

Amendment to Air Management Regulation VI: Review of Health Impacts from New Sources of Toxic Air Contaminant (TACs)

Cancer Risk from Air Pollution in Philadelphia Varies by Neighborhood

This map from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shows the cancer risk faced by Philadelphians from toxic air pollution. Not all Philadelphians are exposed to the same amount of air pollution or face the same risk.

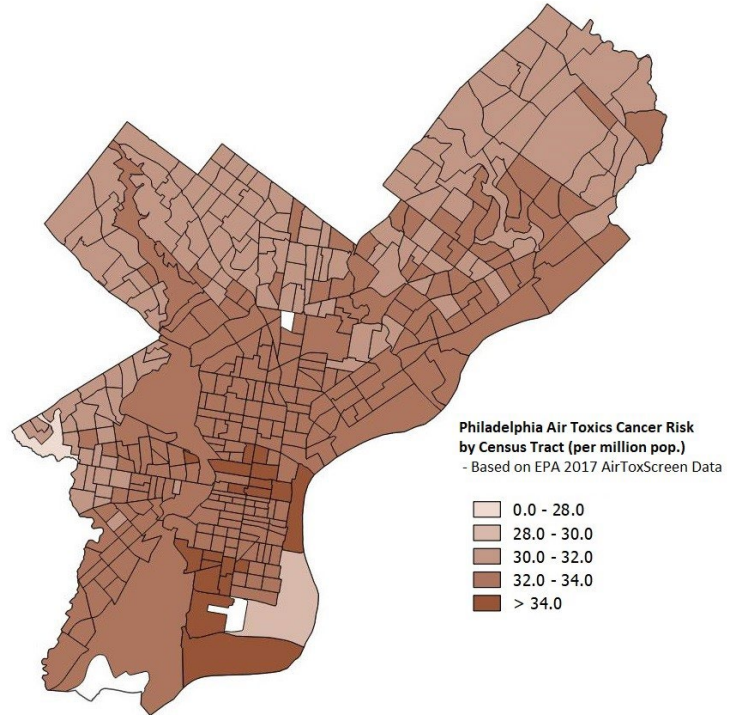
What are Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs)?

A variety of air pollutants, also called Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), including chemicals, gases, and metals, that can harm health in different ways including causing:

- Cancer
- Birth defects
- Harm to lungs, brain, heart¹

The Air Pollution Control Board will be holding a public hearing on August 10th to discuss a draft regulation, AMR VI that would regulate 217 TACs

- Includes 188 HAPs regulated by the EPA under the Clean Air Act
- Also includes additional TACs that are considered “likely to cause cancer” or that have developmental and reproductive toxicities
- Further information about how to submit a public comment on the draft regulation, the full text of the draft regulation, and information on how to attend the public hearing are available at [Public Notice - Public Hearing on AMR VI \(Control of Air Toxics and Risk Assessment\)](#).



Sources of TAC Pollution That Are Subject to New Rule

- AMR VI applies to “facilities” that cause TAC pollution (all areas, buildings, and equipment used by any person at a single location to conduct business) above established TAC emission thresholds.
- Air pollution permits with TAC pollution above emission thresholds must estimate cancer and non-cancer risks to the surrounding community using standardized health risk assessment tools.
- If both the cancer risk and non-cancer risk are “negligible” (defined as posing a risk of less than or equal to 1 additional case of cancer or other adverse health outcomes per million residents) no further review is needed.

¹ “Toxic Air Pollutants,” American Lung Association. Available at <https://www.lung.org/clean-air/outdoors/what-makes-air-unhealthy/toxic-air-pollutants> (last updated July 13, 2020).

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from New Sources of Toxic Air Contaminant (TACs)**

- If either the cancer risk or non-cancer risks are more than “negligible” the applicant must submit:
 - o (1) Refined Risk Assessment:
 - More accurate estimate of cancer and non-cancer risks using more data and different EPA modeling tool (AERMOD). Estimate now accounts for weather and sensitive areas (daycares, hospitals, playgrounds, etc.)
 - o (2) Risk Mitigation Plans:
 - Describe ways to reduce health risks (e.g. air toxic emission controls, increase exhaust stack height to scatter pollution, changes to limit people’s exposure)
- If the Risk Mitigation Plan is approved by the Health Department, it is added to the permit requirements
- The Health Department may deny a permit if the Risk Mitigation Plan does not adequately address the risks to Philadelphians

Estimated Cancer Risk Levels Determine How Review Process Works²

- Cancer risk less than or equal to 1 in a million = Permit approved
- Cancer risk more than 1 in a million and less than 100 in a million = Case-by-case review after refined risk assessment and risk mitigation plan are submitted
- Cancer risk equal to or above 100 in a million = Permit denied

² For further information, refer to the AMR VI Technical Guidelines and Technical Support Document.