



NEW HAMPSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCILS

Air Resources Waste Management Water Wetlands

June 2, 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Pursuant to RSA 21-O:11 III, the New Hampshire Air Resources Council hereby submits its annual report for year ending 2025. The report highlights all member information, meeting agendas, minutes, attendance, appeals, and docket activity.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact the Council Secretary, Cassidy Menczywor, at Cassidy.R.Menczywor@des.nh.gov.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Duval".

Robert Duval
Council Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT
Of The
AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL
2025

SUBMITTED TO

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly Ayotte



Executive Council

The Honorable Joseph D. Kenney
The Honorable Karen Liot Hill
The Honorable Janet Stevens
The Honorable John Stephen
The Honorable David K. Wheeler
Commissioner Robert Scott

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
Robert Duval, Chairman
March 2026

Air Resources Council

Eleven members appointed by the governor with consent of the executive council to serve **four-year terms** as follows: one representing the steam power generating industry; one representing the oil industry; one representing the natural gas industry; one the manufacturing component of industry; one the field of municipal government; and six members at large who shall represent the general public, one of whom shall be a licensed practicing physician or other health care professional possessing expertise in the field of public health and the health-related impacts of air pollution, one who shall represent the field of recreation and at least one of whom shall represent environmental interests. Members representing public interest may not derive any significant portion of their income from persons subject to permits or enforcement orders, and may not serve as attorney for, act as consultant for, serve as officer or director of, or hold any other official or contractual relationship with any persons subject to permits or enforcement orders. All potential conflicts of interest shall be adequately disclosed. All members shall be residents of N.H. RSA 21-O:

ROBERT DUVAL, Manchester-Chairman
September 17, 2003 to November 21, 2026
(General Public)

JAY LEDUC, Portsmouth
June 2, 2021 to September 6, 2027
(Fuel Oil Industry)

KRIS NILS BLOMBACK, Henniker
November 6, 2013 to October 24, 2027
(Recreation Industry)

VACANT
(Health Care Professional/Practicing Physician)

GEORGIA MURRAY, Conway
January 11, 2006 to October 24, 2025
(Environmental Interest)

RUDOLPH A. CARTIER JR., Moultonborough
September 23, 2020 to October 24, 2025
(Municipal Government)

DAVID CRIBBIE, Bow
November 14, 2018 to November 1, 2026
(Manufacturing)

ELIZABETH TILLOTSON, Bow
January 24, 2018 to October 24, 2025
(Steam Power Generating Industry)

J. RYAN BIELAGUS, Moultonborough
January 4, 2005 to December 6, 2027
(General Public)

VACANT
(Renewable Energy Industry/General Public)

ALEC O'MEARA, Exeter
August 7, 2024 to October 4, 2027
(Natural Gas Industry)

Members and Support Contact List

Duval, Robert

Chairman/At Large/General Public

TFMoran, Inc.
48 Constitution Dr
Bedford, NH 03110-6000
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Cartier, Jr, Rudolph (Rudy) A.

Vice Chair/Municipal Government

89 Winaukee Rd
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Bielagus, J. Ryan

At Large/General Public

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Cribbie, David

Manufacturing

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O'Meara, Alec

Natural Gas Industry Unitil

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Hampton, NH 03842
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Omeara@Unitil.Com

Leduc, Jason (Jay) A.

Fuel Oils Industry

Sprague Resources GP LLC
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Portsmouth, NH 03801
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Murray, Georgia L.

At Large/Environmental Interest

Appalachian Mountain Club
PO Box 1747
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Blomback, Kris

At Large/Recreation

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Tillotson, Elizabeth (Lynn) H.

Steam Power Generating Industry

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Elizabeth.Tillotson@Graniteshorepower.Com

Vacant

At Large/Practicing Physician

Vacant

At Large/General Public

Menczywor, Cassidy

Council Secretary

NHDES, Air Resources Division
PO Box 95
Concord NH 03302-0094
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Samuel, Joyce

Council Counselor

NH Department of Justice
Client Counseling Unit
Office of the Attorney General
1 Granite Place South
Concord NH 03301
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Joyce.J.Samuel@Doj.Nh.Gov

Doucette, Michelle

Appeals Counselor

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Vacant

NHDES Legal Unit

Administrator

NHDES, Air Resources Division
PO Box 95
Concord NH 03302-0094

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Air Resources Council are scheduled to meet on the following dates at 9:00 a.m. at the
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire:

