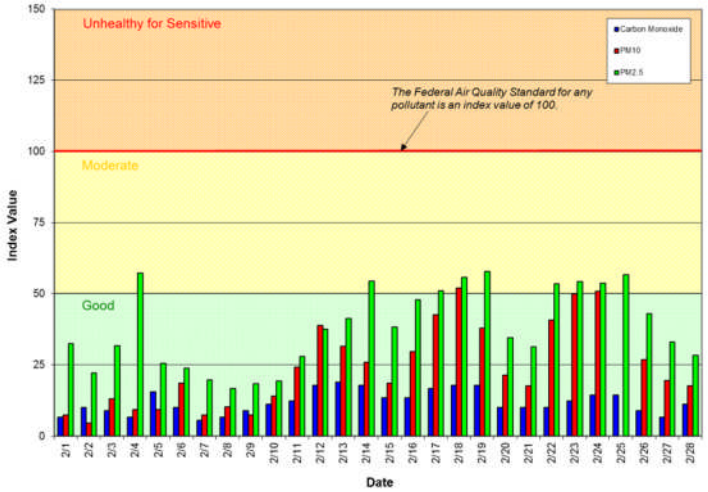
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
Air Quality Report - February 2015

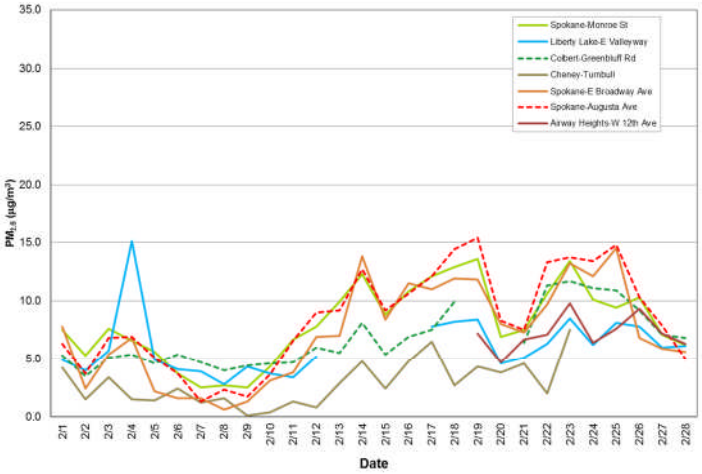
Atmospheric high pressure dominated the region's weather in the middle and latter parts of the month, bringing calm winds and nighttime temperature inversions and inhibiting pollution dispersion. There were nine days of moderate air quality based on the Air Quality Index (AQI) for fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). The highest AQI value for the month was 58 (moderate air quality) on the 19th (Figure 1) when the 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration was 15.4 µg/m^3. Particulate matter (PM_{10}) mass concentrations reached the moderate range of the AQI on two days, the highest of which occurred on the 18th (PM_{10} = 58 µg/m^3; PM_{10} AQI = 52). Road dust appeared to be the cause of the elevated PM_{10} levels. Carbon monoxide concentrations remained well within the "good" range of the AQI. See Appendix 1 of this report for information about federal air quality standards or Appendix 2 for a description of the AQI.

Figure 1: Air Quality Index (AQI) values for February 2015. The data represent the maximum AQI values across all monitoring stations within Spokane County.



Daily mass concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ monitored in February throughout the network are shown in Figure 2. Background levels of $PM_{2.5}$ are monitored at the Cheney-Turnbull monitoring station, which is far from urban areas. All of the other stations measure a combination of regional and locally-generated air pollution in urban environments. The highest daily $PM_{2.5}$ mass concentration (15.4 µg/m^3) was measured at the Spokane-Augusta & Fiske monitoring station on February 19.

Figure 2: Multi-station 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ for February 2015; Spokane County.



The February daily air quality data for all monitoring stations in the Spokane region are provided in Appendix 3. Current and historical air quality data can be obtained electronically from Ecology's air monitoring data website, https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/enviwa/Default.htm.

Table 1 contains the maximum AQI values for each pollutant for the month. Table 2 summarizes the year to date daily AQIs by category and compares them to last year's AQIs.

