



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES AND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

January 14, 2026  
Community Information Session

# Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Division of Air Quality Presentation
- Mountaire Presentation
- Question and Answer Session



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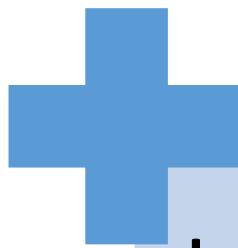
# Meeting Conduct

- DNREC is committed to facilitating an environment of mutual respect, safety, and productive dialogue.
- Harassment, discrimination, intimidation, inappropriate language, inappropriate images, and disruption of the meeting will not be tolerated.
- All participants including panelists, presenters, and attendees are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, professional, and civil manner.
- Please be respectful of all attendees and limit your questions/ comments to one at a time.



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# Scope of Discussion



## In Scope

- Air Permit Application
- Air Permitting Process



## Out of Scope

- Other Media



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# Air Permit Introduction

# What are emissions?

- Emissions are the discharge of an air contaminant. Emissions can come from many types of equipment or operations.
- “Air contaminant” means particulate matter, dust, fumes, gas, mist, smoke, or vapor of any combination thereof, exclusive of uncombined water.



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# How Do We Know How Much is Emitted?

- Permit applications contain this information.
- This information is verified by AQ when we are writing the permit.
- Calculations are performed based on information such as (ranked by accuracy):
  1. Source test data
  2. Production information (for manufacturing)
  3. Manufacturer data
  4. EPA recommended emission factors



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# What does DAQ review in a permit application?

- Zoning approval
- Emission calculations
- Regulations
- Modeling
- DNREC will go back to the company and request changes if the information submitted is incomplete or does not meet regulatory requirements
- DNREC will not move forward with a legal notice on an application that does not meet regulatory requirements



# Air Quality Can...

- Incorporate conditions into permits based on technical comments regarding the pending permit that are made during the public process
- Answer questions regarding the information in a permit application or permit



# Air Quality Cannot...

- Make zoning determinations. All zoning decisions are made by the county or local municipality.
- Limit road access. AQ does what we can to encourage facilities to control and direct their traffic to minimize disturbances.
- Deny permits without cause. Permits are issued based on the regulatory requirements that are in place at the federal and state level.



# How can you get more information after reading a public notice?

- Contact AQ or the facility.
- Community Information Session
  - Discussion meeting where people can ask question and participate in a discussion with Department staff.
- Public Hearing
  - Legal meeting where the company will typically present about their project, AQ will present about our process and attendees can offer comments and ask questions about the project.
  - Responses are provided in a document called a Technical Response Memo.



# How Does AQ Protect the Public?

- Before any permit is issued, computer modeling is conducted to ensure that no negative health effects will occur
- Modeling tools provide a maximum downwind concentration (MDC)
  - The MDC is the modeled concentration of a pollutant based upon how the stack is configured
- The MDC is then compared to scientifically determined acceptable exposure limits with a large safety factor to account for different ages, health conditions, genders, and body types.



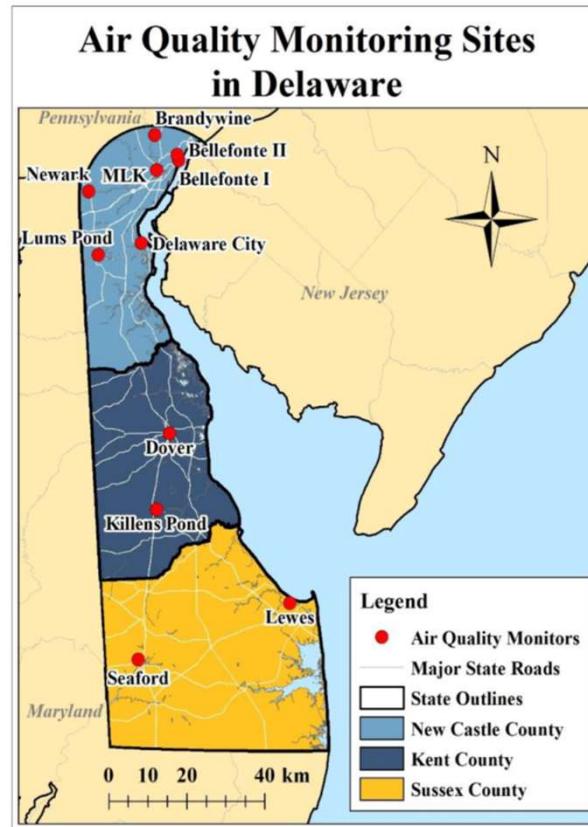
# How Does AQ Monitor Facilities?

- Once a permit is issued, AQ conducts routine follow up activities to ensure that the facility is meeting all requirements:
  - Inspections
  - Report reviews
  - Stack Tests
- When non-compliance is determined AQ will conduct enforcement to get the facility back into compliance.
  - Notice of Violation
  - Secretary's Order
- All non-compliance requires a deadline to return to compliance.



