

## **Division of Air Quality (DAQ)**

The DAQ staff at the Raleigh Regional Office (DAQ-RRO) ensures that a wide range of core goals and objectives of the DAQ are met. Most priorities stem from the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments in conjunction with other related federal air quality rules and regulations, with a primary focus of protecting North Carolina's citizens from air pollution so that they can live healthy, prosperous lives. The basic duties performed include, but are not limited to, the issuance of air permits, investigation of citizen complaints, inspection of industrial facilities, and operation and maintenance of a sophisticated air monitoring network. Staff also provides daily permitting and compliance assistance to business and industry. DAQ-RRO provides same-day service for priority complaints and ambient monitors with problems.

**Air Permitting Activities:** DAQ-RRO annually issues an average of 200 small and synthetic minor permits to industrial facilities. The average processing/issuance time for these permits is less than 30 days, though state statutes allow up to 90 days. DAQ-RRO permitting staff also processes dozens of requests each year for permit applicability determinations, permit revocations, tax certifications, and environmental assessments.

**Air Quality Compliance Activities:** DAQ-RRO staff conducts approximately 450 compliance inspections and 40 source tests observations each year at permitted industrial facilities, providing on-site customer assistance with each inspection. DAQ-RRO staff also investigates approximately 150 citizen complaints each year. The DAQ-RRO continually works to provide community outreach on state air quality regulations through our field investigations and telephone conversation with North Carolina citizens.

**Ambient Monitoring Network:** DAQ-RRO staff operates and maintains a network of 36 ambient monitors located at 14 different monitoring sites. Due to its proximity to the Raleigh Central Office, the DAQ-RRO is involved with additional experimental monitoring and special monitoring studies. Also, the DAQ-RRO staff operates the largest monitoring site in the state at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, NC.

### **Number of nonattainment or maintenance\* counties:**

- Carbon Monoxide – two maintenance counties – Durham, Wake
- 1997 Ozone standard – eight maintenance counties – Durham, Wake, Johnston, Franklin, Granville, Person, Orange, Chatham (partial)
- 2008 ozone standard – no counties are currently violating this standard.

(\*Maintenance means these areas once violated federal air quality standards but are now meeting that standard.) Despite showing compliance with those federal air standards, the DAQ must maintain certain requirements and produce periodic updates showing continued compliance with those federal air standards.

**Class I areas:** None. Class I Areas include national parks, wilderness areas and other regions with pristine air quality as designated by Congress.