January 13, 2025

February 10, 2025

March 10, 2025

April 14, 2025

May 12, 2025

June 9, 2025

July 14, 2025

August 11, 2025

September 8, 2025

October 20, 2025

November 17, 2025

December 8, 2025

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Air Resources Council 2025

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Robert Duval	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present
Jay Leduc	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present
Ryan Bielagus	Cancelled	Cancelled	Not Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Not Present
Kris Blomback	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present
Rudy Cartier	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present
David Cribbie	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present
Alec O'Meara	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present
Georgia Murray	Cancelled	Cancelled	Via Conf. room phone	Cancelled	Cancelled	Via Conf. room phone
Elizabeth Tillotson	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Robert Duval	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Present	Cancelled	Present
Jay Leduc	Cancelled	Cancelled	Not Present	Present	Cancelled	Present
Ryan Bielagus	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Present	Cancelled	Present
Kris Blomback	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Present	Cancelled	Not Present
Rudy Cartier	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Present	Cancelled	Present
David Cribbie	Cancelled	Cancelled	Not Present	Present	Cancelled	Present
Alec O'Meara	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Present	Cancelled	Present
Georgia Murray	Cancelled	Cancelled	Not Present	Via Conf. room phone	Cancelled	Via Conf. room phone
Elizabeth Tillotson	Cancelled	Cancelled	Present	Present	Cancelled	Present



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Air Resources Council

Robert Duval, Chairman

PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Council Clerk (non-appeal related): (603) 271-1386; Appeals Clerk (appeal related only): (603) 271-6072

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 Council Website: <https://www.nhec.nh.gov/air-resources-council>

NOTICE OF MEETING

March 10, 2025

#293

The New Hampshire Air Resources Council will convene at:

9:00 am Monday, March 10, 2025

Room 208C

NH Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Please note this meeting will be held in-person at the location specified above

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes (Meeting #292)
3. Air Resources Division Report: *Craig Wright, Director Air Resources Division*
 - Legislative Update
 - Significant Permit Activities
 - Other ARD Activities
6. Rules
 - Env-A 300, Ambient Air Quality Standards**
Lisa Camire, SIP Planning Analyst
Karla McManus, Planning and Rules Manager
 - Env-A 900, Owner or Operator Recordkeeping and Reporting Obligations**
Ray Walters, Field Operations Manager
Karla McManus, Planning and Rules Manager
7. Air Resources Division Budget Overview
Craig Wright, Director Air Resources Division
Cathy Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator
8. New Business
9. Public Commentary
10. Adjourn

AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING #293
03/10/2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Duval, Rudolph (Rudy) Cartier Jr., Kris Nils Blomback, David Cribbie, Alec O’Meara, Jason (Jay) A. Leduc, Elizabeth (Lynn) Tillotson

MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE: Georgia L. Murray

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: J. Ryan Bielagus

NHDES – ARD PERSONNEL: Craig Wright, Director; Mike Fitzgerald, Assistant Director; Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator; Lisa Camire, SIP Planning Analyst; Karla McManus, Rules & Planning Manager; Ray Walters, Field Operations Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: None

MEMBERS OF

THE PUBLIC PRESENT: None

Call to Order:

Chairman Duval called meeting #293 of the Air Resources Council (ARC) to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, March 10, 2025. Chair Duval announced that the council had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes (Meeting #289):

A motion to approve the minutes of meeting #292 was moved by Member Cartier and seconded by Member Blomback. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Air Resources Division Report:

Legislative Update: Director Craig Wright discussed Senate Bill 449, which involved permit issuant timelines. Action from the commissioner is required within 120 days from receipt of a complete application. The timeline changed from 60 to 120 days, effective September 24, 2024.

Significant Permit Activities: Director Wright announced notification of permit and emission fee rates were distributed last week to all of Air Resources Division’s (ARD’s) permitted sources and provided information alongside the notifications. Director Wright announced a successful permit renewal hearing to Granite Shore Power White Lake Generating Station in Tamworth, NH on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, evening. The permit was issued on February 5, 2025. Director Wright discussed ARD’s drafted General State Permit (GSP) for emergency generators, increased fees and the online process. A public hearing will take place for the drafted GSP on Monday, March 17, 2025. All GSP contacts will be notified. Further discussion was had on GSP.

Other ARD Activities: Director Wright discussed the freeze on filling vacant state government positions, and the waiver process through Governor Ayotte. Director Wright added that ARD has ten current vacant positions, and waivers for five of those positions were requested. Two new part-time positions were requested, that are also subject to waiver. Four of the seven positions were accepted for waivers. ARD is working to fill two permit-related positions, an emissions inventory-related position, and one health risk assessor position. Discussion was had on ARD position vacancies. Director Wright agreed to a Legislative Update presentation for next ARC meeting. Discussion was had on updates.