# How Does DAQ Monitor Ambient Air?

- DAQ operates monitoring stations across Delaware
- These stations measure concentrations of pollutants in the ambient air
- There is a monitoring station in Seaford



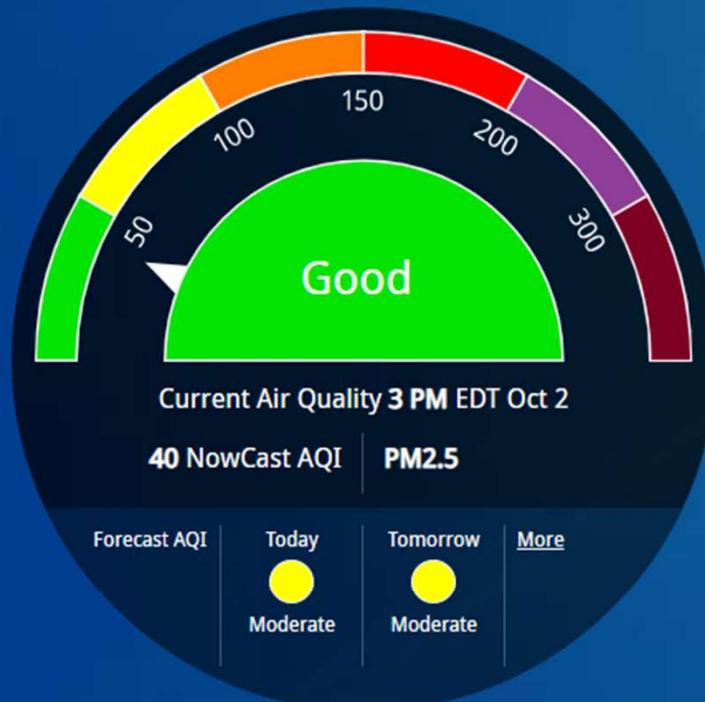
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# Air Monitoring Data

- Some of the data is available at the website below. This website works best on a computer.
- [de.gov/airdata](http://de.gov/airdata)
- Delaware's ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> data are linked to EPA's Air Now website and app. ([airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov))



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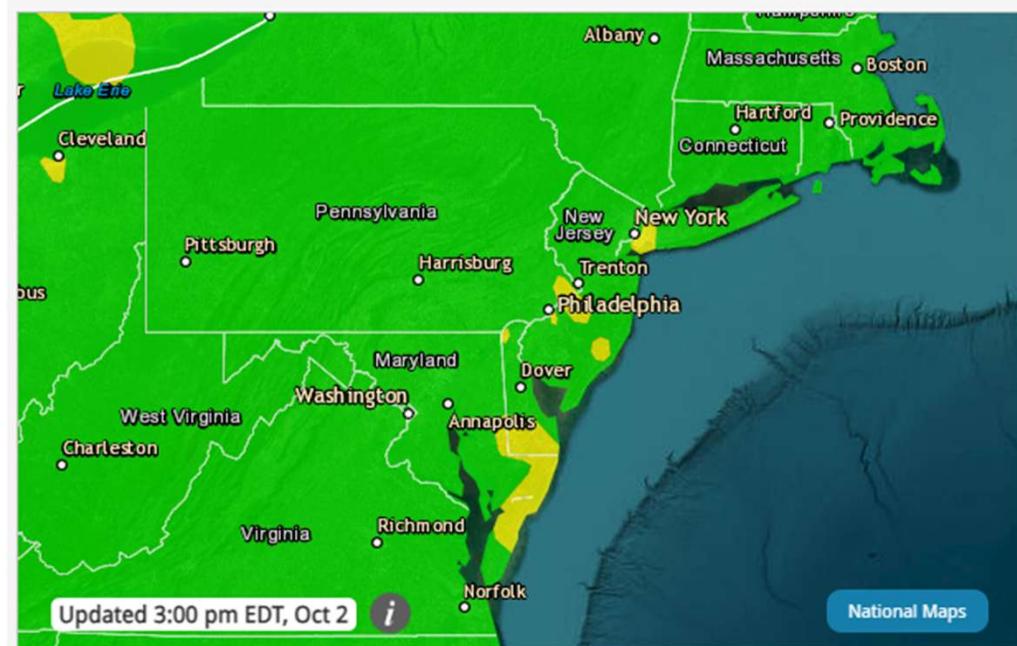
ZIP Code, City, or State

**Wilmington, DE**

Wilmington Area Reporting Area

[Monitors Near Me](#) [Recent Trends](#)

## Current Air Quality



### Primary Pollutant

This pollutant currently has the highest AQI in the area.

▼ PM2.5 40 Good

Enjoy your outdoor activities.

► OZONE 38 Good

# Mountaire Millsboro Background

- First AQ permits in the database were issued in 1979
- The facility currently is a natural minor source with the following types of equipment:
  - Natural gas fired boilers
  - Grain dryers
  - Receiving pits
  - Hammermills
  - Pellet Coolers
  - Fuel storage tanks
  - Generators
  - Loadout
  - Grain Elevator
  - Resource Recovery



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# Resource Recovery

- The “Resource Recovery” facility is a rendering plant that processes offal, carcasses, blood, and feathers into animal feed.
- Emissions are controlled by two thermal oxidizers (one operating and one backup) and scrubbers.
- Current emission factors are based on a 2013 stack test at representative operating temperatures.
- Stack test results indicate that emissions from offal and carcasses per ton are lower than those associated with blood and feathers.



# Current Modification Request History

December  
13, 2024

- Mountaire requested the change in an email to AQ

March 11,  
2025

- AQ notified Mountaire that a permit modification and stack test would be required

September  
19, 2025

- Mountaire submitted a permit modification request

October 8,  
2025

- AQ published the legal notice for the request



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This presentation provided some background information regarding air permitting and DNREC's process.

Feedback or Questions?