

State of the Air Report

Presentation to BIA/DES Regulatory Conference

Craig A. Wright, Director

September 9, 2026



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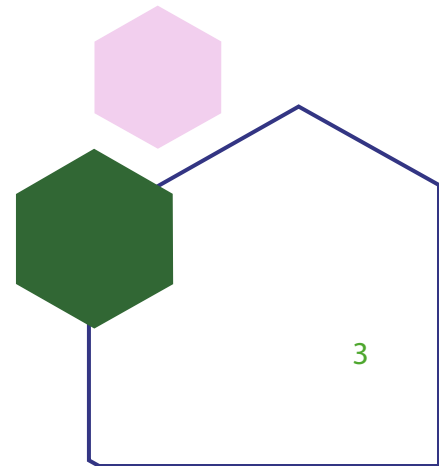
Technical Services Bureau

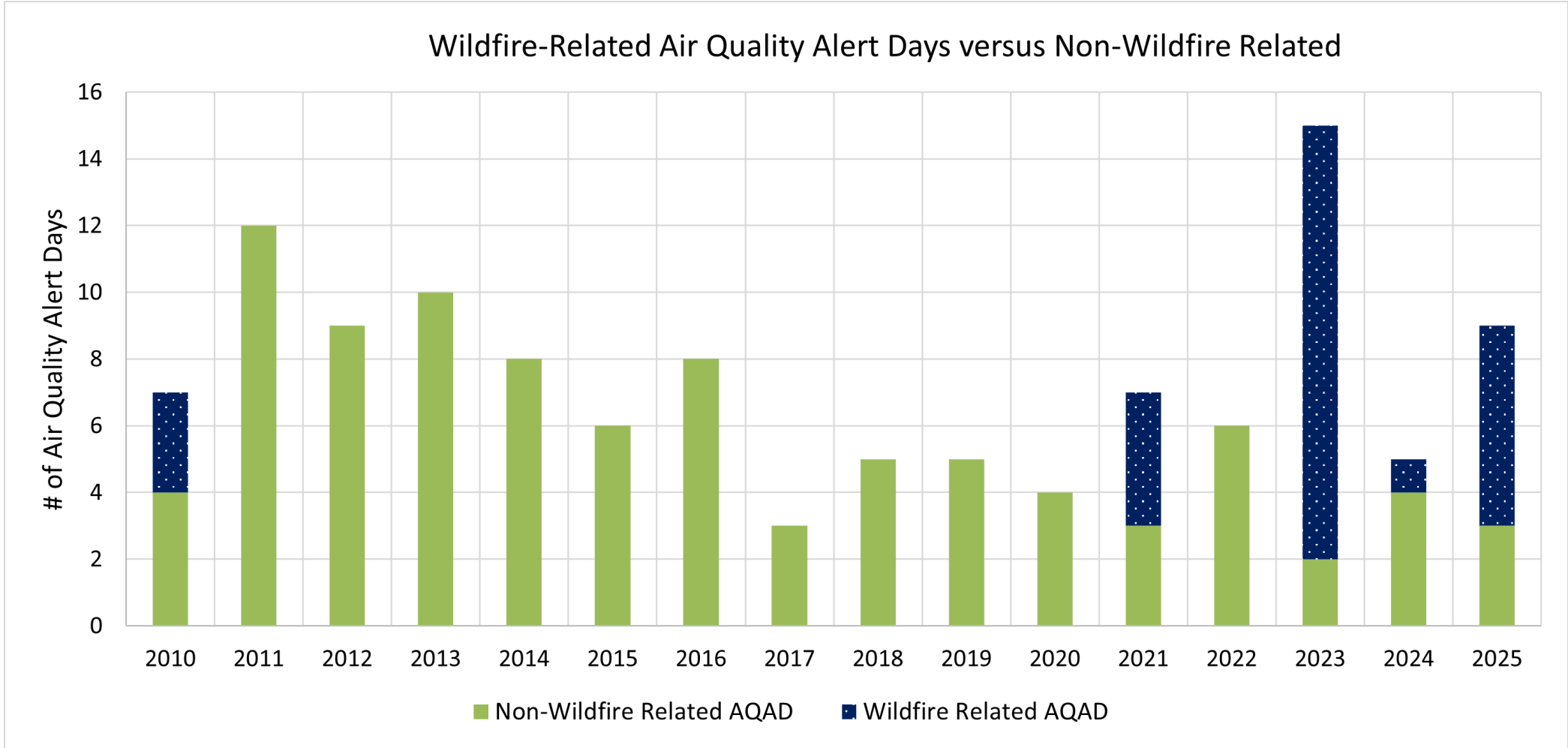
Jessica Wilcox (603) 271-6749