Rules:

Env-A 300, Ambient Air Quality Standards, Lisa Camire, SIP Planning Analyst and Karla McManus, Planning & Rules Manager gave a brief overview of the proposed readoption to this rule, with amendments. Discussion was had on previous standard changes and regulations. A motion to start the 15-day clock was made by Member Cartier and seconded by Member Blomback. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Env-A 900, Owner or Operator Recordkeeping and Reporting Obligations, Ray Walters, Field Operations Manager and Planning and Rules Manager McManus gave a brief overview of the proposed readoption to this rule, with amendments. Discussion was had on small changes. A motion to start the 15-day clock was made by Member O'Meara and seconded by Member Cartier. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Air Resources Division Budget Overview:

Director Wright and SIP Planning Administrator, Cathy Beahm, gave an overview of the ARD budget.

New Business: None.

Public Commentary: None.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Member Blomback and seconded by Member Cribbie. All were in favor and Meeting #293 of the Air Resources Council adjourned at 10:49 AM.



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Air Resources Council

Robert Duval, Chairman

PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Council Clerk (non-appeal related): (603) 271-1386; Appeals Clerk (appeal related only): (603) 271-6072

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 Council Website: <https://www.nhec.nh.gov/air-resources-council>

NOTICE OF MEETING

June 9, 2025

#294

The New Hampshire Air Resources Council will convene at:

9:00 am Monday, June 9, 2025

Room 208C

NH Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Please note this meeting will be held in-person at the location specified above

4. **Call to Order**
5. **Approval of Minutes (Meeting #293)**
6. **Consultation with Commissioner Scott (non-public session):** *Robert R. Scott, Commissioner of Environmental Services*
7. **Air Resources Division Report:** *Craig Wright, Director Air Resources Division*
 - Legislative Update
 - Significant Permit Activities
 - Other ARD Activities

11. Rules

Env-A 1800, Asbestos Management and Control

Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator

Karla McManus, Planning and Rules Manager

- a. **ARC Presentation: Proposed Asbestos Fees Rule Changes**

12. New Business

13. Public Commentary

14. Adjourn

AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING #294
06/09/2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Duval, Kris Nils Blomback, David Cribbie, Alec O’Meara, Jason (Jay) A. Leduc, Elizabeth (Lynn) Tillotson, Rudolph (Rudy) Cartier Jr.

MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE: Georgia L. Murray

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: J. Ryan Bielagus

NHDES – ARD PERSONNEL: Robert Scott, Commissioner; Craig Wright, Director; Mike Fitzgerald, Assistant Director; Karla McManus, Rules & Planning Manager; Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator; Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator; Ray Walters, Field Operations Manager; Karl Karlsson, Asbestos Program Manager; Aron Johnson, Legal Coordinator; Connor Skarzynski; Helen Sajo

OTHERS PRESENT: Joyce Samuel, NHDOJ

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: John Tuthill

Call to Order:

Chairman Duval called meeting #294 of the Air Resources Council (ARC) to order at 9:03 AM on Monday, June 9, 2025. Chair Duval announced that the council had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes (Meeting #293):

A motion to approve the minutes of meeting #293 was moved by Member Blomback and seconded by Member Leduc. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Consultation with Commissioner Scott (non-public session):

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner of Environmental Services: A motion to enter a non-public session, at Commissioner Scott’s request, was made by Member Leduc and seconded by Vice-Chair Cartier. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion on rule 91-A was had between Public Member Tuthill and Chairman Duval.

The Air Resources Council entered a non-public session at 9:07 AM and returned on record at 9:18 AM.

Air Resources Division Report:

Legislative Update: Director Craig Wright explained changes to House Bill 2, which went through many amendments. One change updated the qualifications for the ARC’s Public Health position in RSA 21-O:11, I. Instead of requiring “a licensed practicing physician or other healthcare professional, possessing expertise in the field of public health”, the law now simply requires expertise “in the field of public health”. This change was requested by NHDES.

Other updates included replacing the term “steam power” with “electric generating”, reducing at-large members from six to five, and adding a new seat for someone representing the renewable energy industry.

Discussion moved to the next steps for this bill, and further to the current members of ARC and how this may impact the council. Member Tillotson questioned her place in the council after applying for renewal and discussion changed to the new title of her current seat being “Electric Generating Industry”. Vice-Chair Cartier asked about his renewal after term, as he no longer represents municipal government. Director Wright

suggested a meeting between ARC to discuss whether Vice-Chair Cartier's experience with municipal government would apply to future membership.

Discussion moved to each ARC member's title and role within the council. Director Wright shared the vacancy of ARC's public health position with the new executive director from the New Hampshire Medical Society at a recent meeting, to bring awareness. Chairman Duval questioned whether writing a brief letter to the Committee of Conference on this topic could help.

