Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

MEMORANDUM

TO: Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors

FROM: Ashley Featherstone, Director

RE: Agenda for March 18, 2025

DATE: March 11, 2025

Enclosed, please find the Agenda for the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board meeting to be held on **Tuesday March 18, 2025 at 4:00pm** in the meeting room located at the Buncombe County Permit Office at 30 Valley Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

This meeting will be live streamed on Engage Buncombe which can be accessed at https://engage.buncombecounty.org/s8486. The board meeting documents will also be available on the Engage Buncombe site. The meeting will be recorded and can be viewed later.

ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE AIR QUALITY AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TENTATIVE AGENDA
MARCH 18, 2025 BOARD MEETING

1. **Public Comment Protocol Announcement**

2. **Adjustment and Approval of Agenda**

3. **Consent Agenda:**
   A. Approval of minutes from January 23, 2025

4. **Unfinished Business:**
   A. Buncombe County Fiscal Year 2025 Budget amendment

5. **Director's Report:**
   A. FY26 Budget Power Point Presentation
   B. FY26 Budget Discussion
   C. Tropical Storm Helene Preparations, Response, Recovery Update
      1. Air Curtain Incinerators and Open Burning of Storm Debris
      2. Demolitions and Asbestos Removal Permits
      3. Post Helene Community Neighborhood and Built Environment Group
   D. 35 Woodfin Office Move
   E. Surplus Ozone Monitoring Equipment
   F. Website Updates
   G. Radon Awareness month, free radon kits
   H. Monitoring Update
   I. Facility Permit Renewals

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Facility Classification	Location	Changes from Existing Permit
Black Rock Crushing	Portable Concrete, Stone, and Recycled Asphalt Pavement Crusher	Small	Three APAC Atlantic sites and various other sites with local zoning authority approval	Update General Conditions
Morris Funeral Home	Crematory	Small	Merrimon Avenue, Asheville	Update General Conditions

6. **New Business:**
   None

7. **Other Business:**
   A. Legal Counsel Report
   B. Advisory Committee Report
      1. Committee did not meet in February
      2. Next meeting in April
   C. Calendar
      1. Next meeting May 8, 2025
   D. Announcements

8. **Public Comment**

9. **Adjournment**

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

MEMORANDUM

TO: Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors

FROM: Ashley Featherstone, Director

RE: Minutes for January 23, 2025

DATE: March 11, 2025

Enclosed, please find the Minutes for the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board meeting held on **Thursday January 23, 2025 at 4:00pm**. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 4:00p**m in the meeting room located at the Buncombe County Permit Office at 30 Valley Street, Asheville, NC 28801.

This meeting will be live streamed on Engage Buncombe which can be accessed at https://engage.buncombecounty.org/s8486. The board meeting documents will also be available on the Engage Buncombe site. The meeting will be recorded and can be viewed later.

The Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors met on Thursday, January 23, 2025, in the meeting room at the Buncombe County Permit Office located at 30 Valley Street, Asheville, N.C.

The attendance of the Board members was as follows:

Members Present:	**Members Absent:**
Ned Guttman	
Garry Whisnant	
Joel Storrow	
Karl Koon	
Caitlin Crossett	

Staff Present: *Ashley Featherstone, Director; James Raiford, Permitting Program Manager; Mike Matthews, Air Quality Specialist II; Steve Ensley, Air Quality Monitoring Coordinator; Alex Latta, Air Quality Specialist II; Allison Glass, Air Quality Specialist I; Betsy Brown, Air Quality Coordinator (Retiring); Hannah Rhodes, Air Quality Coordinator (New Hire)*

Others Present: *Amy Broughton, County Attorney; Angelica Tyler, CAPE; Keith Bamberger, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality; Arnold Lingle, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality; Patti Beaver, CIBO; Vic Fahrer, Resident; Mackenzie Koon, Resident*

Mr. Storrow called the meeting of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board of Directors to order on January 23, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

The order of business was as follows:

1. **Public Comment Protocol Announcement**
    a. Joel Storrow read the public comment protocol.

2. **Adjustment and Approval of Agenda**
    a. Karl Koon made the motion to approve the agenda.
    b. Ned Guttman seconded the motion.
    c. All present – yes
    d. The motion passed 5-0

3. **Introduction of New Board Member Dr. Caitlin Crossett**
    a. Dr. Caitlin Crossett works for UNCA and has a background in Climate and Climatology.

4. **Special Presentation: Recognition of Betsy Brown for 12 years of service with the agency**
    a. Joel Storrow and Ashley Featherstone presented Betsy Brown, the Agency's Air Quality Coordinator who is retiring, a plaque for her 12 years of service.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

a. Approval of minutes from December 2, 2024.
b. Ned Guttman made the motion to approve the minutes.
c. Garry Whisnant seconded the motion.
d. All present – yes
e. The motion passed 5-0.

6. Unfinished Business:

a. None

7. **Director's Report:**

a. Introduction of New Staff
    i. Hannah Rhodes is the new Air Quality Coordinator, replacing Betsy Brown.
b. Tropical Storm Helene Preparations, Response, Recovery Update
    i. Air Curtain Incinerators (ACI's) and Open Burning of Storm Debris
        1. We have approved 5 Air Curtain Incinerators for use
            a. Biltmore has 3 places that they will be operating theirs.
            b. The one at the BC landfill is the only one up and running at this point.
        2. Under our rules, entities are required to ask permission to burn storm debris, and they have to be at least 500 feet from the nearest occupied dwelling.
            a. We have also given permission to 2 sites to open burn storm debris.
        3. We are encouraging the use of ACI's because they emit less smoke and are more efficient (compared to open burning).
        4. There are several federal and state rules that apply to ACI's. Previously you needed a Title V permit to use an ACI, however there are now some exceptions.
        5. While ACI's are meant to be more temporary, we have been given permission by the EPA to grant extensions if needed to continue to use them for some time after the hurricane.
        6. The Army Corps of Engineers has estimated about 10 million cubic yards of storm debris, and so far in Buncombe County they have picked up about 700,000 cubic yards (only about 7%). Therefore, we are expecting to be needing the ACI's for longer than what their typical "temporary" status normally entails.
        7. The most recent ACI we've given permission to operate is at the Riverside Stump Dump
            a. Within 1,000 feet of our regulatory monitor at the Board of Education, so we're going to be watching this one very carefully.
            b. We have given them approval for 8 weeks and we will see how it goes.
        8. We have a lot of air quality monitoring sensors out in the community, so we will keep an eye on those.

9. A debris pile in Weaverville was set on fire in the middle of the night
    a. This has been impacting the neighbors with a lot of smoke.
10. Board member Ned Guttman asked a couple questions
    a. What is this Agency doing for those who are burning without permission?
        i. Answer: We aren't doing a lot. When we find them, we make sure they're burning 500 feet away from any occupied dwelling, and we make sure they are only burning legal material.
    b. Is there any new information on who set the fire in Weaverville?
        i. Answer: No, right now it is still under investigation
        ii. They did ask us permission to open burn what is left of the pile, and we did grant that permission so they can burn it up as efficiently as possible. However it is still a problem. We are still getting calls from the neighbors. We are working with the contractor and the fire department to see the best next course of action.
    c. Is there an education component that we need to get involved in?
        i. Answer: DAQ is very proactive and we are doing outreach on our website.
        ii. Later on in this agenda we will talk about the Post-Helene Community Environment Group that is going to have a big focus on outreach.
        iii. One of the big issues right now is lead clearing, and for that we're working with the county to try and get something on the Planning Department's application page about the 500 foot setback requirement so that developers will be more aware.
        iv. We have put together some letters to send out in response to complaints, which is a way to get information out into neighborhoods outside of us just going out and inspecting open burning site complaints.
        v. We want to do more outreach with open burning in the future.
11. In general, complaints are up, and even with the 500 foot setback there is still a lot of smoke that we are getting complaints about.
12. The North Carolina legislature in the Hurricane Relief Bill did allow the burning of engineered wood and storm debris until March 31st, 2025.
13. Board Member Joel Storrow asked why the burning setback was changed from 1,000 feet to 500 feet.
    a. Answer: The General Assembly changed the distance around 2010 or so, and while our Board did not want to adopt that change, we did eventually have to because it was the law (supersedes the air quality regulations).

ii. Demolitions and Asbestos Removal Permits
    1. In November, Mike Matthews had reported doing around 100 asbestos and demolition permits, since Helene. We have now issued around 130 permits.
    2. Mike spoke on permitting and how these will be ongoing. Many are currently waiting on insurance companies andFEMA, so are still a lot of demolitions to do.
    3. The county has done about 2,100 damage assessments on properties. The city has done about 1,600-1,700 damage assessments on structures.
    4. Initially we were not charging fees for demolition permits, because that same Hurricane Relief bill stated that Cities and Counties could not charge building permit fees and fees related to Helene, and we are still tracking those, however that provision expired on December 31st, 2024, so the County Permits & Inspections Department and our agency both started charging fees again. Helene-related permits are still being tracked in our system, but we are back to charging fees for them.
iii. Post Helene Community Neighborhood and Built Environment Group
    1. This is a group started by the county as a part of Helene recovery, and we were asked to join it. It is led by Department of Health and Human Services.
    2. We have co-workers from Environmental Health participating, Ms. Glass and Ms. Featherstone are on the committee, and others in the county are involved.
    3. It should be a good avenue for us to get out into the community and do outreach.
    4. Allison is working on an Environmental Justice policy for us and this pairs well with this group. Allison has also put together some one-pager flyers with information for the public on Air Quality.
    5. We will be looking at ways that we can collect data and track when/how the area is recovering (for example: When the ACI's are no longer being used for storm debris).

