

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 30, 2026

The Air Pollution Control Board held a public meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2026. The meeting was conducted in person and virtually via Zoom.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairperson, Mr. Joseph Minott called the meeting to order; approximately 2:06pm. Opening remarks, instructions were provided and participants were informed that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

January 29, 2026, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously without objection.

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Dr. Kassahun Sellasie provided program updates, followed by a regulatory presentation by Maryjoy Ulatowski regarding proposed revisions to the Regulation AMR XI.

1. PROGRAM UPDATES (Dr. Kassahun Sellasie)

Dr. Sellasie presented quarterly updates, including air quality, EPA and PA DEP updates, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission updates, and AMS operational updates.

Air Quality Updates

- No unhealthy air quality days reported during the most recent quarter
- Seasonal decline in ozone levels due to colder weather
- PM2.5 levels showed slight improvement compared to prior years

2. FEDERAL & STATE UPDATES

EPA Updates

- EPA launches Clean Air Act Data Resources website
- International data finds 2025 the third hottest year on record
- Study links wildfire smoke to increased death rates in the U.S.
- EPA repeals Endangerment Finding and Vehicle GHG requirements
- EIA issues a mandatory information collection effort about backup generators for states and local air agencies
- EPA releases Annual Air Quality Trends report
- EPA waives ethanol requirements, pre-empts “Boutique Fuels” due to crisis
- Early White House documents show plans to propose 52% cut to the EPA, elimination of state and local air grants, and DERA
- EPA issues final NSPS for combustion turbines

Pennsylvania DEP Updates

- Shapiro administration launches Delaware County air monitoring project online dashboard to increase transparency and protect public health

3. DVRPC updates

- \$34 Million available for Southeast Pennsylvania in NEVI community charging funding

4. City/OOS Updates

- Clean Energy Investments: expanding electric vehicle charging to support the City's fleet
- The City has cut carbon emissions by 49%, plus more highlights from the 2025 Municipal Energy Master Plan update.

AMS Air Monitoring

- The mobile monitor van goes around to various sites in the City to measure PM2.5, formaldehyde, and greenhouse gas concentrations.
- The mobile monitoring van will be deployed for FIFA at a location near the stadium.
- City launches first-in-nation 'Breathe Philly' Network to bring real-time air quality data to every neighborhood.

AMS Lab Chemistry

- Village Green monitors continue to collect continuous meteorological and particulate data at 6th & Arch Sts.
- Philadelphia Air Quality Survey (PAQS) season is in progress. Laboratory operations for weighing and conducting black carbon measurements are ongoing
- Staff continue to participate in Photochemical Air Monitoring Stations (PAMS) discussions.
- AMS Lab continues to provide sampling cartridges and analysis for carbonyl compounds for the EPA Region III NATTS site in Washington, DC.
- AMS Lab continues to collect Volatile Organic Carbon (VOC) canisters at four sites.
- AMS Lab has toxic monitors, particulate monitors, and a few locations
- AMS Lab purchases an Epsilon 4 model X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analyzer, which enables us to analyze Teflon filters.
- So far, we have not received any paint and ink samples in 2026.

AMS Lab Engineering

- Particulate Matter Monitoring (PM2.5, PM10, Speciation) – Including data analysis, method evaluations, and air quality planning best practices for identifying and addressing particulate matter in the ambient air
- Community Air Monitoring – Including projects that engage and communicate study results with community stakeholders in monitoring for smoke during wildfires, evaluating non-regulatory technologies, and providing best practices for implementing community monitoring studies
- Quality Assurance – Including experiences in implementing or improving the quality system, addressing Technical System Audit (TSA) findings and QA challenges, and lessons learned in evaluating measurement methods and in improving data review processes.
- Photochemical Assessment Monitoring – Including successes in developing and implementing Enhanced Monitoring Plans, experiences with Automatic Gas Chromatographs (AutoGCs), and the collection and use of ceilometer data.
- Automation in Ambient Air Monitoring – Including the conversion from manual to automated methods, automating the remote operations of monitors, remotely accessing and reporting data, and automated QA/QC checks within ambient air monitoring programs.
- Special and Complex Pollution Issues – Including air pollution monitoring approaches for special and complex pollution issues that do not align well with the other categories. Plan to monitor pollutants using passive sampling at upwind/downwind sites near the Title V facility.