Director Wright discussed House Bill 649, "*Removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.*". Director Wright shared that the Air Resources Division (ARD) engaged heavily in this process due to the emissions and check engine light side of the bill. Director Wright explained that NH is part of the Ozone Transport Region (OTR), under the federal Clean Air Act (Section 184-F), which requires certain states in the OTR meet certain criteria and be in attainment. ARD met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and received a letter obtaining the legal requirements for the program in NH, which was shared with parties in the Senate. The Senate decided on a floor vote to re-refer the bill back to the committee. A provision was made in House Bill 2, requiring ARD to take action, in respect to the New Hampshire OBD and Safety Testing Program. If the bill passes, it may direct NHDES to attempt to eliminate the program from NH by making a State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittal to EPA by January 1st, 2026. Discussion was had on the possible further effects of this decision.

Chair Duval questioned a portion of the bill stating the Department of Safety (DOS) that would reimplement the program and Director Wright clarified that the rules are from DOS, because they oversee the Safety Inspection Program. NHDES collects the data for the New Hampshire OBD and Safety Testing Program and prepares the Annual Report to EPA, as well as judges the effectiveness of the program and getting SIP credit.

Director Wright stated the next step is to work with partners at EPA on how NHDES can be involved and effective. Discussion moved to the verbiage within the rule and possible outcomes.

Significant Permit Activities: Director Wright shared ARD revenue from fees has met expectations. General State Permit (GSP) renewal is about 40% through and due by the end of the month. ARD has reached out to remaining sources for compliance with renewal and is keeping an eye on federal budgets, with the proposal of EPA budget cuts.

Other ARD Activities: Director Wright shared that Governor Ayotte attended a Governor & Council breakfast meeting hosted by NHDES on Wednesday, June 4th.

Director Wright moved the conversation to air quality and the ozone season with Canadian wildfires. Three Air Quality Action Days were issued in June. June 4th ARD called for a particulate matter (PM) above 3000 feet. Discussion was had about the possibility of a PM monitor on top of Mount Washington. On June 5th ozone exceedances were called for along the seacoast of NH in Portsmouth and Rye. June 8th, ozone exceedances were called for across the state, including Lebanon. A press release was issued.

Chair Duval questioned the cause in Lebanon and Director Wright responded that location is the biggest factor, due to the Canadian wildfires.

Member Murray exited the meeting at 10:00am due to a schedule conflict.

Rules:

Env-A 1800, Asbestos Management and Control, Karla McManus, Planning & Rules Manager, gave a brief overview of the proposed readoption to this rule, with amendments. Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator, gave a supplemental presentation on these changes.

The council discussed a recent stakeholder meeting about the rule, which had 14 attendees. Member Cribbie questioned the invitation process and Planning & Rules Manager McManus stated invitations were sent to all

ARD's contacts for inspectors, contractors, and consultants (all licensors within NH). Member Tillotson questioned the volume of complaints ARD receives in reference to asbestos. Compliance Bureau Administrator Eldridge explained there are a total of 140 complaints, just under 20 received were for asbestos, which is a significant increase. The complaints are often complex and can take a significant amount of time to rectify. Director Wright stated that these complaints, at times, lead to a lot of person-hour investigations, follow-up, response, and in some cases mitigating. Compliance Bureau Administrator Eldridge added at times it leads to enforcement.

Chair Duval asked about allowing applications online. Compliance Bureau Administrator Eldridge explained that a new system is needed but will allow full electronic submissions, including fees, with no wet signatures required. Further discussion was had on this process.

The council also discussed notification types and related fees. Vice-Chair Cartier noted possible confusion, while Member Cribbie suggested re-adding the word "major" in section 1806.08. Eldridge clarified that it's already covered in the definitions, following the rulemaking manual.

Chair Duval expressed concern over the effects of the fee changes on businesses and Asbestos Program Manager Karl Karlsson responded that these increases are not unlike other states and may be anticipated by many. Director Wright added that this is a fee for service program, and statutory requirements state that we fund the program through application fees.

Chair Duval raised concerns about fee increases for businesses. Asbestos Program Manager Karlsson said the increases are similar to other states. Director Wright added that the program is fee-funded by law and currently at risk of financial instability. While not yet in deficit, the program could run out of funds in 18–24 months without a fee increase. Wright explained that staffing has grown (two new employees), requirements have expanded, and fees haven't changed since 2008. The increases are needed to keep the program solvent.

Chair Duval questioned if the program has been running a large deficit and Director Wright responded that it has not but is headed for impending financial non-viability. Director Wright added that ARD is within 18 months-2 years of this program being a negative balance, and without increase in fees, the program will run a negative deficit. Chair Duval questioned why the program is not currently running at a deficit, and Director Wright responded that ARD has expanded the program and has two more employees, which means they are fully staffed. Due to growth in the program, it has been expanded. Director Wright added that fees have not changed since 2008. Expanded requirements for the staff to run the program appropriately and the consumer price index take part in the change. Director Wright added that these increases are to keep the program solvent.

Discussion moved to how many businesses will be affected by this and moved further to the ARD budget. Vice-Chair Cartier questioned if the fees will be retroactive and Compliance Bureau Administrator Eldridge responded that they will not.

