



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Release: Immediate  
Date: May 3, 2007

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### Meeting Set On North Carolina Air Monitoring Plan

RALEIGH – The N.C. Division of Air Quality has scheduled two meetings on May 10 to discuss and get public input on its plan for monitoring air pollution across the state.

The division will hold the meetings on its Annual Network Monitoring Plan at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, in the DAQ Training Room, AQ 526, 2728 Capital Blvd., Raleigh. Both meetings will cover the same topics, so there is no need to attend both.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires states to seek public input on their annual air monitoring plans and to submit those plans to the EPA by June 30, 2007. North Carolina's plan includes the monitoring network maintained by the Division of Air Quality as well as local air programs in Buncombe, Forsyth and Mecklenburg counties.

North Carolina's air monitoring network includes equipment for measuring a range of air pollutants, including ozone, particle pollution, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and acid precipitation. DAQ and the local air programs operate 70 monitoring sites in 45 counties across the state. In 2006, the agencies collected 365,757 air samples. Air quality monitoring is used to:

- Ensure that North Carolina meets air quality standards to protect public health and the environment.
- Identify areas where air quality does not meet standards so problems can be addressed.
- Observe trends in air quality to show if pollution levels are increasing, declining or staying the same.

At the meetings, DAQ staff will provide information on the state's overall air quality network, discuss proposed changes to network, answer questions, and provide opportunities for public comments. Persons who wish to speak at the meetings should plan to limit their comments to 3 minutes or less. Interested persons also can submit written comments at the meeting or send them to DAQ by June 8, 2007, to:

Hoke Kimball, DAQ Ambient Monitoring Section  
1641 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1641  
Phone: (919) 733-1487  
FAX: (919) 733-1812  
Email: Ask\_DAQ\_Ambient@ncmail.net

A copy of the air monitoring plan will be posted online at <http://daq.state.nc.us/monitor/> by May 10. For more information about air issues, visit the DAQ Web site at [www.ncair.org](http://www.ncair.org).

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