c. New Ozone Site-AB Tech
    i. We are working on siting a new ozone site at the AB tech campus.
    ii. When Haywood county was removed from our MSA a year or so ago, that changed the landscape on how many ozone monitors we were required to have to meet EPA standards, and so we needed to add another one here in our area.
    iii. The most significant consideration is the cost. We have been able to buy some new equipment from recent EPA grants, so we have new monitors and new spare monitors. We can use the spare monitors for this new site, and DAQ has offered to let us use a new building of theirs under a memorandum of agreement, so that has cut the cost significantly.
    iv. The plans for the new site have to be put together in the network plan the state issues every year.
    v. Steve is working with the county and AB Tech to get this fully set up.

d. Surplus Ozone Monitoring Equipment
    i. We have had older equipment no longer in use in our lab for quite awhile, and we are looking at either selling or donating it. Trying to get it on gov deals to see if we can sell it there. UNCA is also interested in using it. We would like to donate it, but if we can get funds for it then we need to do that. If it doesn't get purchased in a reasonable amount of time, we will likely ask permission from the board to donate it to UNCA.
    ii. Board member Joel Storrow asked what the equipment would could sell for?
        1. Answer: We think it could be worth between $1,000 and $2,500.
e. Website Updates
    i. We have tried to get more updated content on our website and make it more concise – check it out! We've edited the history of the agency, we have Title V permits on there, and other updates.
    ii. The county will be switching over to a new platform for our website soon.
    iii. Board Member Garry Whisnant asked about the air quality forecast. We've seen a lot of yellow days recently, and people are asking him where that comes from, especially in the middle of Winter.
        1. Answer: Mr. Ensley said that one factor impacting this is that they dropped the standard for PM2.5. The threshold for yellow dropped, so some of the previous green days are now yellow.
        2. Mr. Raiford said it is possible that we will see up to an extra 60 yellow days due to this per year.
        3. Ms. Featherstone noted it is getting harder to meet the standard for PM2.5.
f. Radon Awareness month, free radon kits
    i. It is January, and we did put some money in the budget for radon test kits. We have 100 free test kits to give out to residents.
    ii. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.
    iii. We have high levels of radon around here because of the granite in the soil.
    iv. Keith Bamberger (from DAQ) participated in a webinar on radon education for the lung cancer coalition recently (Keith is on our advisory committee).
g. Monitoring Update
    i. Temporary Monitors: EBAMs and Purple Airs
        1. Steve Ensley lead this section.
        2. We have deployed several monitors in anticipation of monitoring the impact of storm debris burning on the area's air quality.
        3. The map shown during the meeting shows monitor locations.
            a. Red dots are Purple Air monitors, and Blue dots are monitors that were loaned to us by the State.
            b. Blue and red dots next to each other means there isn't necessarily real time data, so we have Purple Airs located there until the issue

gets figured out. Once that is resolved we will probably relocate those Purple Air monitors elsewhere in the county.

4. Mr. Ensley showed a map with the data from the monitors. There are a few small spikes, but for the most part it is pretty low.

ii. Year end update (ozone, pm2.5)
   1. The completeness for our Ozone data was 95%
      a. Our design value was 60 parts per billion for the 2022 through 2024 time period
   2. The completeness for our BAM PM 2.5 monitor was 95.62%.
      a. Our design value (2022-2024)was 6.1 micrograms per cubic meter.
      b. The last quarter of data has not been validated yet, but Mr. Ensley does not expect that number to change.

iii. Additional Monitoring Update regarding the proposed monitor at AB Tech
   1. We should be able to install the equipment in late summer and be able to operate when the Ozone season starts on March 1st, 2026.
   2. The one cost we will incur for the site is that the building will require a concrete pad due to it being heavier than other previous, similar buildings.
   3. We've been working with several County departments as well as AB Tech to get this project plan complete. It is all going very well.
   4. We are going to be using our spare set of monitors, so at some point we'll want to purchase an additional spare set as we will be operating two sites, but our current spares can be at this site without backups for now.
      a. We will probably want to purchase this within the next 3 or 4 years.
   5. Mr. Ensley showed a picture of the building
   6. Board member Joel Storrow asked where on AB Tech's campus the monitor would go
      a. Answer: It will be next to the maintenance building.
   7. Both this Monitor and the Toxics monitor will go in the same new building, which is designed specifically for environmental monitoring

iv. Going back to the Buncombe County Purple Air graphs that were shown earlier during the monitoring update, Ms. Featherstone pointed out that the high is around 45 micrograms per cubic meter.
   1. Mr. Ensley said that these are hourly values, and that if it was based on 24 hour values, the numbers would be much lower.
   2. The 24 hour standard is 35 (micrograms per cubic meter).
   3. We can also relocate one of our monitors to a different location if we ever need to monitor a specific location in the future.

h. Facility Permit Renewals

Facility Name	Type of Facility	Facility Classification	Location	Changes from Existing Permit

Harwood Home for Funerals, Inc.	Crematory	Small	208 West State Street, Black Mountain	Update General Conditions
Mission Hosital-980 Hendersonville Rd.	Data Management Center/Office	Small	980 Hendersonville Road, Asheville	Update General Conditions
Tutco, Inc.	Manufacturer of custom electric heaters	Small	30 Legend Drive, Arden	Update General Conditions and Insignificant Activity List

i. All three of these facilities are assigned to Mr. Latta, who spoke on them.
ii. Harwood Home for Funerals
    1. There are no equipment changes. It's just an update to the general conditions.
    2. Garry Whisnatt made the motion to approve.
    3. Karl Koon seconded the motion.
    4. A comment was made to ask if they should be approved all at one time or separately, and it was decided to consider them separately since they started them that way.
    5. All present – yes
    6. The motion passed 5-0.
iii. Mission Hospital
    1. They have two emergency generators on site that maintain the data center in case of emergency.
    2. During Hurricane Helene they were very active in keeping things going and keeping data flowing through the hospital system.
    3. Ned Guttman made the motion to approve.
    4. Gary Whisnant seconded the motion.
    5. All present – yes.
    6. The motion passed 5-0.
iv. Tutco, Inc.
    1. The only change they are adding is one insignificant process, and there are not emissions related to it, just heat.
    2. Karl Koon made the motion to approve.
    3. Ned Guttman seconded the motion.
    4. All present – yes
    5. The motion passed 5-0.

8. **New Business:**
    a. Advisory Committee Leadership
        i. We have an opening for the chair of that group
        ii. Ned Guttman has volunteered to lead the committee going forward, and Caitlin Crossett has agreed to be a part of the committee as well.

9. **Other Business**
    a. Legal Counsel Report
        i. Nothing to report.
    b. Advisory Committee Report
        i. Committee did not meet in December
            1. We have not met since Hurricane Helene, so we'll probably try to start back up in February or April (months board does not meet).
    c. Calendar
        i. Next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2025.
        ii. Meeting was moved to Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 at 4pm due to schedulingconflicts.
        iii. The next meeting will be in the current building (30 Valley St)
    d. Announcements
        i. Mr. Storrow welcomed Caitlin Crossett to the board.

10. Public Comment
    a. None

11. Adjournment
    a. Karl Koon made the motion to adjourn.
    b. Gary Whisnant seconded the motion.
    c. All present – yes.
    d. The motion passed 5-0.
    e. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency
Air Quality Fund Ordinance

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 18, 2025

WHEREAS, Budget and Air Quality Staff recommend and the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board so desires to amend the FY2025 Air Quality Budget Ordinance as outlined below in exhibit "A" to the budget,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Board as follows:

1. That the FY2025 amendments listed in Exhibit A below be hereby adopted.
2. That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED This 18th day of March, 2025

Requesting Department: Air Quality

Budget Amendment Item: Increase Funds allocated to Capital Outlay/Vehicles.

Description: Staff would like to increase funds in Capital Outlay under Expenditures in the 2025 Budget Ordinance. The cost of the new Ford Lightning vehicle and accessories was in excess of the previously approved budgeted funds. As a result, the budgeted Service & Supplies/ Salaries & Benefits funds will also be adjusted.

Funding Source:
Air Quality - Service & Supplies/ Salaries & Benefits to increase Capital Outlay

Exhibit A:	**Increase (Decrease)**	
Account Description	**Revenues**	**Expenditures**
Fund 120- Capital Outlay		$ 16,500
Fund 120- Service & Supplies/ Salaries & Benefits		$ (16,500)
TOTAL	$ -	$ -

ATTEST:

Air Quality Director

ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE AIR QUALITY BOARD

By:

Chairman of the AB Air Quality Board

ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE AIR QUALITY AGENCY
FY 2025 BUDGET

BE IT ORDAINED by the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency that, pursuant to Section 159-13 of the General Statues of North Carolina, the FY 2025 Budget Ordinance of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency is hereby set forth as follows:

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with the following schedules:

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries & Benefits/ Service & Supplies	$1,243,960
Special Projects	$ 56,000
Capital Outlay	$ 50,000
Expenditure Totals	**$1,349,960**

Section 2. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025:

REVENUES:

NC Gasoline Tax Allocation	$150,000
Permits & Inspection Fees	$325,000
Title V Fees	$227,700
Federal 105 Grant Funds	$280,000
Federal PM 2.5 Grant Funds	$250,000
Air Quality General Fund Balance Draw	$117,260
Revenue Total	**$ 1,349,960**

Section 3. This Budget Ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency and within five (5) days after its adoption copies shall be filed with the Finance Officer and the Administrative Assistant to Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency who, for the purposes of this ordinance, is designated as the Clerk to the Agency as described in G.S. 159-13.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective on July 1, 2024.