A motion to start the 15-day clock was made by Member Cribbie and seconded by Member Leduc. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

New Business: Joyce Samuel of the New Hampshire Department of Justice introduced herself as the newly appointed counsel to the Air Resources, Water, Wetlands, and Waste Management Councils.

Public Commentary: Public citizen John Tuthill questioned the process of the 15-day comment period. Tuthill requested a document on any discussion/feedback during the 15-day period be posted publicly. Tuthill requested this item be added to the next ARC meeting. Chair Duval added that any comments made during this period are part of public record and Planning & Rules Manager McManus added that is correct and they are given by request.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Member Leduc and seconded by Vice-Chair Cartier. All were in favor and Meeting #294 of the Air Resources Council adjourned at 11:04 AM.



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Air Resources Council

Robert Duval, Chairman

PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

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TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 Council Website: <https://www.nhec.nh.gov/air-resources-council>

NOTICE OF MEETING

September 8, 2025

#295

The New Hampshire Air Resources Council will convene at:

9:00 am Monday, September 8, 2025

Room 208C

NH Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Please note this meeting will be held in-person at the location specified above

8. Call to Order
9. Approval of Minutes (Meeting #294)
10. Air Resources Division Report: *Craig Wright, Director Air Resources Division (ARD)*
 - Legislative Update
 - Significant Permit Activities
 - Other ARD Activities
15. ARC Presentation – Summer 2025 Air Quality Report: *Sarah-Ellen Calise, Air Quality Analyst (ARD)*
16. New Business
17. Public Commentary
18. Adjourn

AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING #295
09/08/2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Duval, Rudolph (Rudy) Cartier Jr., Kris Nils Blomback, Alec O’Meara, Elizabeth (Lynn) Tillotson, J. Ryan Bielagus

MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE: None

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: David Cribbie, Jason (Jay) A. Leduc, Georgia L. Murray

NHDES – ARD PERSONNEL: Craig Wright, Director; Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator; Sarah- Ellen Calise, Air Quality Analyst; Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator; Thomas Guertin, Compliance Programs Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: None

MEMBERS OF

THE PUBLIC PRESENT: John Tuthill

Call to Order:

Chairman Duval called meeting #295 of the Air Resources Council (ARC) to order at 9:01 AM on Monday, September 8, 2025. Chair Duval announced that the council had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes (Meeting #294):

A motion to approve the minutes of meeting #294 was moved by Member Blomback and seconded by Member Cartier. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Air Resources Division Report:

Legislative Update: Chair Duval discussed the legislation changes for ARC membership; adding a member representing the renewable energy industry and removing a member representing at-large public interest. Additionally, renaming the steam power seat to electric generating industry, and simplifying the definition of the at-large health care professional seat. Chair Duval noted the current vacancies of the at-large health care professional and renewable energy industry seats. Chair Duval asked if any leads have been made for those vacancies, and Director Wright replied that progress has been made in attempt to fill the at-large health care professional seat. Further discussion was had on the process of filling council vacancies. Chair Duval discussed Member Cartier’s current term within ARC and whether he may be considered for renewal for another term, as he no longer works for municipal government. Chair Duval shared that Joyce Samuel, an attorney at the NH Department of Justice, recommended the council vote on keeping Member Cartier in his current position in the council. Chair Duval shared his confidence in Member Cartier’s ability to remain in his position in ARC, due to his current knowledge and previous experience.

A motion to approve Member Cartier remaining representing municipal government on ARC, including after retirement from the position, was made by Member Tillotson and seconded by Member Bielagus. All were in favor and the motion passed. Discussion was had on the process of membership renewal.

Director Wright shared the continual tracking of the federal budget as it moves through the House and Senate, and the finalization of the state budget. He added that ARD lost \$250,000 in general fund support for the Air Permitting Program. Director Wright discussed the federal budget request, released from the White House. Clean Air Act Section 103 and 105 federal grant programs would be zeroed out due to the budget change, though the budget still needs to go through Congress. These programs support 17 positions within ARD, including air monitoring, forecasting, and planning staff. Director Wright shared that the House requested

funding those two programs at about 85% and the Senate at 100%.

Director Wright announced House Bill Two's elimination of the Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program by January 31, 2026. While the language suggests that emissions testing could continue until September 2026, legal wording ends both portions in January. Discussion moved to the Clean Air Act and the Ozone Transport Region (OTR). It further moved to efforts ensuring changes are handled correctly within ARD, including the process of submittal of a Section 176-A petition to EPA to remove NH from the OTR, as well as a Clean Air Act Section 110L demonstration to EPA to show that eliminating the emissions portion of the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program will not result in violations of ozone within the state or downwind monitors. Submissions are due by December 24, 2025, and public hearings will be held on both actions mid-November. Discussion moved to the ozone attainment, requirements for hearings mid-November, and deadlines for this process. The conversation moved further to the ramifications of the elimination of this program, including the loss of around \$350,000 a year, for ARD alone, from fees received, which fund five positions.