Summary of Topics

- Update on Air Quality
- Status of Motor Vehicle Inspections/OBD II
- VW Update
- Questions







AIR QUALITY ACTION DAY

July 26, 2025

Pollutant: Fine particulate matter

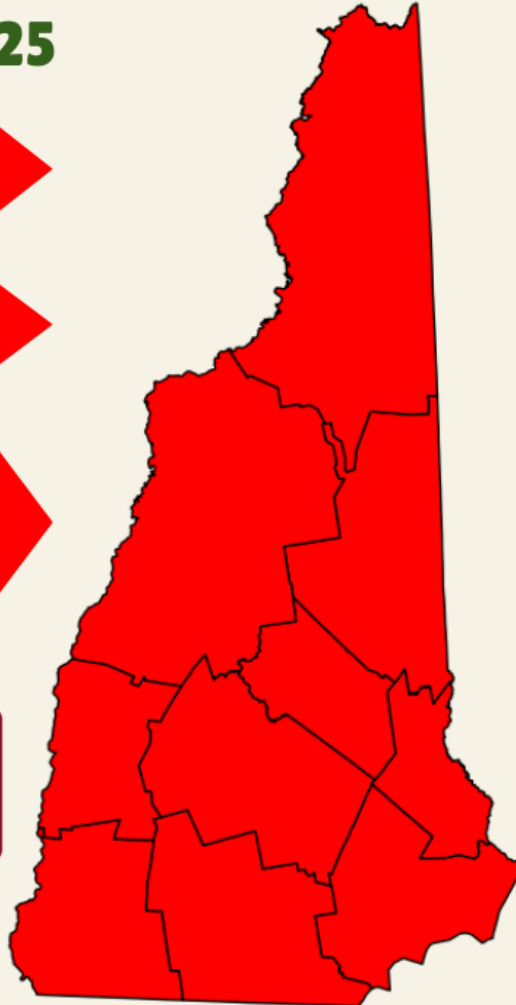
Level: Unhealthy

Areas of concern: Statewide

Air Quality Index (AQI)