Adopted this 9th day of May, 2024.

Joel Storrow, Chairman

Attested By:

May 9, 2024

Truck Costs Above Budgted $50,000

Truck	$	12,900.00
NCDMV	$	2,224.28
Bed Liner	$	743.65
Floor Mats	$	123.04
Bed Cover	$	225.00
Total:	$	16,215.97

Asheville-Buncombe
Air Quality Agency

Buncombe County
FY 2026 Budget Presentation

Ashley Featherstone and Hannah Rhodes

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Agenda

A. High-Level Summary
   - Recent trends – Headcount & Operating Expenses

B. What's New?
   - Personnel – Reorganization complete, budget for temporary/professional services (second year file digitization), audit of financial/audit, did not budget for intern
   - Operating – Add new ozone monitoring site, increase in monitoring costs, increase in indirect costs, decrease in travel/training budget
   - Revenues – Decrease in grant funds (reduced amount of one-time funds), grant uncertainty, grant freeze
   - Actual Net Impact to Fund Balance
   - Fee Changes – Title V fees CPI increase

C. Strategic Alignment, Goals, & Accomplishments

D. Equity Analysis Tool

High-Level Summary

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

- Reorganization Complete
  - Changes to salary and benefit levels

- Funding Digitization Project, Contract services for financial/grant audits
- Internship funding-cut
- Community outreach

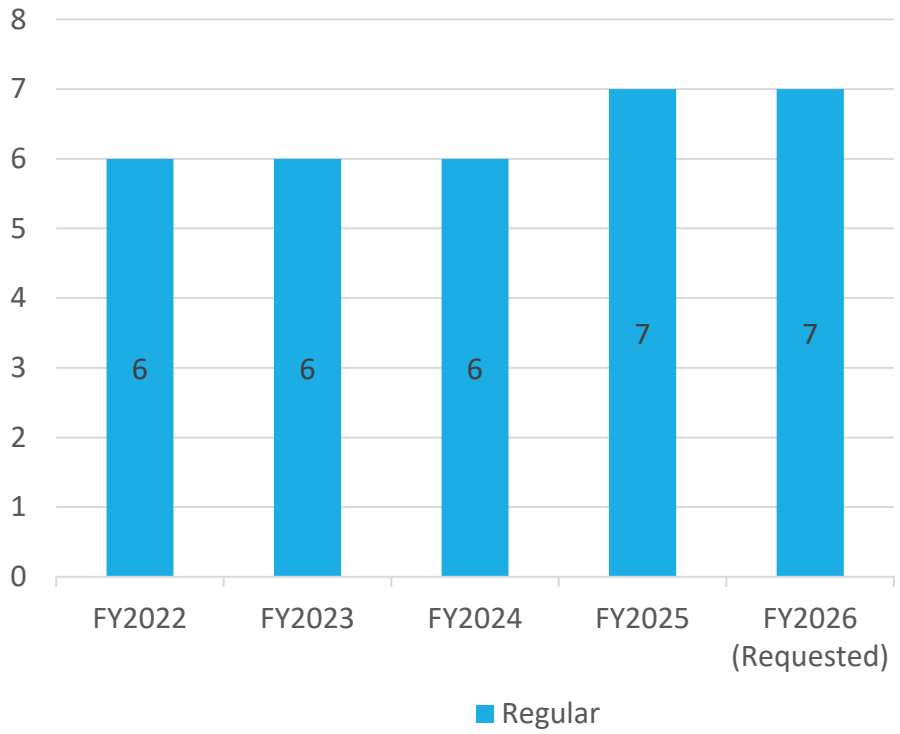
- The Air Quality fund balance continues to be healthy, but staff expect that to be reduced in current and future budget years. *Full accrual fund balance FY24=$228,000

FUND BALANCE-Modified Accrual				
FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24*
$596,736	$716,382	$719,071	$715,689	$746,841

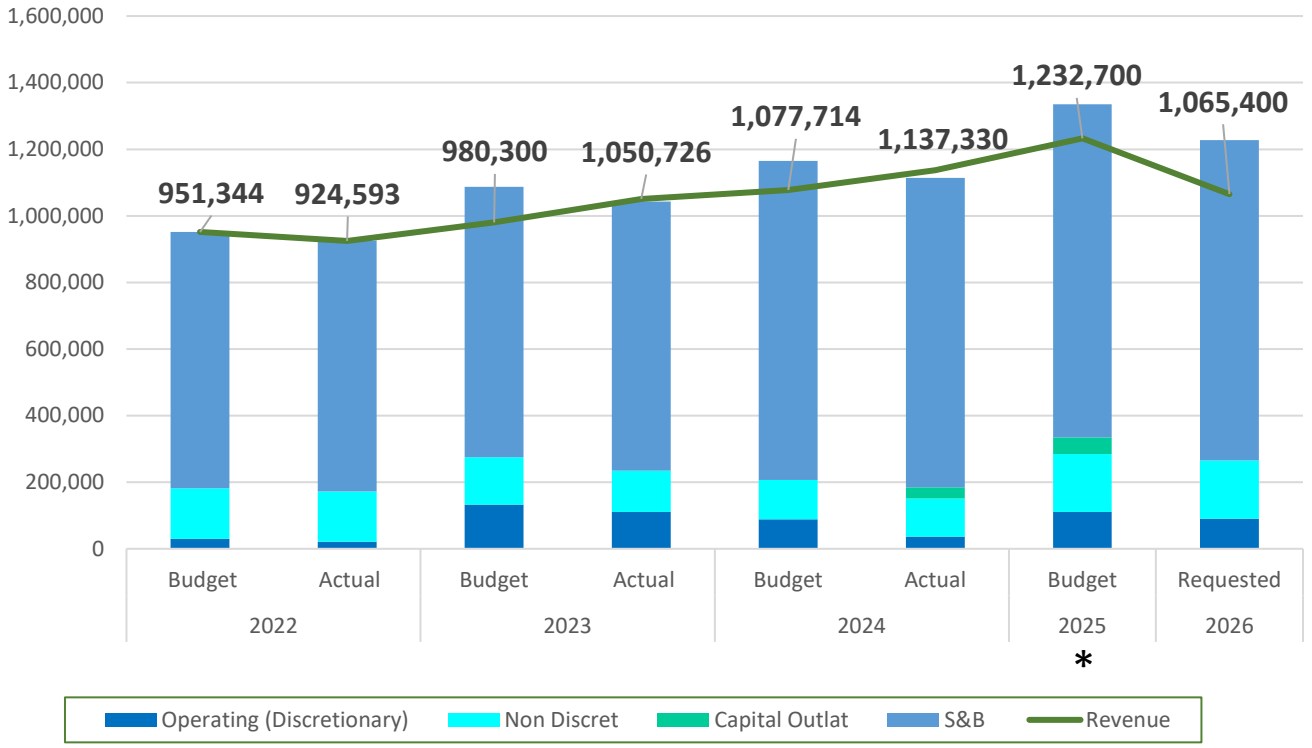
Recent Trends

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Headcount



Operating expenses



* Revenue does not include fund balance

What's New? Personnel

Personnel

- New position requests:
  - Temporary part time for digitalization project – $10,000
  - Contract Services for audits of grants/financials – $6,000

Cost: No additional operating costs

Why?

Need to implement modern data management system for files and data. Digitize older files. Electronic permitting for industrial facilities.

Review Recurring Grants for Compliance with Matching and Maintenance of Effort Requirements

How does this advance your strategic plan or business plan?

- Improve customer service – operational excellence
- Increase transparency, access to files related to emissions and environmental outcomes

Risks of not approving:

- Unable to comply with new NC rules that allow electronic submittal of permits, reports
- Unable to start digitalization project

Alternatives:

- What could you do without to get this expansion? N/A
- Is there an existing position that could be altered to support this need? No

What's New? Operating

Operating

- New Ground Level Ozone Monitoring Site at AB Tech

- **Cost:** $35,000
- $10,000-concrete pad, electrical
- $25,000-one calibrator and one Zero Air Pak*
- Building-Provided by NC DAQ with MOU**

- **Why?**
- Required by Federal Regulations (40 CFR Part 58 Appendix D)-due to Haywood Co. removal from MSA by OMB in 2023
- Building and Installation: 2025-2026. Operation required by March 2026.

How does this advance your strategic plan or business plan?

- Environment and Energy Stewardship-Mission
- Environmental Justice Area-EJ and Equity

Risks of not approving:

- Failure to meet EPA program requirements

Alternatives:

- What could you do without to get this expansion? N/A

* Spreading the cost over 2 years. Analyzer $18,000 next year

** Contingent on NC IRA Funds, steel tariff cost concerns

What's New? Operating (Cont.)