Director Wright announced his reappointment as ARD Director in July.

Member Cartier questioned the number of Title V sources for the Clean Air Act's Operating Permit program. Director Wright replied there are currently 29 but initially used to be around 65-70. Discussion moved to fee changes and funding.

Other ARD Activities: Director Wright announced the upcoming annual Business and Industry Association (BIA) regulatory conference on September 17, 2025, at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. NHDES provides many presentations at this conference every year and around 150-200 people attend. Six ARD staff members will be giving presentations this year, and Mark Sanborn, Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) New England (Region 1), will be giving a keynote 1 hour speech.

ARC Presentation – Summer 2025 Air Quality Report:

Air Quality Analyst, Sarah-Ellen Calise, gave a short presentation on the recent air quality from summer of 2025.

New Business:

None.

Public Commentary:

John Tuthill questioned if particulate matter (PM) was analyzed for heavy metals at air monitoring sites. Director Wright replied that ARD's current monitors do not. Further conversation was had the strength of having live data from monitors.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Blomback and seconded by Member Bielagus. All were in favor and Meeting #295 of the Air Resources Council adjourned at 9:58 AM.



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Air Resources Council

Robert Duval, Chairman

PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Council Clerk (non-appeal related): (603) 271-1386; Appeals Clerk (appeal related only): (603) 271-6072

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 Council Website: <https://www.nhec.nh.gov/air-resources-council>

NOTICE OF MEETING

October 20, 2025

#296

The New Hampshire Air Resources Council will convene at:

9:00 am Monday, October 20, 2025

Room 208C

NH Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Please note this meeting will be held in-person at the location specified above

11. Call to Order

12. Approval of Minutes (Meeting #295)

13. Air Resources Division Report: *Craig Wright, Director Air Resources Division*

- Legislative Update
- Significant Permit Activities
- Other ARD Activities

19. Rules

Env-A 3200, NOx Budget Trading Program

Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator

Karla McManus, Planning and Rules Manager

20. NH's Proposal to EPA to Repeal Vehicle I/M (CAA Section 176A Petition & Vehicle I/M SIP Revision)

Cathy Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator

21. New Business

22. Public Commentary

23. Adjourn

AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING #296
10/20/2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Duval, Rudolph (Rudy) Cartier Jr., Kris Nils Blomback, Alec O’Meara, Elizabeth (Lynn) Tillotson, J. Ryan Bielagus, David Cribbie, Jason (Jay) A. Leduc

MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE: Georgia L. Murray

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cassidy Menczywor, Council Secretary

NHDES – ARD PERSONNEL: Craig Wright, Director; Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director; Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator; Karla McManus, Rules & Planning Manager; Lisa Camire, SIP Planning Analyst; David Healy, Chief Scientist; Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: John Tuthill

Call to Order:

Chairman Duval called meeting #296 of the Air Resources Council (ARC) to order at 9:06 AM on Monday, October 20, 2025. Chair Duval announced that the council had a quorum. Chair Duval stepped down to attend a conflicting meeting, and Vice Chair Cartier assumed the Chair.

Approval of Minutes (Meeting #295):

A motion to approve the minutes of meeting #295 was moved by Member Blomback and seconded by Member Cribbie. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Air Resources Division Report:

Legislative Update: Director Wright shared that over one thousand Legislative Service Request’s (LSR’s) have been filed this year, with ARD actively tracking about 25-30 House bills. These include proposals on air-quality incidents, weather modification/chem trails, motor-vehicle inspections, electric vehicles, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). ARD will participate in the related hearings.

Director Wright noted the EPA’s new website on chemtrails and weather modification and mentioned sixteen broader energy-policy items the department is monitoring.

ARD is awaiting the federal government’s reopening to learn the status of federal budget decisions and grant funding that supports key programs, including the Clean Air Act Sections 103/105, as well as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry’s Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposures grant. When asked about payroll during the shutdown, Director Wright confirmed the state can continue operations using reserve funds, which will later be reimbursed.

Director Wright updated the group on the Volkswagen Mitigation Trust Plan: the original \$31M award has gained \$5M in interest, about \$20M has been committed, and roughly \$15M remains. About \$7.5M is currently available through ongoing requests for proposals for municipal vehicle replacements. At a recent Governor & Council meeting, 11 related contracts for 8–9 towns and 2 inter-agency memorandums of understanding were reviewed.

Significant Permit Activities: Director Wright shared the ongoing tracking of ARD's standing within senate bill 449. Discussion was had on the timeline.

Rules:

Env-A 3200, NOx Budget Trading Program, Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator, and Karla McManus, Planning & Rules Manager, gave a brief overview of the proposed readoption to this rule, with no changes.

