



2022 Four Corners Air Quality Group Meeting Summary

September 21 & 22, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

San Juan College School of Energy

Merrion Rooms A & B

5301 College Blvd, Farmington, NM 87402

4CAQG Homepage:

<https://www.env.nm.gov/air-quality/four-corners-air-quality-group/>

Participants

United States Environmental Protection Agency

United States Forest Service

Federal Bureau of Land Management

National Parks Service

Western States Air Regional Council & Western Regional Air Partnership

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Agency

Southern Ute Indian Tribal Agency

Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife

Diné C.A.R.E.

Sustainable Economy Task Force

NAEVA Education Project

League of Conservation Voters

Colorado Equity Community Advisory Council

Colorado Environmental Justice Action Task Force

New Mexico State Climate Center

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

New Mexico Environment Department

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Utah Department of Environmental Quality

2022 Four Corners Air Quality Group Meeting Summary:

Day 1 Wednesday September 21, 2022: Climate Action and Equity / Environmental Justice Focus

1. The meeting was opened with a welcome from Mark Jones from NMED and Megan McCarthy representing Colorado's Air Division. Nathalie Eddy, Air Quality Liaison with the CDPHE Environmental Justice Program, gave a brief land acknowledgement to recognize the historic indigenous occupation and use of the land on which the meeting was held. Michael Baca, Control Unit Strategies Manager at NMED, Abby Fulton from EPA's Region 8 Air Program and Trisha Oeth, Environmental Director at CDPHE gave a more extensive opening welcome.
 - [New Mexico Environment Department](#)
 - [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#)
 - EPA Region [6](#), [8](#), [9](#)
 - Annual meeting documents prepared by the Four Corners Air Quality Group included:
 - i. [2022 4CAQG Agency Updates](#)
 - ii. [2022 Four Corners Air Quality Related Studies/Research](#)
2. The presentations began with a review on the different state's Climate and Air Quality Regulatory Landscapes by Jojo La, Policy Advisor with CDPHE, Claudia Borchert, Climate Change Coordinator with NMED and Becky Close, Air Quality Policy Section Manager, with UDEQ.
 - [Rising to Our Climate Challenge: New Mexico Climate and Air Quality Initiatives](#)
 - [Utah Air Quality Landscapes](#)
3. After discussing broader perspectives of state policy, the group dove into a more focused series of discussions honing in on the Four Corners Region for the remainder of the day. This started with an overview of the region's complex geography and cultural heritage through presentations given by the UMUT, SUIT, NNEPA, NPS and BLM. These presentations helped orient the audience to the area and gain a better understanding of the different agencies and organizations that represent the region.
 - [BLM Geography](#)
 - [Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Geography and Culture](#)
 - [Navajo Nation EPA Intro to Navajo Nation Geography and Culture](#)
 - [Southern Ute Indian Tribe Air Quality Program](#)
 - [NPS Map of Class I Areas](#)
4. Before lunchtime, New Mexico State Climatologist Dave Dubious gave a presentation on climate change impacts in the Four Corners.
 - Climate Change Impacts in the Four Corners
5. After a lunch break, the group reconvened with a panel discussion on Climate Equity and Environmental Justice, which included hearing from representatives from Diné C.A.R.E., NAEVA, the Sustainable Economic Task Force, the Colorado League of Conservation Voters, the Colorado Climate Equity Community Advisory Committee as well as from the two state's Environmental Justice and Climate Programs.
 - Facilitator
 - i. Jojo La, CDPHE, Policy Advisor, Environmental Boards and Commissions
 - Panelists
 - i. Lauren McDonnell, CDPHE, Climate Change Outreach Planner