Other Noteworthy Operating Items

- General Increase in Monitoring Supplies costs due to additional temporary monitors post Helene
  - **Cost:** $4,500
  - Compare to FY2024 (Actual): $3,316
  - Compare to FY2025 (Budget): $5,000
- Increase in Indirect Costs
  - **Cost:** $147,787
  - Compare to FY2024 (Actual): $91,764
  - Compare to FY2025 (Actual): $141,639
- Decrease in travel/training budget
  - **Cost:** $12,856
  - Compare to FY2025 (Budget): $15,124

Revenues

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Grants

EPA 105 Grant

- *Local Air Quality Program*
- FY2023: $214,517
- FY2024: $280,000
- FY2025: $222,974
- FY2026 (Budget): $230,000

EPA 103 PM 2.5 Grant

- *PM2.5 Monitoring Program*
- FY2023: $60,000
- FY2024: $84,000
- FY2025: $63,053
- FY2026 (Budget): $70,000

EPA 103 One-Time Grants

- FY2023 ARP: $75,700
- FY2024 CAA: $42,214
- FY2025-26 IRA: $233,000

Other Revenues

Gas tax reimbursement

- FY2023: $152,670
- FY2024: $155,494
- FY2025 (Budget): $150,000
- FY2026 (Budget): $160,000

Permitting Fees

- FY2023: $524,898
- FY2024: $538,718
- FY2025 (Budget): $547,700
- FY2026 (Budget): $539,900

Total Revenues:

- FY2023: $1,050,726
- FY2024: $1,137,330
- FY2025 (Budget): $1,349,960
- FY2026 (Budget): $1,065,400

Federal Grant Freeze

EPA 103 – Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) Grant

- Recurring Grant
- Funds PM2.5 monitoring program's regular operations
- Grant Period Ends: March 31st, 2025
- Total Grant Award: $63,053
- ~~Balance Left (Mid-Feb): $63,053~~ Update: funds released 3/5/2025

EPA 103 – Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Grant

- One-Time Grant
- Funds the expansion and enhancement of air monitoring activities
- Grant Period Ends: October 30th, 2026
- Total Grant Award: $233,000
- Balance Left (Mid-Feb): $71,580

Other federal government budget issues: $7,500 for electric vehicle rebate pending, Congress sets grant budget, FY25 105 grant amount (to be drawn down in FY26) TBD, no award yet and year ends Sept. 30, 2025

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Inflation Reduction Act Grant (IRA FY25/26)

Awarded $233,000 for the purchase of the following:

Alicat FP-25



TeleDyne T640X (PM10)



Ford Lightning Electric Truck





Spare Pumps

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Actual Net Impact to Fund Balance

BCFY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	1,001,062	994,734	906,678	1,017,227	1,097,849	888,876	883,227	859,666	943,873	924,593	1,050,726	1,137,330
Expenses	1,005,088	955,695	1,110,699	945,445	1,165,436	915,656	872,797	763,772	824,228	925,285	1,042,689	1,114,216
Difference	(4,026)	39,040	(204,021)	71,782	(67,588)	(26,780)	10,430	95,894	119,645	(692)	8,037	23,114

(debit to fund balance)

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Fee Changes

Fee	Description	Existing Rate	Proposed rate	Why?	Estimated Impact
Title V permit fees	This annual CPI increase was adopted into our rules with our fee increases in September 2021.	See final slide for details	Increase of 3.17905%	The Title V fees are required to be sufficient to fully support the program.	Increase in annual revenues by ~$3,622 for TV permitting fees.
Title V tonnage fee	The tonnage fee increase for Title V (TV) facilities may be considered as part of the Agency's budget process each year and requires Air Quality Board approval.		Increase of $1.96 per ton of emissions		Increase in annual revenues by ~$2,096 if the TV tonnage fee increase is approved.

Total increase ~$5,718 in FY26 (tonnage fee increase pending board approval)

Strategic Alignment, Goals, & Accomplishments

Accomplishments in FY25

- **Completed reorganization of agency and filled vacant position**
- Upgraded and expanded air pollution monitoring network, replaced older diesel with new electric vehicle
- Recognition ceremony and intern-Asheville-Buncombe Sustainable Microbrewery Initiative
- Free radon test kits
- Helene Response:
  - **2 emergency air pollution monitors and 8 low-cost air quality sensors deployed**
  - Air Curtain Incinerators and Open Burning of Storm Debris
  - **150 Demolition Permits**
  - Burning Complaints-Up est. 50%

Strategic Focus Areas

Operational Excellence

- Improve customer service and service to the community

Environmental and Energy Stewardship

- Participate in Vehicle Evaluation Team and Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.
- Promote energy efficiency programs - permitted facilities and community.
- Utilize EPA's Advance program to increase public engagement and decrease emissions. EE and Mobile Source Reductions
  - Sustainable Brewery Project
  - Clean School Bus Program
  - Residential Woodsmoke Emissions

Goals for FY26

- Continue to modernize data management systems with IT
  - Add permitted facilities to Accela
  - Take electronic payments from facilities
- **File retention policy and digitization project**
- Continue Partnerships with UNCA (low-cost air sensors in community- EJ project)
- Educational display at Community Science Shelter and Air Quality monitoring site.
- **Increase community outreach related to Helene-Air Quality Index and temporary monitors, open burning and storm debris burning, indoor air hazards including asbestos, lead, and mold**
  - Neighborhood and Built Environment Workgroup with DHHS
- Formalize EJ policy and increase language access resources

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

2024 ABAQA Report Parameters

Number of Facilities, By Category	
Title V	8
Synthetic Minor	9
Small	55
Stage I Vapor Recovery	151
Dry Cleaners	7

Number of Operating Permits Issued, By Category	
Title V	0
Synthetic Minor	0
Small	3

Number of Construction or Modification Permits Issued, By Category	
Title V	1
Synthetic Minor	3
Small	3

How many stack tests were observed?	5

Number of Inspections Performed at Each Source Category	
Title V	7
Synthetic Minor	9
Small	22
Stage I Vapor Recovery	0
Dry Cleaners	0

Asbestos Permitting Program	
NESHAP Permits	139
Local Permits	240
City of Asheville Permit Reviews	346
Buncombe County Permit Reviews	144

Number of Complaints Investigated	
Industry	5
Asbestos	2
Dust, Odor, IAQ	8
Open Burning	69
Stage I Vapor Recovery	0

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

FY26 Budget Equity Questions

Alignment with Equity Goals	Equity Considerations
• We are moving forward with our digitalization plans. This will make facility and emissions data more accessible to all Buncombe County residents. • Our recently upgraded and expanded air quality monitoring site is in an EJ area.	• Marginalized or underserved communities have historically experienced poorer air quality partly due to the proximity of air pollution sources to those communities. • We are working with Dr. Evan Couzo and Dr Caitlin Crossett (UNCA) with a community sensor project mapping PM emissions in historically redlined districts. Low-cost air quality sensors are now located at Asheville City Schools.

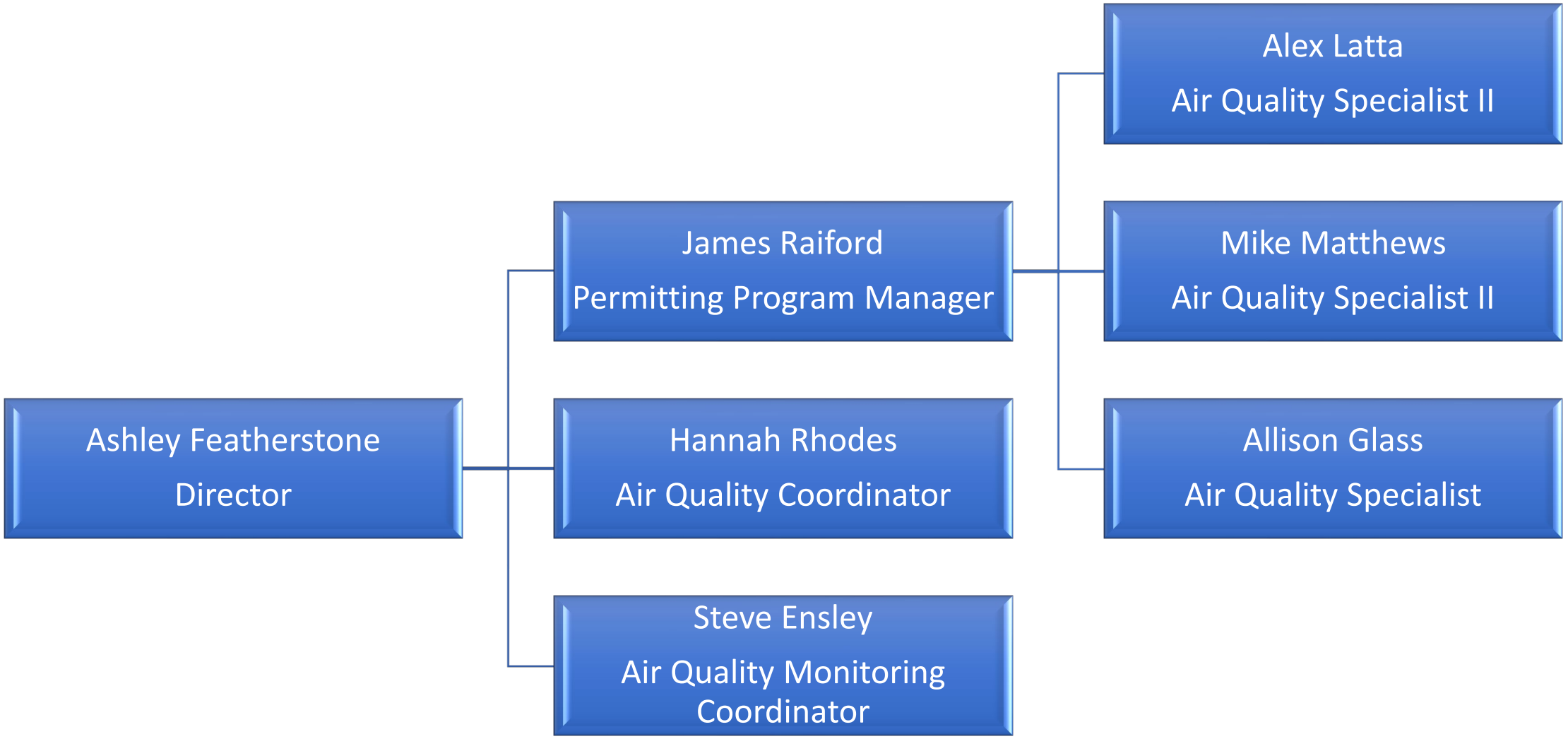
Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Title V Application Fee Change Details