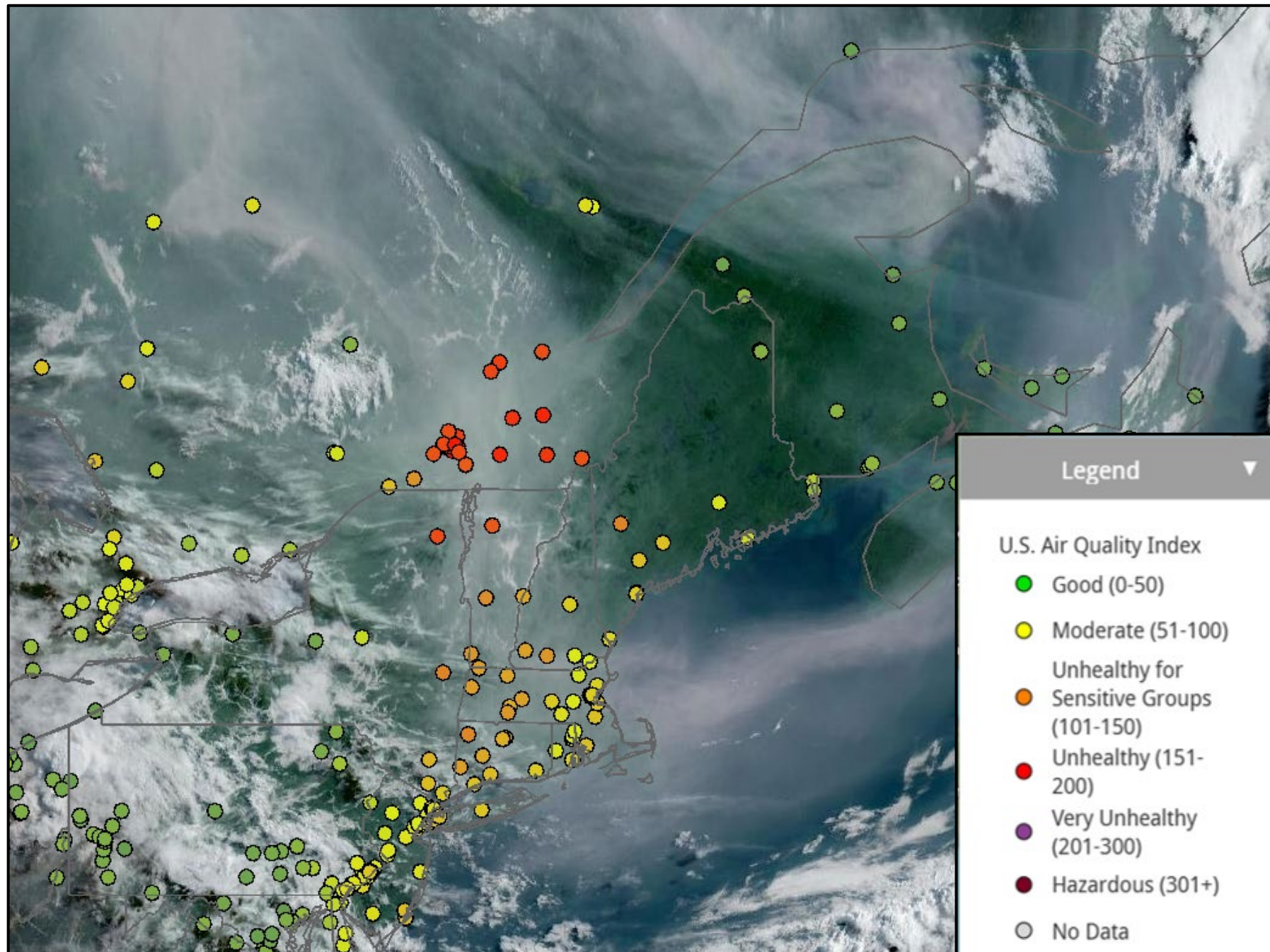
Go online to see current air quality:
<https://www4.des.state.nh.us/airdata>



Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern
Green	Good
Yellow	Moderate
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
Red	Unhealthy
Purple	Very Unhealthy
Maroon	Hazardous

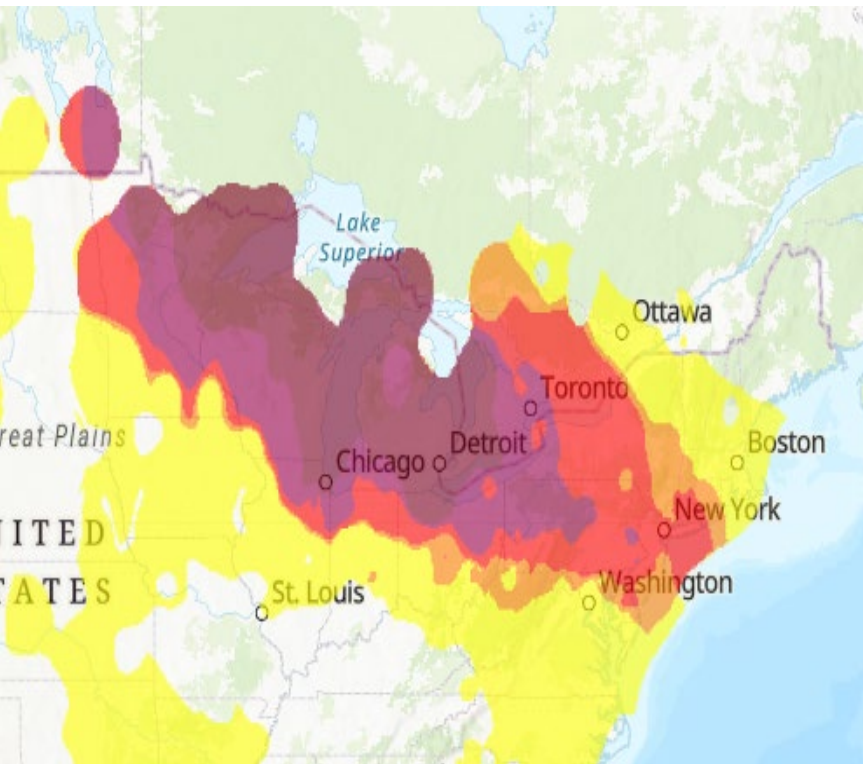
NH Issued a Statewide Unhealthy AQAD for July 26, 2025