Table 1: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations for this reporting period

Pollutant	AQI/Concentration	Location	Date
CO	19/1.7 ppm (8 hour)	Spokane, 3rd & Washington	2/13
PM_{10}	52/58 µg/m^3	Spokane, Augusta & Fiske	2/18
$PM_{2.5}$	58/15.4 µg/m^3	Spokane, Augusta & Fiske	2/19

Table 2: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations to date this year

Pollutant	AQI/Concentration	Location	Date
CO	21/1.9 ppm (8 hour)	Spokane, 3rd & Washington	1/5
PM_{10}	52/58 µg/m^3	Spokane, Augusta & Fiske	2/18
$PM_{2.5}$	74/22.9 µg/m^3	Spokane, Monroe & Wellesley	1/10

Table 3: AQI summary as of February 28, 2015

Category	Number of Days This Year	Last Year to Date
Good (0-50)	37	47
Moderate (51-100)	22	12
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	0	0
Unhealthy (151-200)	0	0
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	0	0
Hazardous (>300)	0	0

Wind speed and direction are measured at the SRCAA's office, located near the intersection of Mission Ave and Greene St in Spokane. Stronger southerly (S) to southwesterly (SW) surface winds are often associated with storm systems and usually promote better air quality than light easterly (E), northeasterly (NE) or northerly (N) winds, which typically occur during periods of poor atmospheric ventilation. In February, light northerly, east-northeasterly (ENE) and easterly winds predominated during periods of poor pollution dispersion (Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3: The wind rose depicts the variation of hourly average wind speed (mph) with the direction from which the wind was blowing in February.

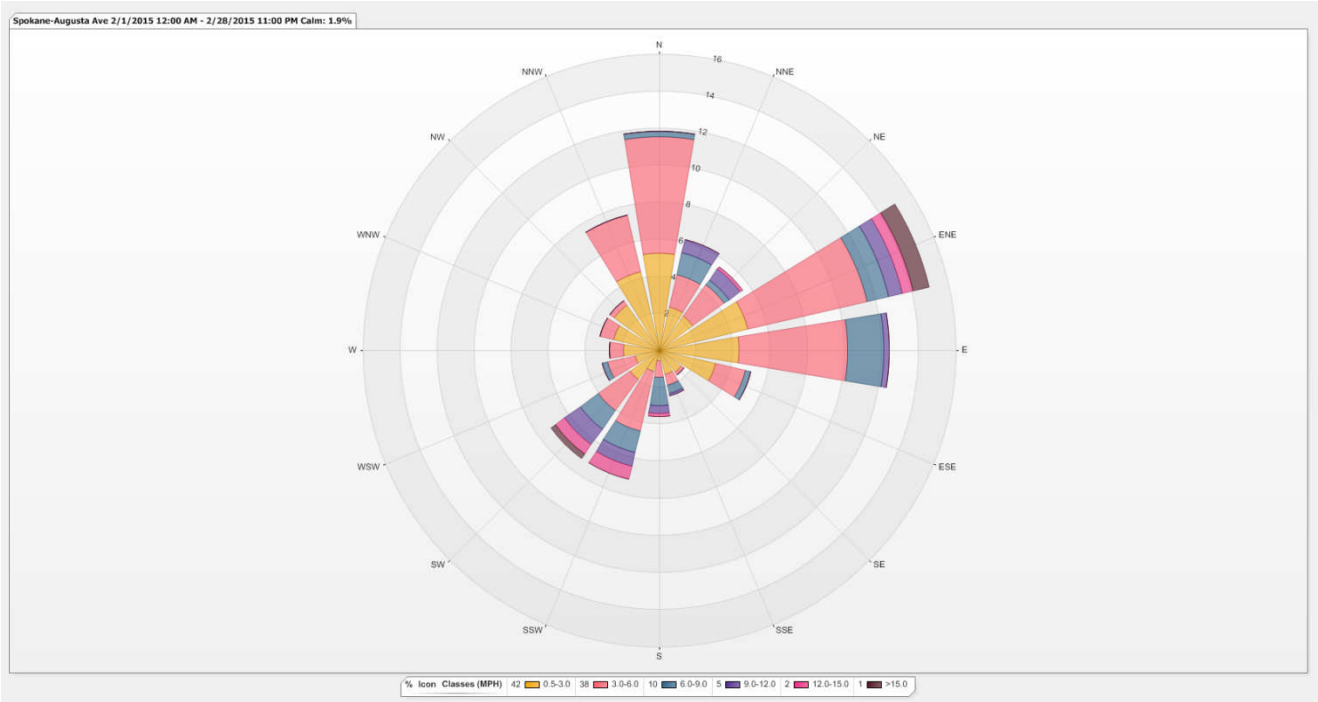
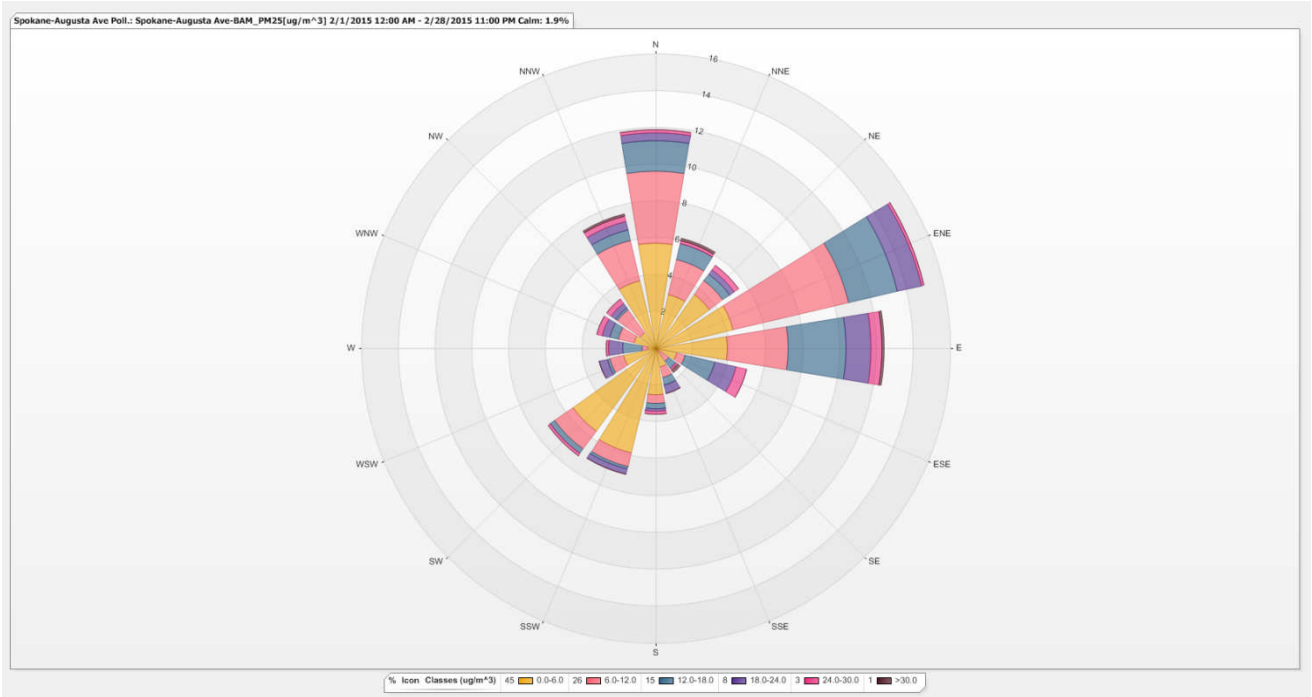