Fee Name	FY2025 Fee	FY2025 Unit	FY2026 Proposed Fee	FY2026 Proposed Unit
Annual Base Fee	$11,694	Per Year	$12,066	Per Year
Annual Complexity Fee	$2,924-$8,771	Per Year	$3,016-$9,049	Per Year
17.0300 Permit	$1,169	Per Application	$1,207	Per Application
Initial Application or Major Modification	$11,694	Per Application	$12,066	Per Application
Initial Application or Major Modification (PSD **and** NSR/NAA)	$35,081	Per Application	$36,196	Per Application
Initial Application or Major Modification (PSD **or** NSR/NAA)	$17,541	Per Application	$18,099	Per Application
Minor Modification	$3,508	Per Application	$3,620	Per Application
General Title V Air Curtain Incinerator	10% of otherwise applicable fee	Per Application	10% of otherwise applicable fee	Per Application

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

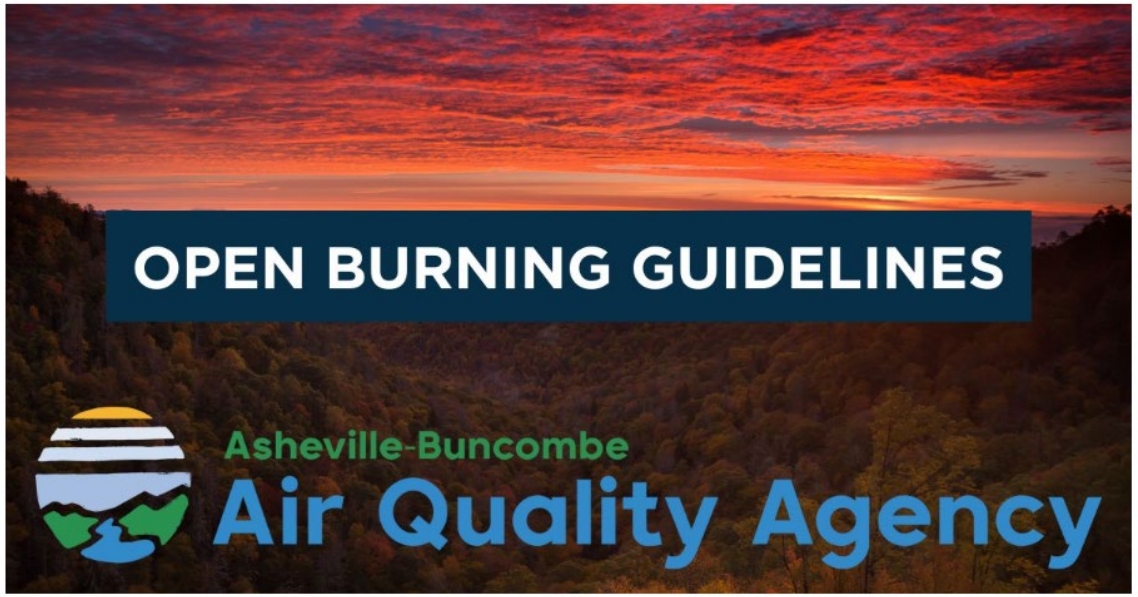
Organizational Chart



AB Air Quality Response

- Published guidance documents on website explaining open burning guidelines including air curtain incinerator requirements
- Requested notifications from anyone proposing to operate an air curtain incinerator
- Worked with NC DAQ and EPA to deploy non-regulatory PM2.5 monitors and sensors as well as two MetOne EBAMs to better understand air quality conditions in other parts of the County

Open Burning in Response to Hurricane Helene



Asheville-Buncombe
Air Quality Agency

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

Disaster Debris



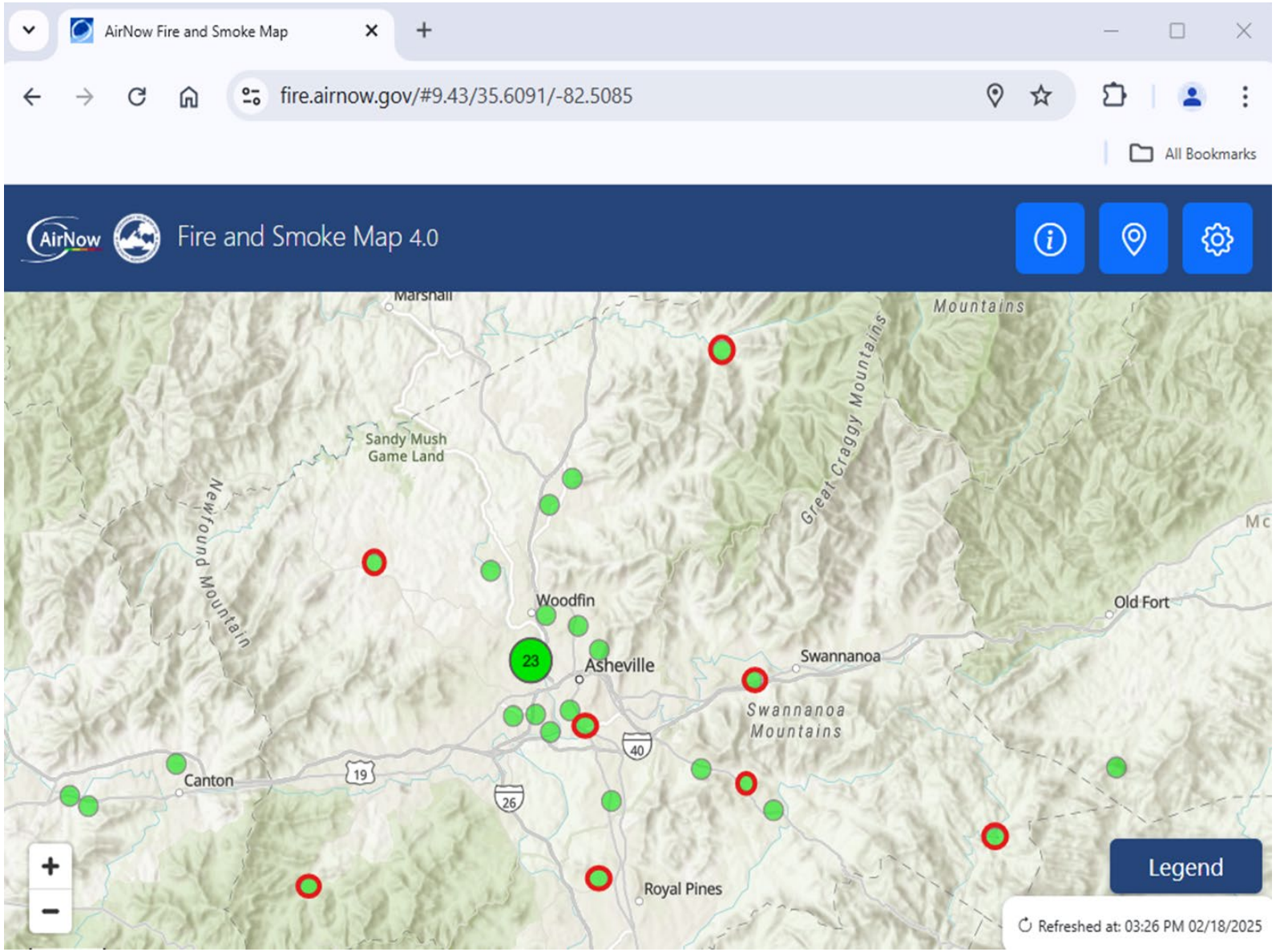
North Carolina Disaster Recovery Act allows open burning and use of air curtain incinerators (ACIs) for storm debris removal

Have received 4 notifications to use air curtain incinerators and 3 requests for permission for storm debris open burning

Approximately 50% increase in open burning since Helene (limited data)

Will be an ongoing issue, potentially lasting years

Check EPA Fire and Smoke Map (fire.airnow.gov) for real-time air quality conditions.



Low-cost sensors installed after Helene by AB Air Quality, NCDAQ and EPA highlighted in RED

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

EBAMs



Fairview Elementary



ARO

Purple Airs

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency



Art Space



Barnardsville FD



Biltmore Village

Purple Airs cont.

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency



Fairview Library



Leicester Library



Upper Hominy FD

Purple Airs cont.