- ii. Nathalie Eddy, CDPHE Air Quality Liaison
 - iii. Claudia Borchert, NMED Climate Change Coordinator
 - iv. Joseph Hernandez, Indigenous Energy Organizer, Naeva
 - v. Robyn Jackson, Interim Executive Director, Diné C.A.R.E.
 - vi. Hilda Nucete, Director of Civic Engagement, League of Conservation Voters (Colorado)
 - vii. James Povijua, Vice chair of the Sustainable Economy Task Force (Chair, Community Advisory Committee)
 - viii. Theresa Rigney, member, Climate Equity Community Advisory Council (Colorado)
 - Questions answered by panelists:
 - i. What do you see as the top priority for climate equity or environmental justice in your community or state?
 - ii. Why is community voice so important to the state's work on climate and environmental justice?
 - iii. What changes in your community or state are you most excited about?
6. After the panel, Anita Rose, Regional Air Program Manager and Climate Change Coordinator with the USFS gave an informative presentation highlighting climate change impacts and USFS land management strategies in the region.
- [Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation in the Forest Service](#)
7. The final presentations of the day were focused on hearing specifically from the tribes present in the region on how the specific tribe is experiencing climate change, specific impacts seen and potential solutions for managing those impacts. Janice Archuleta from the UMUT and Keith Howard from the NNFWD joined us to present.
- [Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Climate Change and Environmental Perspectives](#)
 - [Climate Adaptation Plan for the Navajo Nation](#)

Day 2 Thursday, September 22, 2022: Monitoring Trends, Criteria Pollutants, Regional Haze Plans

1. The second day of the meeting began by jumping right into the day's welcome with Michael Baca from NMED. In his welcome, Michael drew upon the distinct connections between the climate change and environmental justice issues discussed in Day 1, and the more traditional, criteria pollutant and monitoring-based topics on the Day 2 agenda.
2. After the welcome, the group started with a series of presentations and discussion on the Four Corners Air Monitoring Trends and a Q&A at the end for the panel on Ozone standard implementations and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) reviews by EPA. The presenters included Mark Jones, NMED; Suzy Apodaca, EPA R6; Abby Fulton, EPA R8; Will Vicars, CDPHE; Lisa Devore, NPS; and Arlyssia Sells, UMUT.
 - [Overview of Four Corners Monitoring Trends](#)
 - [4C Ozone Monitoring Trends and Analysis](#)
 - [Ute Mountain Ute Local Area Monitoring](#)
 - [Implementation of O3 Standards and NAAQS reviews / relationship to current Four Corners trends, EPA R8](#)
 - [National Park Service Monitoring Perspectives](#)

3. Next up, Sarah Scott, BLM Project Manager, presented on two current ongoing projects including:
 - BLM Farmington/Gallup Resource Management Plan Amendment status update
 - BLM New Mexico Proposed Chaco Area Withdrawal status update

Erik Vernon, BLM Utah, Air Resources Specialist, provided an overview of the most recent [BLM Regional Air Modeling Project](#).

4. Ozone initiatives were highlighted by New Mexico, EPA R8, and Utah in three complementary presentations.
 - [Ozone Advance](#)
 - [NM Ozone Attainment Initiative Progress and Next Steps](#)
 - [Utah Ozone Initiatives](#)
5. We concluded the day with a discussion facilitated by Jay Baker, WESTAR/WRAP on Regional Haze background info and a new regional planning initiative connected to the 3rd Rd of Regional Haze planning.
 - [Overview and Western Visibility Planning and Protection Initiative](#)
 - State Regional Haze Updates ([ADEQ](#), [UDEQ](#), [CDPHE](#), [NMED](#))

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm MDT on September 22. Participants: Approx. 60 in-person and virtual attendees.

List of Agency and Organizational Acronyms

ADEQ - Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

CDPHE - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado CECAC - Colorado Climate Equity Community Advisory Committee

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NMED - New Mexico Environment Department

NNDFW - Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife

NNEPA - Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency

NPS - National Park Service

SUIT - Southern Ute Indian Tribe

UDEQ - Utah Department of Environmental Quality

USFS - U.S. Forest Service

WESTAR - Western States Air Resource Council

WRAP - Western Regional Air Partnership