Member Cribbie asked about current market activity. Beahm explained that New Hampshire's NOx budget rule affects only a small group of utility sources in the state through a cap-and-trade system, and that the rule needs reevaluation given closures and historical changes. Member Cribbie raised concern for future program adjustments. Director Wright outlined ARD's priority list: the motor-vehicle inspection and maintenance program first, then RGGI, then trading programs.

Members discussed timing and McManus expressed the need for analysis before pursuing rule changes. The conversation shifted to the program's connection to the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) and whether New Hampshire could exit the region to eliminate the I/M requirement. Wright noted that NH currently meets the ozone standard.

A motion to start the 15-day clock was made by Member Murray and seconded by Member Leduc. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

ARC Presentation – NH's Proposal to EPA to Repeal Vehicle I/M (CAA Section 176A Petition & Vehicle I/M SIP Revision):

Catherine Beahm gave a short presentation on NH's Proposal to EPA to Repeal Vehicle I/M (CAA Section 176A Petition & Vehicle I/M SIP Revision).

Member Cribbie asked whether ARD had communicated with Maine or Massachusetts about the petition. Beahm explained that Maine successfully had much of its state removed from the Ozone Transport Region in 2022, and ARD consulted with Maine on that process. ARD also presented the petition to the OTC last week, with both Maine and Massachusetts present, and sent the public-notice documents to the OTC for review. Director Wright added that when Maine pursued its removal, the OTC offered no comments even though 90% of the state was excluded. Discussion was moved to the expected timeline for moving the petition forward.

New Business:

None.

Public Commentary:

John Tuthill questioned whether the presentation would be available publicly, as well as the submission to the OTC. Director Wright advised that the presentation will be available for the public and the submission is already up on the [DES website](#).

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Leduc and seconded by Member Tillotson. All were in favor and Meeting #296 of the Air Resources Council adjourned at 10:04 AM.



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Air Resources Council

Robert Duval, Chairman

PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Council Clerk (non-appeal related): (603) 271-1386; Appeals Clerk (appeal related only): (603) 271-6072

TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 Council Website: <https://www.nhec.nh.gov/air-resources-council>

NOTICE OF MEETING

December 8, 2025

#297

The New Hampshire Air Resources Council will convene at:

9:00 am Monday, December 8, 2025

Room 208C

NH Department of Environmental Services

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Please note this meeting will be held in-person at the location specified above

14. Call to Order

15. Approval of Minutes (Meeting #296)

16. Air Resources Division Report: *Craig Wright, Director Air Resources Division*

- Legislative Update
- Significant Permit Activities
- Other ARD Activities

24. New Hampshire Legislative Service Requests (LSR), *SENATE BILL 445*

Craig Wright, Air Resources Division Director

25. NHDES Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP)

Sara Johnson, SBTAP Manager

26. New Business

27. Public Commentary

28. Adjourn

AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING #297
12/8/2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert Duval, Rudolph (Rudy) Cartier Jr., Alec O’Meara, Elizabeth (Lynn) Tillotson, J. Ryan Bielagus, David Cribbie, Jason (Jay) A. Leduc

MEMBERS PRESENT BY PHONE: Georgia L. Murray

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Kris Nils Blomback

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cassidy Menczywor, Council Secretary

NHDES – ARD PERSONNEL: Craig Wright, Director; Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director; Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator; Lisa Camire, SIP Planning Analyst; Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator; Sara Johnson, Small Business Technical Assistance Program Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: None

Call to Order:

Chairman Duval called meeting #297 of the Air Resources Council (ARC) to order at 9:10 AM on Monday, December 8, 2025. Chairman Duval announced that the council had a quorum.

Approval of Minutes (Meeting #296):

Chairman Duval noted his absence for most of meeting #296. A motion to review the minutes was moved by Member Leduc and seconded by Member O’Meara. A motion to approve the minutes of meeting #296 was moved by Member Bielagus and seconded by Member Tillotson. The motion passed with six votes in favor and one abstention.

Air Resources Division Report:

Legislative Update: Director Wright reminded the Council of House Bill Two (HB2), effective January 31, 2026, and ARD’s 176a petition and section 110l demonstration to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting removal of NH from the Ozone Transport Region (OTR), noting it will not affect NH’s attainment status.

A public hearing was held November 17, with the comment period closing November 21; 44 comments were received (7 supportive, 23 opposing, 14 technical), and ARD is reviewing them with plans to submit to EPA by December 24, 2025. Discussion ensued on the nature of the comments received.

Discussion followed on Legislative Service Request (LSR) 2308 regarding reinstating annual motor vehicle inspections, and the impact of HB2 on ARD’s budget for positions supported by vehicle registration and inspection fees. Director Wright told the Council that ARD is looking for other ways to fund the positions (five in total, two unfilled) affected by HB2. Concerns were raised about mobile emissions, and equity between stationary and mobile sources for emissions fees.