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

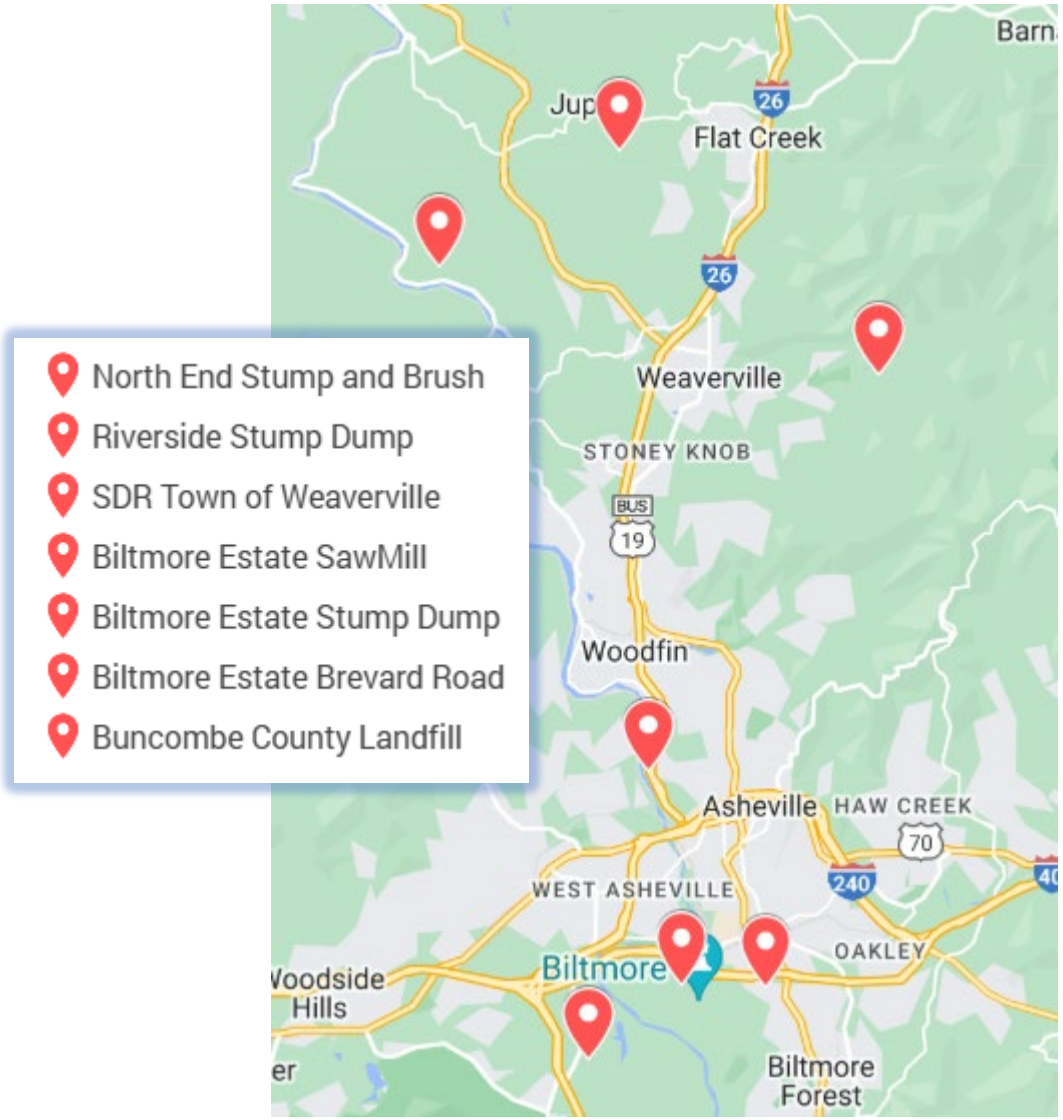


Skyland Library



Broad River FD

Air Curtain Incinerators Proposed/Operating



- Four ACIs Proposed in Buncombe County to be operated at seven sites
- Only one ACI is an OSWI unit
- Two units have asked to keep the ACIs permanently and will require permits once hurricane debris is removed

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

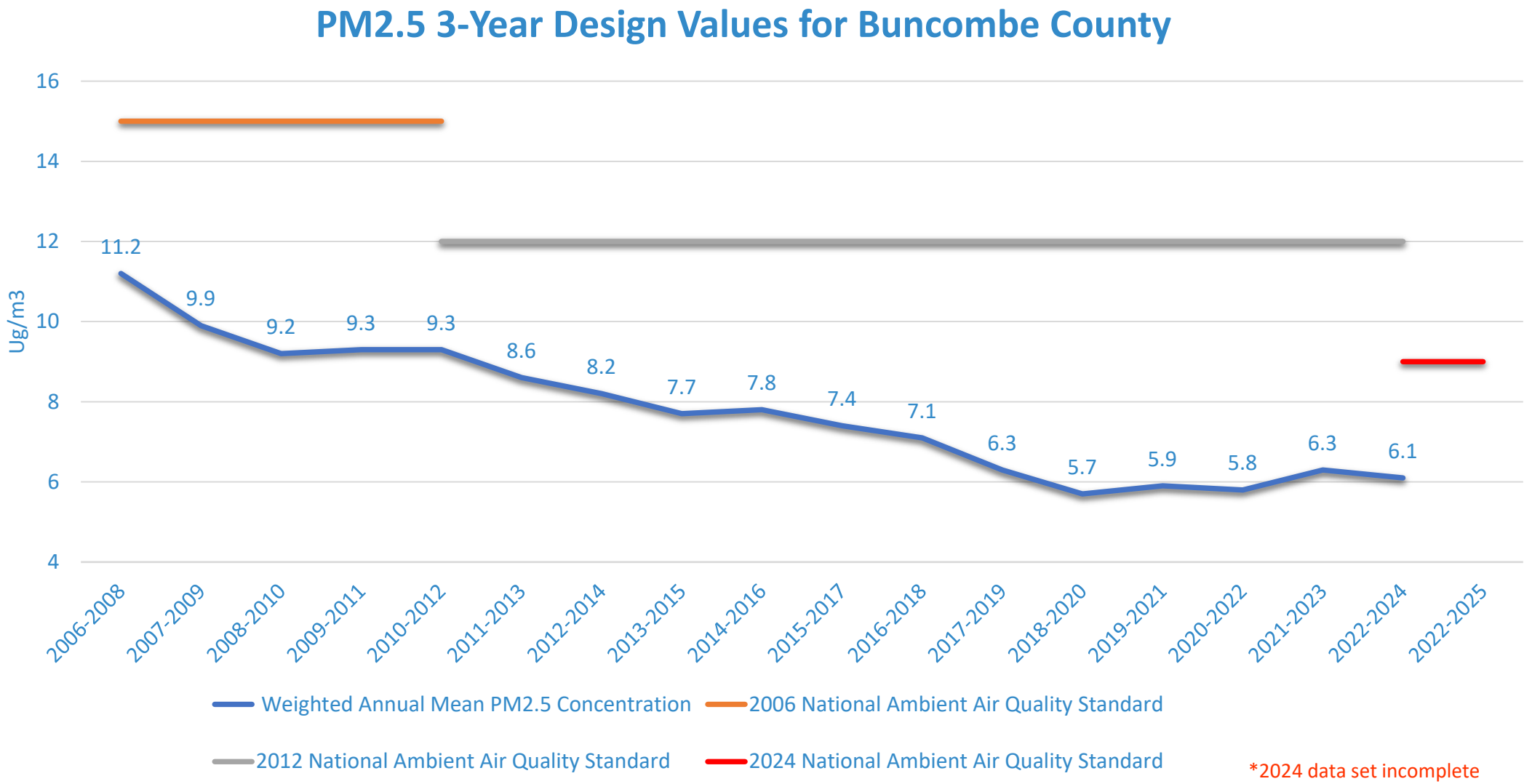

CAT
M30-6
678-855 1723
BurnDebris.com


AirBurners



Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency

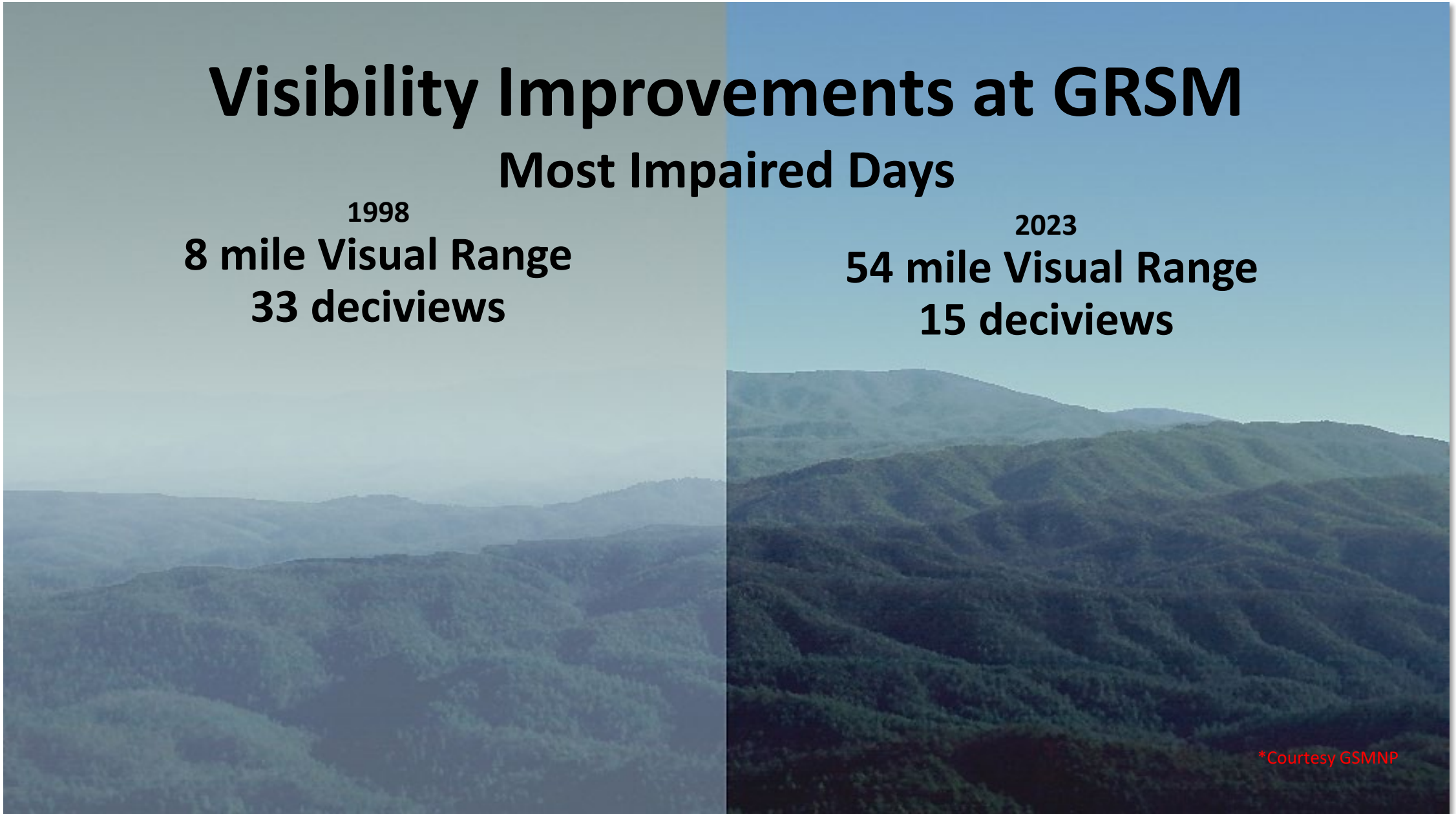
PM2.5 Levels in Buncombe County



*2024 data set incomplete

Visibility

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency



Asheville-Buncombe
Air Quality Agency

Thank You Air Quality Team and Board!

