQ and EPA have concerns that chronic exposure to some of these toxics could cause health risks in the long term.

Requested Locations

The following locations will be included in a future update of the prioritized locations:

- Klamath Falls
- Salem
- Coastal cities (TBD)

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.