Discussion moved to the process of proposing new rules or new legislation as a Council. Member Murray proposed having ARC make an official recommendation to ARD and legislators, who hopefully would choose to act on the recommendation.

Director Wright advised that NHDES wouldn’t support legislation unless also supported by the Governor, since

state departments are part of the executive branch. Even without testing of vehicle emissions in NH, ARD is faced with certain requirements to submit to EPA. ARD's current focus is on meeting those requirements.

Chairman Duval suggested a motion to have ARD investigate the existing rule structure to explore how to capture fees from mobile sources, providing additional revenue to NHDES to deal with this major source of pollution.

Member Bielagus asked whether an individual from ARC, member of public, or organization could work with a sponsor to write an LSR and bring it to ARC for support. Member Tillotson expressed concern over ARC working on legislation, rather than addressing the State House.

Director Wright pointed out that LSR 2308 is already in process relating to motor vehicle inspections. He also pointed out that adopting stricter standards such as California vehicle emission standards would require legislative approval.

Gordon-Darby, the state's emission testing contractor, has filed notice of intent to sue NH under the Clean Air Act related to HB2, and ARD will be coordinating with the Department of Safety (DOS) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Chairman Duval requested ARC use the opportunity provided by LSR2308 to attend hearings and support mobile source funding to replace terminated funding and increase equity with stationary sources.

Director Wright also discussed House Bill 1738 proposing updates to NH's participation in the state's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program. The bill includes a steeper reduction in the emissions cap over time and new cost-containment measures to protect consumers.

Additional discussion included idling standards, program funding, and the upcoming NHDES Annual Awards ceremony on December 11 with Governor Ayotte scheduled in attendance.

SENATE BILL 445:

Craig Wright, Director; Catherine Beahm, SIP Planning Administrator; and Sheri Eldridge, Compliance Bureau Administrator, gave a brief overview of Senate Bill 445 and its proposed changes in the internal ARD appeals process (as opposed to the separate ARC appeals process).

Director Wright explained that the current internal appeals process appoints an ARD staff member as the Hearing Officer, which places an ARD staffer in the uncomfortable position of judge over the actions of another ARD staffer's actions. This also restricts the Commissioner's ability to discuss the matter with staff. Vice-Chair Cartier questioned whether ARC should endorse Senate Bill 445.

Chairman Duval reviewed options for ARC to express its position on the matter, including authorizing a spokesperson to testify or write a letter of support. The hearing date is yet to be determined.

A motion to appoint a spokesman to speak in favor of Senate Bill 445 was made by Vice-Chair Cartier and seconded by Member Bielagus.

Further discussion occurred regarding seeking guidance from the ARC's attorney (Joyce Samuel) before taking action, and whether ARC endorsement or individual support would be more appropriate. Beahm discussed the adjudicative process of the public hearing.

Member Murray proposed an amendment that before appointing a spokesman or writing a letter on behalf of the council the Chair would seek legal advice from Joyce Samuel.

The amended motion passed with all were in favor.

ARC Presentation – NHDES Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP):

Sara Johnson, SBTAP Manager, gave a short presentation on the SBTAP program.

Discussion topics included typical examples of assistance provided and what qualifies as a small business under the program.

New Business:

Member Bielagus requested Council Secretary, Cassidy Menczywor, send calendar invites to ARC members for 2026 ARC meeting dates.

Public Commentary:

None.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Leduc and seconded by Member Bielagus. All were in favor and Meeting #297 of the Air Resources Council adjourned at 10:36 AM.

2025 AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL PRIOR YEAR DOCKET ACTIVITY

Received	Docket # / Council	Decision Appealed	Appellant; Relationship	Result	Further Action
May 21, 2024	24-14 ARC	April 22, 2024 Imminent Hazard Order & Order of Abatement No. 24-004	Thackston Consolidated Holdings	October 17, 2024 Dismissed without prejudice	December 5, 2024 Closed
March 8, 2024	24-04 ARC	February 7, 2024 Administrative Order No. 24-001 ARD	GSP Merrimack, LLC	May 22, 2024 Execution of an Amendment by Consent to Administrative Order	July 15, 2024 Closed
January 10, 2024	24-02 ARC	December 14, 2023 Air Enforcement Section of the Air Resources Division, Compliance Bureau, that an outdoor wood-fired hydronic heater installed and operating at the property of Brian and Karent Knapp at 25 McGuire Lane, Woodsville (Haverhill), New Hampshire is not subject to the provisions of RSA 125-R, based upon an unsupported and erroneous finding of fact that the OWHH was allegedly installed prior to the August 10, 2008 effective date of such statute.	Carol Nicholeris	August 21, 2024 Order to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction	October 30, 2024 Closed