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Accounts	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Budget	FY2026 Budget
Revenue Accounts				
4120:Investment Earnings				
4120:RC397 Investment Earnings	$ -	$ 31,699.16	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
4120:RC000	$ 22,940.45	$ 205.35	$ -	$ -
Total 4120:Investment Earnings	**$ 22,940.45**	**$ 31,904.51**	**$ 5,000.00**	**$ 5,000.00**
4150:Other Revenue				
4150:RC437 Rebates				$ 7,500.00
4150:RC042 Miscellaneous Revenue	$ -	$ 1,000.00	$ -	$ -
Total 4150:Other Revenue	**$ -**	**$ 1,000.00**	**$ -**	**$ 7,500.00**
4180:Other Taxes and Licenses				
4180:RC046 North Carolina Gas Tax	$ 152,670.47	$ 155,494.37	$ 150,000.00	$ 160,000.00
Total 4180:Other Taxes and Licenses	**$ 152,670.47**	**$ 155,494.37**	**$ 150,000.00**	**$ 160,000.00**
4190:Permits and Fees				
4190:RC313 Administration Fees 105	$ 1,092.00	$ 415.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
4190:RC314 Title V Permit Fees	$ 179,855.00	$ 185,419.00	$ 227,700.00	$ 210,000.00
4190:RC111 Asbestos Permits	$ 140,146.95	$ 166,007.63	$ 125,000.00	$ 135,000.00
4190:RC112 Stage I Vapor Recovery	$ 54,050.00	$ 49,050.00	$ 54,000.00	$ 54,000.00
4190:RC113 Investigative Cost Fees	$ 465.00	$ -	$ 500.00	$ 400.00
4190:RC114 City Permit Review Fee	$ 18,648.25	$ 18,721.00	$ 16,000.00	$ 18,000.00
4190:RC115 County Permit Review Fee	$ 8,650.00	$ 6,200.00	$ 9,000.00	$ 9,000.00
4190:RC312 AQ - Permit Fee	$ 121,990.90	$ 112,904.90	$ 115,000.00	$ 113,000.00
Total 4190:Permits and Fees	**$ 524,898.10**	**$ 538,717.53**	**$ 547,700.00**	**$ 539,900.00**
4210:Restricted Intergovernmental				
4210:RC310 EPA 105 Grant	$ 214,517.00	$ 280,000.00	$ 280,000.00	$ 230,000.00
4210:RC311 EPA 103 Grant - PM	$ 135,700.00	$ 130,214.00	$ 250,000.00	$ 123,000.00
Total 4210:Restricted Intergovernmental	**$ 350,217.00**	**$ 410,214.00**	**$ 530,000.00**	**$ 353,000.00**
Total Revenue Accounts	**$ 1,050,726.02**	**$ 1,137,330.41**	**$ 1,232,700.00**	**$ 1,065,400.00**
Expense Accounts				
Salaries And Benefits				
5000:Salaries and Wages	$ 530,229.42	$ 636,095.68	$ 660,918.00	$ 625,881.00
5030:Benefits	$ 278,014.65	$ 293,158.58	$ 339,615.00	$ 360,545.00
Total Salaries And Benefits	**$ 808,244.07**	**$ 929,254.26**	**$ 1,000,533.00**	**$ 986,426.00**
Operating Expenditures - Discretionary				
6000:Utilities	$ 1,996.67	$ -	$ -	$ -
6020:Travel and Training	$ 9,568.97	$ 7,670.15	$ 15,124.00	$ 12,856.00
6030:Vehicle Expense	$ 1,474.11	$ 1,566.18	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,850.00
6060:Office Expenses	$ 6,344.85	$ 9,194.43	$ 15,674.00	$ 17,050.00
6070:Maintenance and Repair	$ 1,501.87	$ -	$ 2,000.00	$ 10,000.00
6075:Equipment	$ 85,496.00	$ 10,640.41	$ 56,000.00	$ 25,000.00
6090:Contract and Professional Services	$ 394.50	$ 2,271.48	$ 15,145.00	$ 17,000.00
6105:Charges and Fees	$ 2,649.06	$ 3,506.47	$ 3,000.00	$ 4,500.00
6160:Advertising	$ -	$ -	$ 935.00	$ 1,000.00
6500:Information Technology	$ 1,027.20	$ 1,545.08	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,550.00
Total Operating Expenditures - Discretionary	**$ 110,453.23**	**$ 36,394.20**	**$ 110,878.00**	**$ 90,806.00**
Operating Expenditures - Non-Discretionary (6510)				
6510:SC077 Non Discretionary Copier	$ -	$ -	$ 75.00	$ 80.00
6510:SC078 Non Discretionary Indirect Cost	$ 95,458.00	$ 91,764.00	$ 147,787.00	$ 147,787.00
6510:SC079 Non Discretionary Insurance and Bonds	$ 11,211.00	$ 5,988.00	$ 4,011.00	$ 6,265.00
6510:SC080 Non Discretionary Motor Fuel	$ 4,054.39	$ 2,958.14	$ 3,600.00	$ 3,600.00
6510:SC081 Non Discretionary Other Post Employment Benefits	$ 9,273.36	$ 9,009.38	$ 9,274.00	$ 9,274.00
6510:SC082 Non Discretionary Telephone	$ 3,994.58	$ 3,768.41	$ 6,802.00	$ 5,362.00
6510:SC775 Non Discretionary Utilities	$ -	$ 1,307.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Total Operating Expenditures - Non-Discretionary	**$ 123,991.33**	**$ 114,794.93**	**$ 173,549.00**	**$ 174,368.00**
Capital Outlay	**$ -**	**$ 33,772.59**	**$ 50,000.00**	**$ -**
Contingency	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 15,000.00**	**$ 15,000.00**
Expense Subtotal	**$ 1,042,688.63**	**$ 1,114,215.98**	**$ 1,349,960.00**	**$ 1,266,600.00**
Net Impact to Fund Balance	**$ (8,037.39)**	**$ (23,114.43)**	**$ 117,260.00**	**$ 201,200.00**

ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE AIR QUALITY AGENCY
FY 2026 BUDGET

BE IT ORDAINED by the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency that, pursuant to Section 159-13 of the General Statues of North Carolina, the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency is hereby set forth as follows:

Section 1. The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in accordance with the following schedules:

EXPENDITURES:

Salaries & Benefits/ Service & Supplies	$1,266,600
Special Projects	$ 0
Capital Outlay	$ 0
Expenditure Totals	**$1,266,600**

Section 2. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

REVENUES:

NC Gasoline Tax Allocation	$160,000
Permits & Inspection Fees	$329,000
Title V Fees	$210,000
Federal 105 Grant Funds	$230,000
Federal PM 2.5 Grant Funds	$123,000
Miscellaneous Income Sources	$13,400
Air Quality General Fund Balance Draw	$201,200
Revenue Total	**$ 1,266,600**

Section 3. This Budget Ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency and within five (5) days after its adoption copies shall be filed with the Finance Officer and the Administrative Assistant to Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency who, for the purposes of this ordinance, is designated as the Clerk to the Agency as described in G.S. 159-13.

Section 4. This ordinance shall become effective on July 1, 2025.

Adopted this _____day of _____, 2025.

_____
Joel Storrow, Chairman

Attested By:

_____

May 8, 2025

March 12, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leadership,

We are the national organizations that represent state and local agencies in your districts that protect public health and the environment and support economic growth and prosperity. Our organizations encompass the environmental agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and territories, as well as their local government partners across the country.

States implement more than 90% of our nation's environmental programs, and federal funding to support our agencies and programs must keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of meeting our obligations during a period of energy expansion. Cutting funds that support our programs would have uncountable unintended consequences.

The nation's environmental laws are based upon the concept of cooperative federalism. Under most federal laws, the federal government plays the role of providing the basic regulatory

framework, while our state and local agencies are vital partners directly responsible for day-to-day implementation and enforcement of many of the environmental programs. From their on-the-ground expertise, state and local agencies understand that melding national environmental regulations with local priorities, economic strategies, and social needs requires significant resources.