Figure 4: The $PM_{2.5}$ pollution rose depicts the variation of hourly average $PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$) with the direction from which the wind was blowing in February.



Appendix 1 – National Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants, carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), ground-level ozone (O_3) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2; Table A-1). These are known as "criteria" pollutants because the US EPA established regulatory limits to concentrations in ambient air using human health or environmentally based criteria. Carbon monoxide, particulate matter and ozone are monitored in Spokane County by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Table A-1: National Ambient Air Quality Standards

	Primary Standards		Secondary Standards	
Pollutant	**Level**	**Averaging Time**	**Level**	**Averaging Time**
Carbon Monoxide	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	8-hour [1]	None	
	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	1-hour [1]		
Lead	0.15 $\mu g/m^3$ [2]	Rolling 3-Month Average	Same as Primary	
	1.5 $\mu g/m^3$	Quarterly Average	Same as Primary	
Nitrogen Dioxide	53 ppb [3]	Annual (Arithmetic Average)	Same as Primary	
	100 ppb	1-hour [4]	None	
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	150 $\mu g/m^3$	24-hour [5]	Same as Primary	
Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	12.0 $\mu g/m^3$	Annual [6] (Arithmetic Average)	Same as Primary	
	35 $\mu g/m^3$	24-hour [7]	Same as Primary	
Ozone	0.075 ppm (2008 std)	8-hour [8]	Same as Primary	
	0.08 ppm (1997 std)	8-hour [9]	Same as Primary	
	0.12 ppm	1-hour [10]	Same as Primary	
Sulfur Dioxide	0.03 ppm	Annual (Arithmetic Average)	0.5 ppm	3-hour [1]
	0.14 ppm	24-hour [1]		
	75 ppb [11]	1-hour	None	

