

SUMMARY: MICHIGAN'S 2024 AIR MONITORING NETWORK REVIEW

Draft open for comment until June 30, 2023

WHAT IS OPEN FOR COMMENT?

The [DRAFT 2024 Michigan Ambient Air Monitoring Network Review](#), public comment period has been extended to **June 30, 2023**. Every year, the Air Quality Division (AQD) does a review of the state's current [air monitoring network](#) to determine if any changes need to be made and to ensure adequate funding is available for the required monitoring activities.

WHAT IS THE NETWORK FOR?

The ambient air monitoring network is a key element in making sure the air we breathe in our communities is healthy. Michigan's network has over 40 locations across the state with over 100 air monitors. The purpose of the **monitors** is to measure pollutant concentrations in the outdoor (ambient) air. Ambient air is the air that the public breathes where we live, work, and play. The purpose of the **network** is to measure air pollutants over long periods to:

- ensure air quality standards are met,
- identify pollution trends,
- support air pollution forecasting
- provide real-time air quality information,
- assess community exposure, and
- be used in air quality models.

The network is not intended to tell us where pollutants come from or to be used as a tool to regulate a specific company or industry type.

WHAT POLLUTANTS ARE MEASURED?

The US Environmental Protection Agency has air quality standards for some pollutants, designed to be protective of health and the environment. These standards are called the National Ambient Air Quality Standards or [NAAQS](#) and include ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, lead, and fine particulates (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}). The network also collects information on other pollutants, like volatile organic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, metals, carbonyl compounds, and carbon black. Not all pollutants are measured at every location.

HOW ARE LOCATIONS CHOSEN?

The number and types of monitors are based on several factors, including population census data, getting regional coverage for certain pollutants, and the ability to meet quality assurance, and other standards. For instance, a site needs access to electricity, must be in a secure area, and having a lot of tree coverage can impact the quality of the data.

LIMITATIONS TO THE NETWORK:

Ambient air monitors are not used to determine if specific industrial sources are in compliance with air permits or meeting state and federal regulations. Industrial compliance is assessed through inspections, stack testing, and other review and investigations.

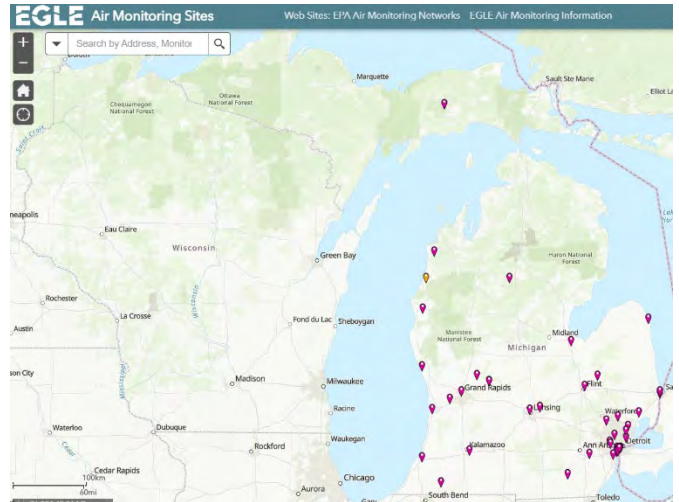


Figure 1: Ambient air monitoring locations

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NETWORK FOR 2024:

The network plan describes the current monitoring network and any proposed changes for the next calendar year (2024). Changes to the monitoring network may be made based on historical data collected, changes to population levels, funding, as well as changes to the monitoring requirements in the Clean Air Act. This year, several changes are also planned using American Rescue Plan dollars. The following changes are proposed:

- A new site around Northeast Detroit, near GM Hamtramck and US Ecology-North to measure fine particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and black carbon. It is anticipated in late 2023 or spring 2024.
- A new site with continuous PM_{2.5} sampler in an enclosure at a location in Marquette County, MI.
- New continuous PM_{2.5} samplers for Oak Park, E. 7 Mile, and Little River Band of Ottawa Indians tribal site.

WHAT COMMENTS CAN EGLE CONSIDER?

Comments from the public are very important. But it is also important to know there are things we can and cannot consider when we make our decision. Some examples are below.

What we can consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical mistakes in the review ✓ Grammar and spelling mistakes ✓ Requirements or rules the network should consider and why ✓ Why the network is not meeting the requirements and why
What we can't consider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air, land, or water issues not part of the network • Indoor air pollution • Traffic, Noise and lights, Zoning issues • Anything unrelated to the network

HOW TO COMMENT:

Comments from the public are welcome and will be reviewed with respect to ambient air monitoring activities to be carried out in 2024. Comments will be accepted until **11:59 PM EDT on June 30, 2023**.



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For more information on Michigan's air quality, go to Michigan.gov/Air. To view real-time air monitoring information, go to Deqmiair.org. To subscribe to get air quality notifications, visit Miair.Enviroflash.info.

[Interactive map of Michigan's ambient air monitoring network](#)

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