EPA's Air Quality Index (AQI)

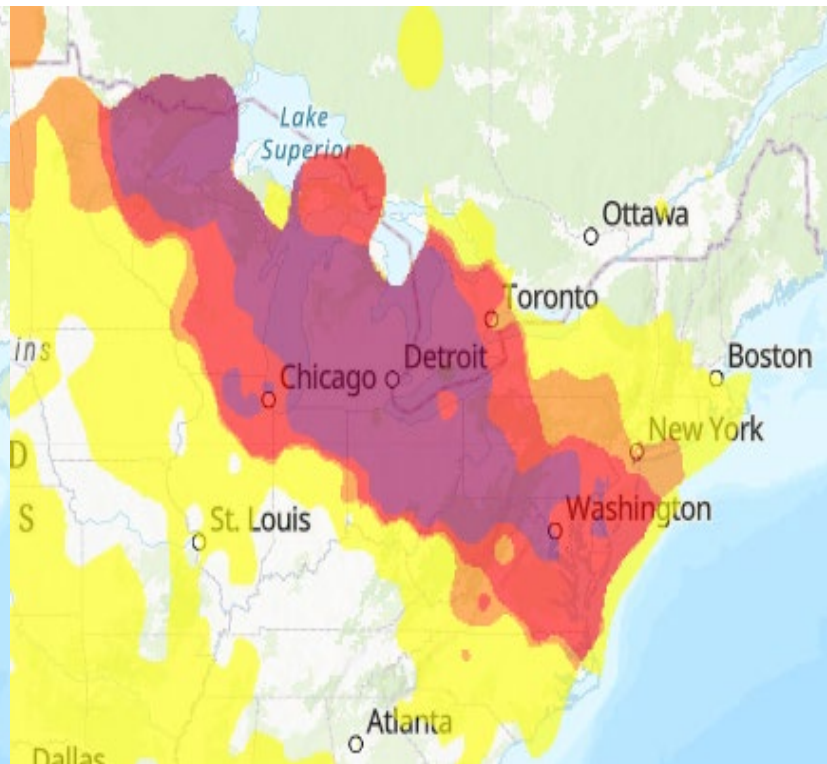


Smoke from Canadian wildfires was transported into the northeast due to a high-pressure system moving eastward from the source of the smoke towards the Atlantic