Regulatory Services Activities – January 1 – March 31, 2026

- AMS issued 182 permits, 150 construction air permits, and 32 asbestos permits
- Services 70 citizen complaints: 29 involving air pollution, 7 involving asbestos, and 34 involving noise
- Performed 299 inspections: 28 air, 34 noise, and 237 asbestos
- Observed 9 vehicles at 4 locations and issued 1 citation for violations of the City's anti-idling rules
- Issued 322 new Notices of Violations: FC&E 313, Asbestos 9), resolved 244 (FC&E 237, Asbestos 7) Notices of Violations, and collected \$135,906 (FC&E \$135,906.32, Asbestos \$0.00) in fines and penalties

5. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Chair Minott: Asked if the crematorium issue is now a regulation?

Dr. Sellasie: Responded Yes. It was sent to the media for 30 days for public review.

No responses were received, so it was closed and finalized.

Chair Minott: Asked if there are any proposed regulations in the works:

Dr. Sellasie: Explained that he, the Health Commissioner, and Attorney India McGhee are working on something.

Chair Minott: Asked what percentage of the City's fleet is now electric? Clarifying he's asking about City-owned cars.

Dr. Raval-Nelson: Stated, we will get that information. The Health Commissioner also stated that the mayor was pushing out 1,000 electric City vehicles, taking back the older gasoline vehicles, and replacing them with electric vehicles. All the vehicles the Health Department has been purchasing over the past year and a half are electric. And electric charging stations have been added to all City-owned sites.

Dr. Gross-Davis: Asked if the links to slides and other studies can be added to the chat/in the future too?

Dr. Gross-Davis: Asked if there are any conversations with DEP about budget cuts, as this would have a big impact on Philadelphia?

Dr. Raval-Nelson stated that the public can access information from the meetings via links on the Air Pollution Control Board websites.

Dr. Raval-Nelson: Stated anything related to grant funding, whether it's state grants, federal grants, anything, we have a whole mechanism in place where we are working with state and federal partners, along with the Mayor's Office and our Law Department, to make sure that our City is safe and secure when it comes to these things. There is a process in place, and the Commissioner would be more than happy to share those sorts of details offline.

Guest (Dr. Marilyn Howarth): Asked if Kass had done an analysis of the data centers and their contribution to air pollution in Philadelphia, or if there was any thought to doing that in the future?

Dr. Sellasie: Answered yes, we are working on that with Aurora and the Commissioner's Office. We have some notes prepared for the Council for Monday's meeting.

Dr. Raval-Nelson: We will follow up.

Guest (Mr. Kevin Stewart): Stated he was very impressed by Dr. Sellasie's presentation. Mr. Stewart also states, as an example of a call-out box, that the Lung Association mentions data centers in the State of the Air report as a threat, noting that they are built without adequate control and so on, rather than using clean, renewable sources. They do not grade local air pollution agencies' work; they only look at the quality of the air that people are breathing, independent of whether that is from local sources or whether it's from things you might consider exceptional events.

Dr. Gross-Davis: Agreed with Mr. Stewart that exceptional events with the wildfires, from a regulatory perspective, are important, but from the exposure side, it's also important that they be included because that's what people are being exposed to.

Dr. Sellassie States that AMS is transparent. With the Clarity sensors and 'Breathe Philly,' the public can click where they live to see PM2.5 and NOx concentrations, as well as other pollutants, in their area.

Chairman Minott: Asked how AMS is getting the word out about 'Breathe Philly'?

Dr. Sellassie stated that the city held a press conference on February 18, at which the Mayor, Council President, the Council Health Chair, and other commissioners attended. There were six or seven media outlets there, so the word is spreading. It's on YouTube, and people call him from outside the USA. Dr. Sellassie also did a presentation that was attended/viewed by several continents and several hundred countries.

ADJOURNMENT