

EPA Completes Air Monitoring In Bristol Area



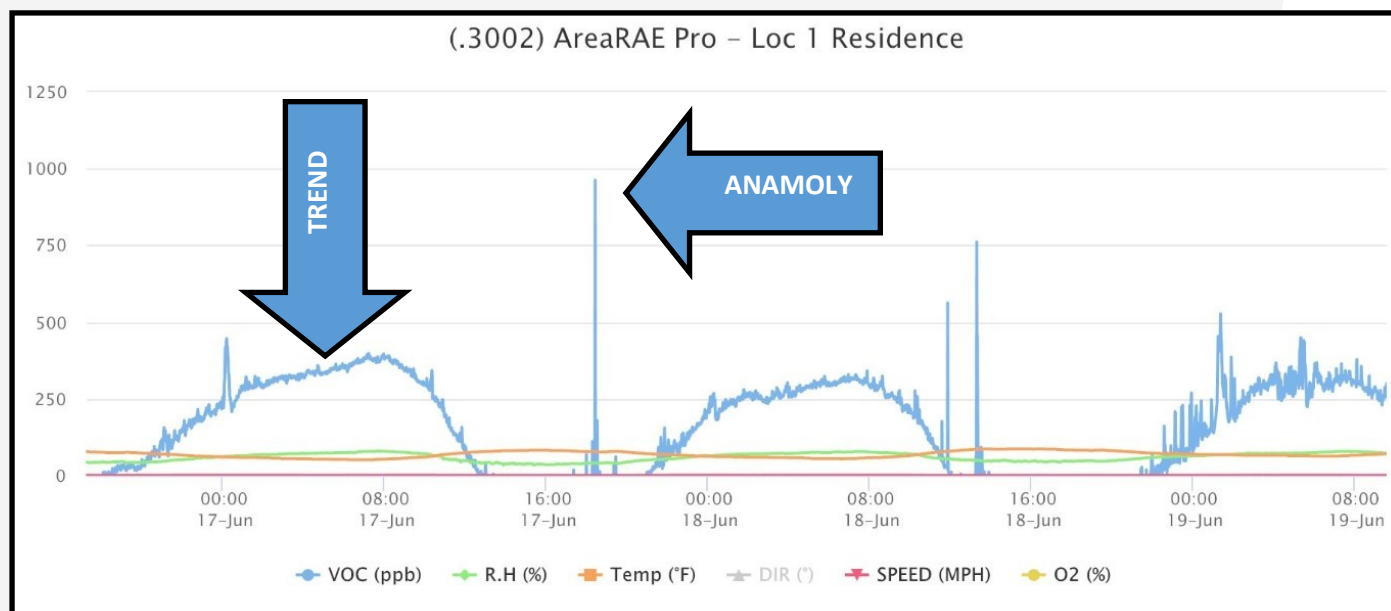
July 2021

Key Information

- As of July 22, 2021, EPA, in coordination with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ), completed a six-week period of continuous air monitoring and collection of air samples.
- An initial review of the monitoring and sampling data indicates there is no immediate risk to human health.
- Once a summary report of the data is received and reviewed, EPA will make this information publicly available.

What Was Done?

Over the course of six-weeks between June and July 2021, EPA and VADEQ conducted 24/7 real-time monitoring from six stations at five distinct properties. During the six-weeks, EPA and VADEQ continually observed the monitors for any trends or abnormalities in the data. For this monitoring event, trends are considered to be when an individual or class of chemicals is detected over a relatively similar period of time each day. When visually depicted in graph format, trends look like a bell curve. Anomalies are an abrupt rise and fall of concentrations that are short in duration. These look like sharp “spikes” when visually depicted on a graph. Anomalies can often be attributed to situations such as a passing car, lawn mowing, spray painting, or other influences. Any trends or anomalies in the data were examined closely and often resulted in the collection of an air sample for laboratory analysis. To date, VADEQ has collected 15 air samples for laboratory analysis.



Real-time air monitoring from June 17-19, 2021 in Bristol, VA/TN

What Was Found?

The equipment utilized to monitor the areas is capable of detecting extremely low concentrations of compounds. Several chemicals were detected at low levels, in some cases routinely. However, the levels were extremely low and/or in short duration of time. While the data for the full six-week period is still under a formal evaluation, an initial review did not show any concentrations or duration of detections that would pose an immediate concern for human health.

Many substances in the environment can produce odors. You typically smell these odors when you are outdoors and sometimes when you are indoors. As noted by public health agencies, you may smell and react to certain chemicals in the air before they are at harmful levels. During routine maintenance of the meters and roving data collection, strong odors were noted by the onsite personnel.

More information will be provided once EPA finishes an in-depth review and data summary report.

What Is Next?

EPA expects to generate a summary report of the data within the next 30 days and will make the final data summaries publicly available via its website: <http://response.epa.gov/11184BristolAir>

EPA and VADEQ will share the full data set from this air quality investigation with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). ATSDR will collaborate with state and local public health authorities in VA and TN on the review of data. A public health evaluation of this information is expected to be developed, but EPA does not have a timeline for this report from the public health agencies.

What about Next Steps with the Landfill?

While the field data collection evaluating odors in the neighborhoods is complete, VADEQ will continue to regulate and work with the landfill to ensure ongoing regulatory compliance.

Key Contacts

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