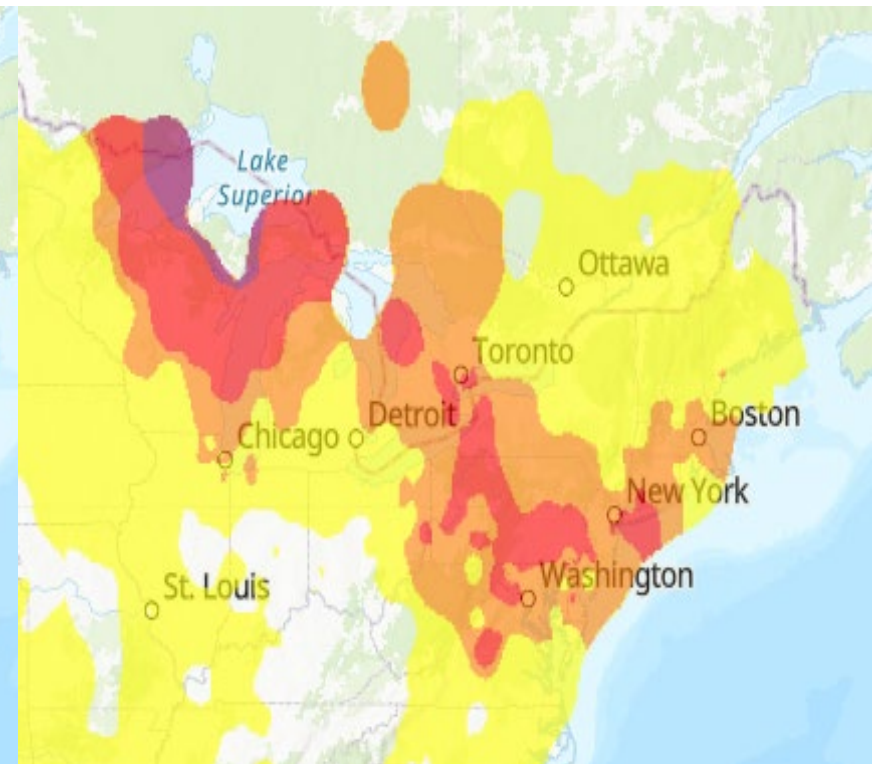
July 16-18 Canadian Wood Smoke Event



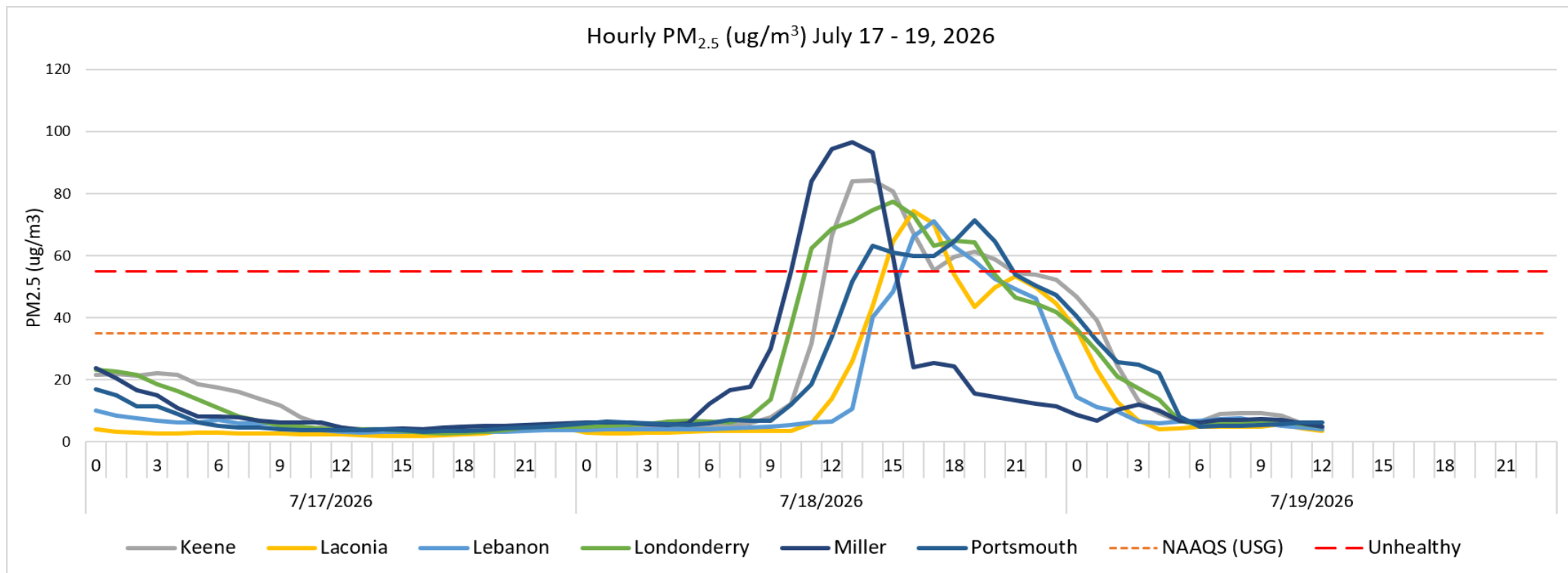
July 16



July 17



July 18

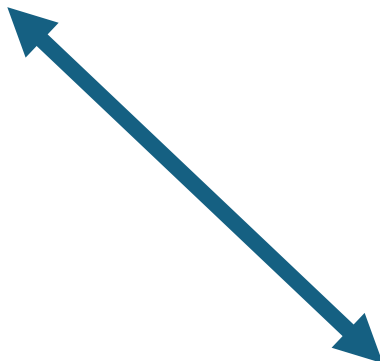


Site	7/17/2026			7/18/2026		
	Max 1hr (ug/m ³)	24hr Mid-Mid (ug/m ³)	24hr Rolling (ug/m ³)	Max 1hr (ug/m ³)	24hr Mid-Mid (ug/m ³)	24hr Rolling (ug/m ³)
Keene	22.2	10.6	10.6	84.2	36.5	41.5
Laconia	5.2	2.9	2.9	74.4	26.1	29.4
Lebanon	10.2	4.9	4.9	71.1	24.8	27.0
Londonderry	23.3	8.4	8.4	77.3	38.0	41.7
Miller	23.9	8.1	8.1	96.5	30.6	31.4
Portsmouth	16.8	6.0	6.0	71.5	32.2	37.1

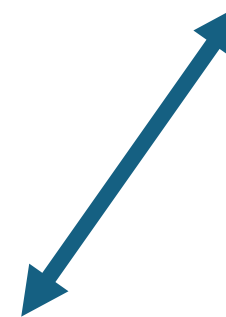


New Hampshire
**Division of Homeland
Security and Emergency
Management**