[1] Not to be exceeded more than once per year.
[2] Final rule signed October 15, 2008.
[3] The official level of the annual NO_2 standard is 0.053 ppm, equal to 53 ppb, which is shown here for the purpose of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard
[4] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour average at each monitor within an area must not exceed 100 ppb (effective January 22, 2010).
[5] Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years.
[6] On March 18, 2013, EPA strengthened the annual fine particle standard by revising the level from 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m3) to 12.0µg/m3 . An area will meet the standard if the three-year average of its annual average $PM_{2.5}$ concentration (at each monitoring site in the area) is less than or equal to 12.0 µg/m3 .
[7] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 98th percentile of 24-hour concentrations at each population-oriented monitor within an area must not exceed 35 µg/m3 (effective December 17, 2006).
[8] To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.075 ppm. (effective May 27, 2008)
[9] (a) To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations measured at each monitor within an area over each year must not exceed 0.08 ppm.
(b) The 1997 standard—and the implementation rules for that standard—will remain in place for implementation purposes as EPA undertakes rulemaking to address the transition from the 1997 ozone standard to the 2008 ozone standard.
(c) EPA is in the process of reconsidering these standards (set in March 2008).
[10] (a) EPA revoked the 1-hour ozone standard in all areas, although some areas have continuing obligations under that standard ("anti-backsliding").
(b) The standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with maximum hourly average concentrations above 0.12 ppm is $\leq$ 1.
[11] (a) Final rule signed June 2, 2010. To attain this standard, the 3-year average of the 99th percentile of the daily maximum 1-hour average at each monitor within an area must not exceed 75 ppb.

Appendix 2 – Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is EPA's color-coded tool for communicating daily air quality to the public and can be calculated for any of the criteria pollutants except lead, provided monitoring data are available. An index value above 100 indicates that the concentration of a criteria pollutant exceeded the limit established in the NAAQS. Categories of the AQI are "good" (green, 0-50), "moderate" (yellow, 51-100), "unhealthy for sensitive groups" (orange, 101-150), "unhealthy" (red, 151-200), "very unhealthy" (purple, 201-300) and "hazardous" (maroon, 301-500; Table A-2). On March 18, 2013, EPA reduced the good to moderate breakpoint for $PM_{2.5}$ from 15.0 to 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu g/m^3$).

Table A-2: Air pollutant breakpoints for the Air Quality Index.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Color Code	Index Numerical Value	Breakpoints					Health Effects
			O_3 (ppm) 8-hour	O_3 (ppm) 1-hour[1]	$PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour	PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour	CO (ppm) 8-hour	
Good	Green	0-50	0.000-0.059	[3]	0.0-12.0	0-54	0.0-4.4	Air quality is considered satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	Yellow	51-100	0.060-0.075	[3]	12.1-35.4	55-154	4.5-9.4	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	101-150	0.076-0.095	0.125-0.164	35.5-65.4	155-254	9.5-12.4	People especially sensitive to air pollution may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected. An AQI in this category or above indicates that air pollution exceeds levels acceptable under federal air quality standards.
Unhealthy	Red	151-200	0.096-0.115	0.165-0.204	65.5-150.4	255-354	12.5-15.4	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	Purple	201-300	0.116-0.374	0.205-0.404	150.5-250.4	355-424	15.5-30.4	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	Maroon	>300	[2]	0.405+	250.5+	425+	30.5+	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

[1]Areas are generally required to report the AQI based on 8-hour ozone values. However, there are a small number of areas where an AQI based on 1-hour ozone values would be more precautionary. In these cases, in addition to calculating the 8-hour ozone index value, the 1-hour ozone index value may be calculated, and the maximum of the two values reported.

[2]8-hour O_3 values do not define higher AQI values ($\geq$ 301). AQI values of 301 or greater are calculated with 1-hour O_3 concentrations.

[3]There is no AQI for 1-hour O_3 concentrations below the Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups level.