To achieve clean air, water and land under cooperative federalism, Congress must provide funding leadership that shares the cost of implementing our programs with states – programs that are essential for innovating and adopting new technologies as well as enabling a growing economy. However, federal funding for implementation, referred to as Categorical Grants, has remained static for two decades, despite historic inflation and the rising costs to deliver the cleanest air, water, and land. State and local agencies have to invest significantly more funds beyond the statutory match requirements to meet their delegation commitments. Adequate federal funding is needed for:

- State plan development, implementation, and enforcement that drastically reduces pollution, protects public health, increases American prosperity, and improves our economy;
- Swiftly issuing durable and defensible permits that enable companies to innovate and compete;
- Recruitment, training, and retention of a world-class professional workforce;
- Modernization of data, permitting, and compliance systems to improve accuracy, cybersecurity, and transparency;
- Maintenance of, and sustainable investment in, the infrastructure that delivers cleaner air, remediated land, safe drinking and recycled water, healthy watersheds and wetlands, and effectively treated wastewater and stormwater;
- Technical assistance for small businesses and rural communities to improve physical, operational, and financial resiliency;
- Frontline response and on-the-ground assistance before, during, and after natural disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes;
- Protection of unique and irreplaceable natural areas that enrich the flora and fauna for communities and for recreational opportunities; and
- Research into emerging contaminants and appropriate detection and destruction practices, nonpoint source nutrient reduction and wastewater treatment technologies for difficult pollutants, air quality around wildfires and prescribed burns, and other priorities[1].

Funding cuts below Fiscal Year 2024 levels will undermine the protections our agencies provide to the prosperity and health of people across the country. Appropriated funding that adequately accounts for new and historic environmental law mandates is critical for state and local agency budgets and ensuring the balance of cooperative federalism. The complexity of today's environmental challenges and the opportunities for American leadership in a transforming economy requires robust state/federal partnership to ensure reasonable, balanced, effective, and

[1] 2024 Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Survey Report, February 14, 2025

efficient strategies for environmental protection. We rely on Congress to support that partnership by sustaining the funding and resources that give our agencies what they need to assure Americans of the cleanest air, water and land.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us. We look forward to continued success in our cooperative federal partnership.

Sincerely,



Ben Grumbles
Executive Director
Environmental Council of the States
(ECOS)



Marla Stelk
Executive Director
National Association of Wetland Managers
(NAWM)



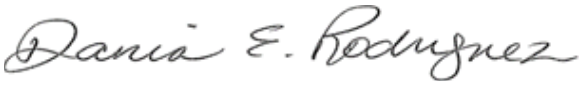
Julia Anastasio
Executive Director & General Counsel
Association of Clean Water Administrators
(ACWA)



Deirdre Finn
Executive Director
Council of Infrastructure Financing
Authorities (CIFA)



Alan Roberson
Executive Director
Association of State Drinking Water
Administrators (ASDWA)



Dania Rodriguez
Executive Director
Association of State and Territorial Solid
Waste Officials (ASTSWMO)



Dan Yates
Executive Director
Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC)



Morgan Dickie
Executive Director
Association of Air Pollution Control
Agencies (AAPCA)



Miles E. Keogh
Executive Director
National Association of Clean Air Agencies
(NACAA)

Asheville-Buncombe
Air Quality Agency

Memo

To: Air Quality Board

From: James Raiford

CC: Ashley Featherstone

Date: March 3, 2025

Re: Permit Renewal

Black Rock Crushing, LLC has requested renewal of their permit to operate a portable crushing facility. The permit renewal request was due to the Agency by December 31, 2024. The Agency received the permit renewal request from Tim Rose, General Manager of Black Rock on December 3, 2024.

There are no changes to the permitted equipment. The facility has not reported operating in Buncombe County since 2022. The company wants to keep the permit open for the option of operating in Buncombe County. Because of the infrequency of their operations, there is not current inspection report. General conditions will be updated with the renewal.

As a condition of their permit, the company is required to report to the Agency 10 days prior to when and where the crusher will be operated in Buncombe County. The agency is planning to inspect the equipment when notified.

Conclusions, Comments, and Recommendations.

I recommend that the Board approve the renewal request at the March 18, 2025 Board Meeting.

Signature: James C. Raiford **Date:** 3/3/2025

Director Signature: [signature] **Date:** 3/7/2025

Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Facility Inspection Report

Facility Inspection Information					
Facility Name:	Morris Funeral Home				
Date of Inspection:	February 10, 2025		**Last Inspected:**	September 16, 2024	
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 18252, Asheville, NC 28814		**Physical Location:**	304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801	
Contact Name:	Ronnie Brockwell			**Phone Number:**	(828) 252-1821
Permit #:	11-755-17	**Issued:**	March 13, 2017	**Expires:**	March 31, 2025
Inspector(s):	Allison Glass, Alexander (Alex) Latta				
Results:	Appears in compliance		**Inspection Time:**	9:30 AM	

Introduction

On the above date, a comprehensive inspection was conducted at Morris Funeral Home. The purpose of this inspection was to determine compliance under the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency Air Quality Code (AB Air Quality Code). Morris Funeral Home, otherwise known as the facility, specializes in funeral and cremation services. Operation of this facility is granted under permit number 11-755-17 which was issued on March 13, 2017, and expires on March 31, 2025. The inspection was conducted by Allison Glass and Alex Latta. The facility was represented by Ronnie Brockwell. The following is a summary of the results:

Safety Equipment / Special Instructions

Hearing protection is recommended while touring the crematory.

Permitted Equipment

- ES-1: One (1) 1.9 MMBtu/hr natural gas-fired crematory incinerator

  ES-1 was observed not in operation during the initial inspection. A visit was scheduled for the following day to watch the incinerator operate. On 2/11/25, Ms. Glass watched Mr. Brockwell load the incinerator and observed it heat up to temperature. The primary burner was operating at around 600°F while the secondary burner was operating at around 1260°F. The incinerator was still heating up while these numbers were noted. The secondary burner was set to 1675°F.

Permit Conditions:

The following does not represent all permitted conditions, only the permit conditions that are directly relevant to the inspection. For all the conditions, please review permit.

- **A.7 – This condition requires that the permittee maintain and operate the facility at all times so that the overall reduction in air pollutants, in accordance with applicable standards, is achieved.** *The facility has developed a maintenance schedule for equipment and is maintaining records of all maintenance. Additionally, the facility is maintaining an inventory of spare parts for equipment. The facility has established standard operating procedures for equipment and is training equipment operators on the procedures. According to records, the last maintenance on ES-1 was in January 2023.*
- **A.8 – This condition requires that the facility notify the Agency in the event of a malfunction.** *The facility has not experienced any malfunctions during the reporting period.*
- **A.11 – This condition requires that the facility pay their annual permit fee on a timely basis. The facility is up-to-date on fee payments.** *The facility last submitted their fee payment on June 12, 2024. They will be invoiced in March of 2025.*
- **A.12 – The facility is required to submit a permit renewal request no later than ninety (90) days prior to permit expiration**. *The permit renewal request was due on December 31, 2025. The facility submitted their permit renewal request on February 21, 2025. A Notice of Deficiency was issued on March 4, 2025 for the late permit renewal.*
- **A.14 – This condition requires the facility retain a copy of the permit on the premises.** *The facility had a copy of their current operating permit on-site.*
- **B.2 – This condition states the facility shall be operated to prevent odorous emissions from being emitted beyond the boundary of the facility.** *The facility did not produce any odorous emissions during the inspection.*
- **B.3 – This condition limits visible emissions from all sources to no more than 20 percent opacity when averaged over a six-minute period.** *The facility did not exhibit an opacity during the inspection. Only heat waves were observed.*

- **B.4 – This condition establishes that the sulfur dioxide (SO_2) emission limit for ES-1 is calculated at 4.37 pounds per hour. Per emission calculations, this source only has the potential to emit 0.027 pounds of sulfur dioxide per hour.** *Thus, the facility is in compliance with this regulation.*
- **B.5 – This condition establishes that the particulate matter (PM) emission limit for the ES-1 is 0.30 pounds per hour. Per emission calculations, this source only has the potential to emit 0.034 pounds of particulate matter per hour.** *Thus, the facility is in compliance with this regulation.*
- **B.6 – This condition states that the facility has triggered a toxics review and has accepted an annual limitation of 1490 cremations per year.** *For 2024, the facility conducted 207 cremations. For 2025, the facility has conducted approximately 29 cremations from January 1 through the date of the inspection.*
- **B.7 – This condition requires the facility to maintaining continuous temperature monitoring for both the primary and secondary burners in the incinerator.** *In Compliance.*
- **B.8 – This condition requires the facility to retain temperature charts on site for a period of at least two (2) years from the date of the inspection and were available for review.** *No issues were noted with the facility's temperature records.*
- **B.9 – This condition states that the facility is required to submit an annual report by February 15th.** *The most recent annual report was received on February 14, 2025, and contained all the required information. For 2024, the facility conducted 207 cremations and operated for 570 hours.*

Compliance History:

The facility received a notice of deficiency on June 12, 2024 for late submittal of their annual report, which was submitted to the Agency on April 22. 2024. The facility was issued a notice of deficiency on March 4, 2025 for a late permit renewal. The renewal was submitted on February 21, 2025.

Conclusion:

Based on the above information, Morris Funeral Home appears to be in compliance with applicable regulations of the AB Air Quality Code. It is recommended that the permit be renewed.

Signature: _____ **Date:** 2/21/2025

Reviewer Signature: _____ **Date:** 2/28/25

Director Signature: _____ **Date:** 3/4/2025

2025

ASHEVILLE-BUNCOMBE
AIR QUALITY BOARD MEETING DATES

January 23, 2025

March 18, 2025

May 8, 2025

July 10, 2025

September 11, 2025

November 13, 2025

These meetings will be held in the meeting room at the Buncombe County Permit Office, 30 Valley Street, Asheville, NC 28801. The Agency will be moving to 35 Woodfin Street in 2025. The updated meeting location will be included with the agenda mailings at that time.

The time for these meetings will be 4:00PM.

Updated 2/4/2025