A Division of the New Hampshire Department of Safety



Department of
**HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**



Status of Motor Vehicle Inspections and Emissions Testing

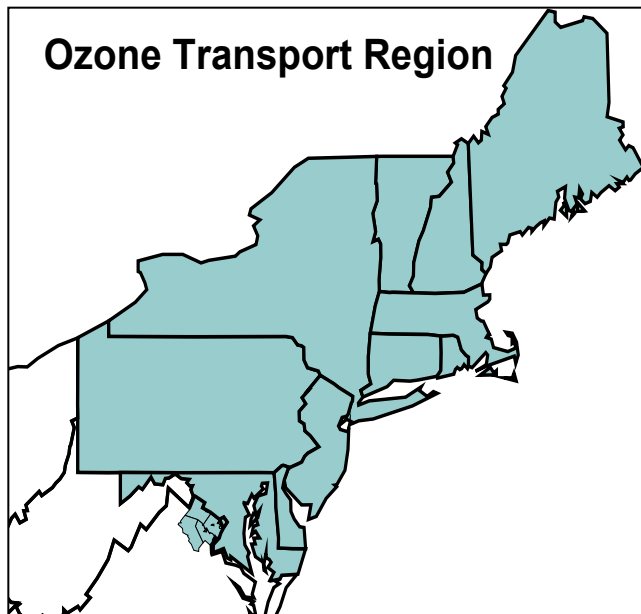
As required by HB 2 in 2025, DES submitted a 176A Petition and SIP revision to EPA on Dec 24, 2025

On August 11, 2026, EPA proposed to approve both submittals in the Federal Register pending public review and comment. Comments due to EPA by September 25, 2026.

CHECK
ENGINE



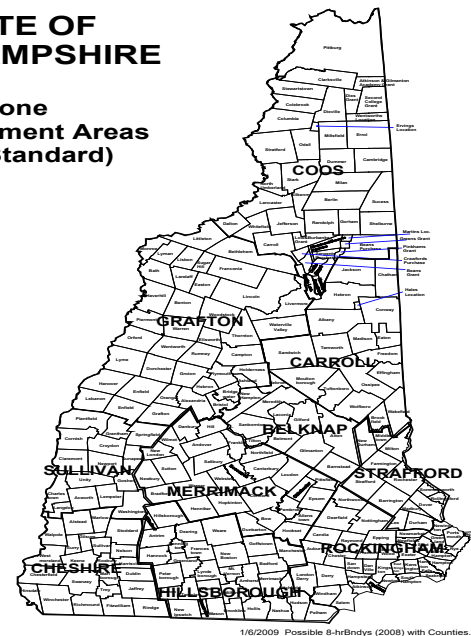
How Do We Eliminate OBD II – Two Steps



Remove NH from
the Ozone
Transport Region.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ozone Nonattainment Areas (2008 Standard)