Appendix 3

Table A-3: Summary air quality data for February for air monitoring stations in Spokane County. The carbon monoxide data are maximum 8-hour running averages in parts per million (ppm) and the PM data are 24-hour averages in micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu g/m^3$). The beta attenuation monitor (BAM; a particulate matter mass concentration monitor) is being evaluated at the Augusta & Fiske station and is not a permanent part of the monitoring network. Replacement of the BAM's sample filter tape late on the 6th resulted in loss of data on the 7th through the 10th. A quality control check of the Augusta $PM_{2.5}$ Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM; a particulate matter mass concentration monitor) on February 26th revealed flow rates had drifted outside of the EPA-specified limits and the data for January 30th through February 26th were invalidated (the data are reported here shaded in gray). The 20-year-old College Ave TEOM is broken and as of February 9th is no longer useable. The Airway Heights TEOM was repaired on the 18th. The Turnbull NWR TEOM was running in February despite a malfunction. The data are shaded gray in the table. A malfunction of the Liberty Lake TEOM resulted in the loss of data for the 13th through the 16th. The Colbert TEOM was off-line on February 19th and 20th after routine maintenance on the 19th.

Date	CO 3rd & Washington (8 hour max, ppm)	$PM_{2.5}$ Augusta & Fiske BAM ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ Augusta & Fiske TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ E. Broadway Ave. ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ College Ave TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ Airway Heights TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)	PM2.5 Turnbull NWR TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ Monroe & Wellesley nephelometer ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ Liberty Lake TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)	$PM_{2.5}$ Colbert TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)	PM_{10} Augusta & Fiske TEOM ($\mu g/m^3$)
2/1	0.6	6.2	6.3	7.8	5.8		4.2	7.5	4.9	5.3	8
2/2	0.9	3.4	3.7	2.4	3.8		1.5	5.3	4.0	3.5	5
2/3	0.8	7.0	6.8	5.4			3.4	7.6	5.7	5.1	14
2/4	0.6	6.5	6.9	6.8			1.5	6.6	**15.1**	5.4	10
2/5	1.4	5.1	5.1	2.2	**6.1**		1.4	5.6	4.9	4.6	10
2/6	0.9	2.2	3.7	1.6	5.7		2.4	3.7	4.1	5.4	20
2/7	0.5		1.3	1.6	4.7		1.2	2.5	3.9	4.7	8
2/8	0.6		2.3	0.6	3.9		1.6	2.7	2.8	4.0	11
2/9	0.8		1.7	1.3			0.1	2.5	4.3	4.4	8
2/10	1.0		3.6	3.1			0.4	4.3	3.7	4.6	15
2/11	1.1	4.0	6.6	3.8			1.3	6.7	3.4	4.7	26
2/12	1.6	6.6	9.0	6.9			0.8	7.8	5.2	6.0	42
2/13	**1.7**	7.0	9.2	7.0			2.9	9.9		5.5	34
2/14	1.6	10.5	12.7	13.8			4.8	12.3		8.1	28
2/15	1.2	7.6	9.2	8.4			2.4	8.8		5.4	20
2/16	1.2	10.1	10.6	11.5			4.8	10.8		6.9	32
2/17	1.5	12.8	12.1	11.0			6.5	12.1	7.8	7.5	46
2/18	1.6	14.1	14.4	11.9			2.7	12.9	8.2	9.9	**58**
2/19	1.6	14.4	**15.4**	11.8		7.2	4.3	**13.6**	8.4		41
2/20	0.9	7.5	8.3	8.0		4.7	3.8	6.9	4.6		23
2/21	0.9	7.0	7.5	7.3		6.7	4.6	7.5	5.1	6.4	19
2/22	0.9	14.1	13.3	9.7		7.1	2.0	10.6	6.3	11.3	44
2/23	1.1	**14.7**	13.7	13.2		**9.8**	**7.5**	13.4	8.5	**11.7**	54
2/24	1.3	12.4	13.4	12.1		6.4		10.1	6.2	11.1	55
2/25	1.3	14.4	14.8	**14.5**		7.6		9.4	8.1	10.9	50
2/26	0.8	10.5	10.3	6.8		9.3		10.3	7.8	9.2	29
2/27	0.6	6.4	7.9	5.9		7.2		7.1	6.0	7.1	21
2/28	1.0	6.2	5.0	5.6		6.3		6.2	6.1	6.8	19
AVG	1.1	8.8	8.4	7.2	5.0	7.2	2.9	8.0	6.0	6.8	27
MAX	**1.7**	14.7	**15.4**	14.5	6.1	9.8	7.5	13.6	15.1	11.7	**58**