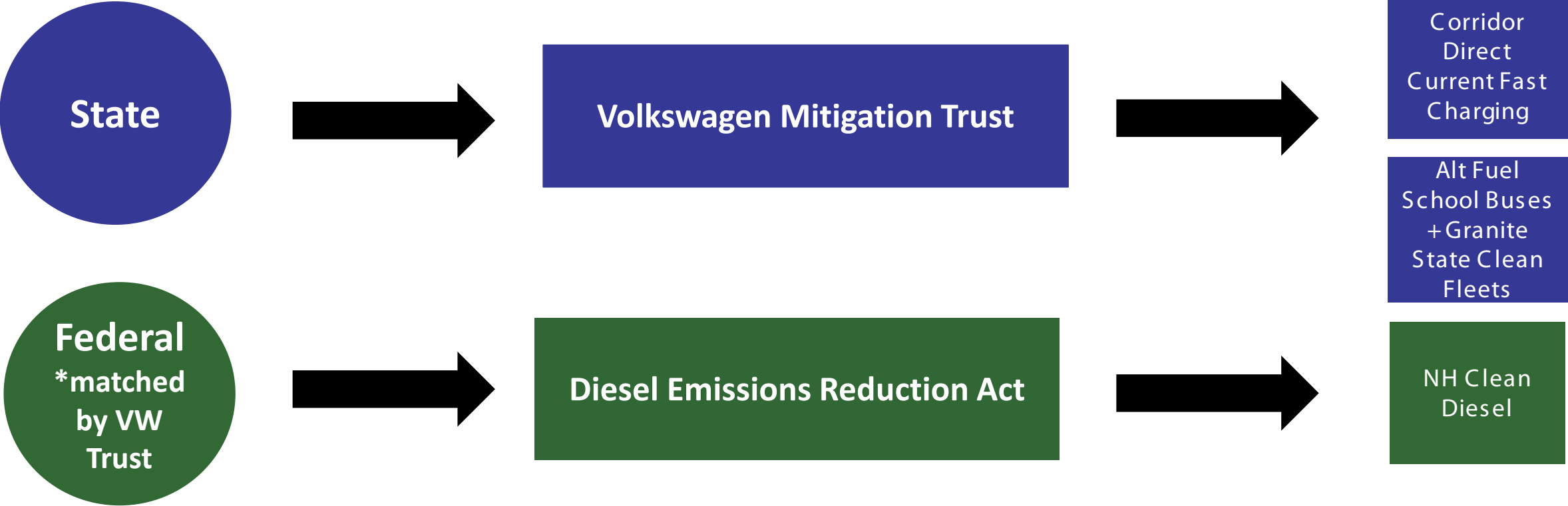
We meet the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
so we must demonstrate under
CAA Section 110(l) that elimination
of OBD II will not result in NH going
back into Non-attainment

VW Overview

- NH Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust - **VW Trust** - NH received **\$31 million** of the settlement.
- **Purpose:** mitigate the excess nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions caused by Volkswagen's violations.
- **Lead Agency:** since 2021, NHDES has been administering programs that:
 - **Replace older medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) diesel vehicles, engines and equipment** with newer, cleaner diesel or alternative-fueled units (plug-in electric + charging equipment, hybrid, natural gas, propane)
 - **Install public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure**
 - **Install marine shore power** to reduce diesel engine idling in marine vessels



Grant Programs



Projects funded by the VW Trust

As of March 2026, ~\$25M has been obligated to eligible projects:

- (77) MHD vehicles replaced by municipalities and school districts.
- (60) MHD vehicles replaced by seven different state agencies and community colleges.
- Eight (7) EV charging projects set to install (13) Fast Charging and (12) Level 2 ports along major travel corridors.
- Six (6) marine shore power pedestals at the UNH docks in New Castle.
- Nine (9) truck stop idle reduction pedestals in Raymond.
- \$12.9M awarded to (41) unique NH municipalities and school districts.

Projects Funded by the New Hampshire Volkswagen Trust

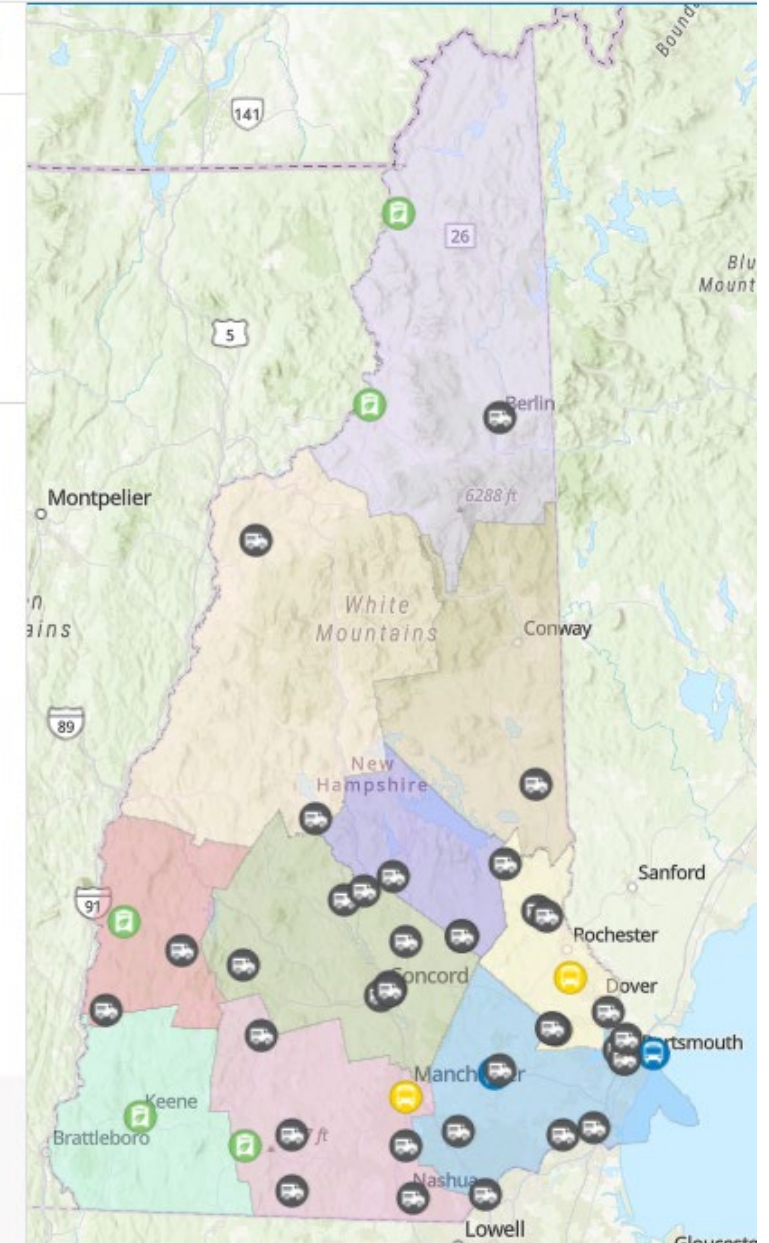
Legend

Funded Projects

-  Diesel Replacement Vehicle
-  Alternative Fuel Replacement Vehicle
-  Electric Vehicle Charging Station
-  Idle Reduction System

New Hampshire Counties

-  Belknap
-  Carroll
-  Cheshire
-  Coos
-  Grafton
-  Hillsborough
-  Merrimack
-  Rockingham
-  Strafford
-  Sullivan



VW Trust Distribution

Funding Distribution:

- (20%) State Vehicles & Equipment
- (30%) Municipal Vehicles & Equipment
- (20%) Competitive Project Solicitations
- (15%) EV Charging Infrastructure
- (15%) Administrative Costs



Distribution of Project Types

