

May 9, 2025

Dear Yakima County Commissioners:

As I stated on May 6, the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency is currently barely functioning. Given Yakima County's responsibilities under the law<sup>1</sup>, I ask again for the opportunity to describe YRCAA problems to the Board of County Commissioners.

To highlight the importance of this request, consider these issues:

- There have only been four YRCAA board members since the end of March. The law requires five board members. The YRCAA was supposed to begin filling this position in the fall of 2024, when the YRCAA first became aware of a pending vacancy. <sup>2</sup>
- There has been no clerk of the board as required by YRCAA Administrative Code Part A, for over two months. The YRCAA Executive Director has performed clerical duties in the interim. The YRCAA is paying this man \$130,000 per year to answer phones
- The YRCAA has failed to report staff activities since January. Neither the YRCAA board nor the public have any way of knowing how many air complaints have been filed, how many notices of violation issued, how many inspections performed, how many permits issued, etc. Numbers for FY 2025 are far below those for FY 2024.
- There has been no reporting of air quality for Yakima County since January.
- Voucher and payroll authorizations were missing from the regular business portion of YRCAA board meetings for January and May. In February of 2025 the board approved vouchers and payrolls for October, November, and December of 2024.

Missing Items – YRCAA Board Meetings	January	February	March	April	May
Clerk of the Board present			X	X	X
Board Member Position 2 filled				X	X
Written Executive Director Report			X	X	X
Monthly Activity Report – complaints, NOV's, burn bans, permits, etc. <sup>3</sup>		X	X	X	X
Air Quality Data <sup>4</sup>		X	X	X	X
Vouchers <sup>5</sup>	X				X
Payroll Authorizations <sup>6</sup>	X				X

---

<sup>1</sup> RCW 70A.1510, RCW 70A.15.1590, RCW 70A.15.2570

<sup>2</sup> RCW 70A.15.2020(2)

<sup>3</sup> See Attachment 1 for what this report looks like. Note low numbers for FY 2025

<sup>4</sup> See Attachment 2 for an example of an air quality graph

<sup>5</sup> See Attachment 3 for an example of a monthly voucher

<sup>6</sup> See Attachment 4 for an example of monthly payroll

I respectfully submit that this is evidence of a failing municipal corporation and, to the extent that the Yakima County Commissioners have a codified responsibility to ensure YRCAA viability, it is appropriate for the BOCC to hear and evaluate concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jean Mendoza". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "M".

Jean Mendoza

3142 Signal Peak Road  
White Swan, WA 98952

Attachment 1: Example of a Monthly Activity Report

**Date of Release:** January 5, 2024  
**Date of Consideration:** January 9, 2024  
**To:** Honorable YRCAA Board of Directors and Alternates  
**From:** Office of the Executive Director  
**Subject:** Monthly Activity Report

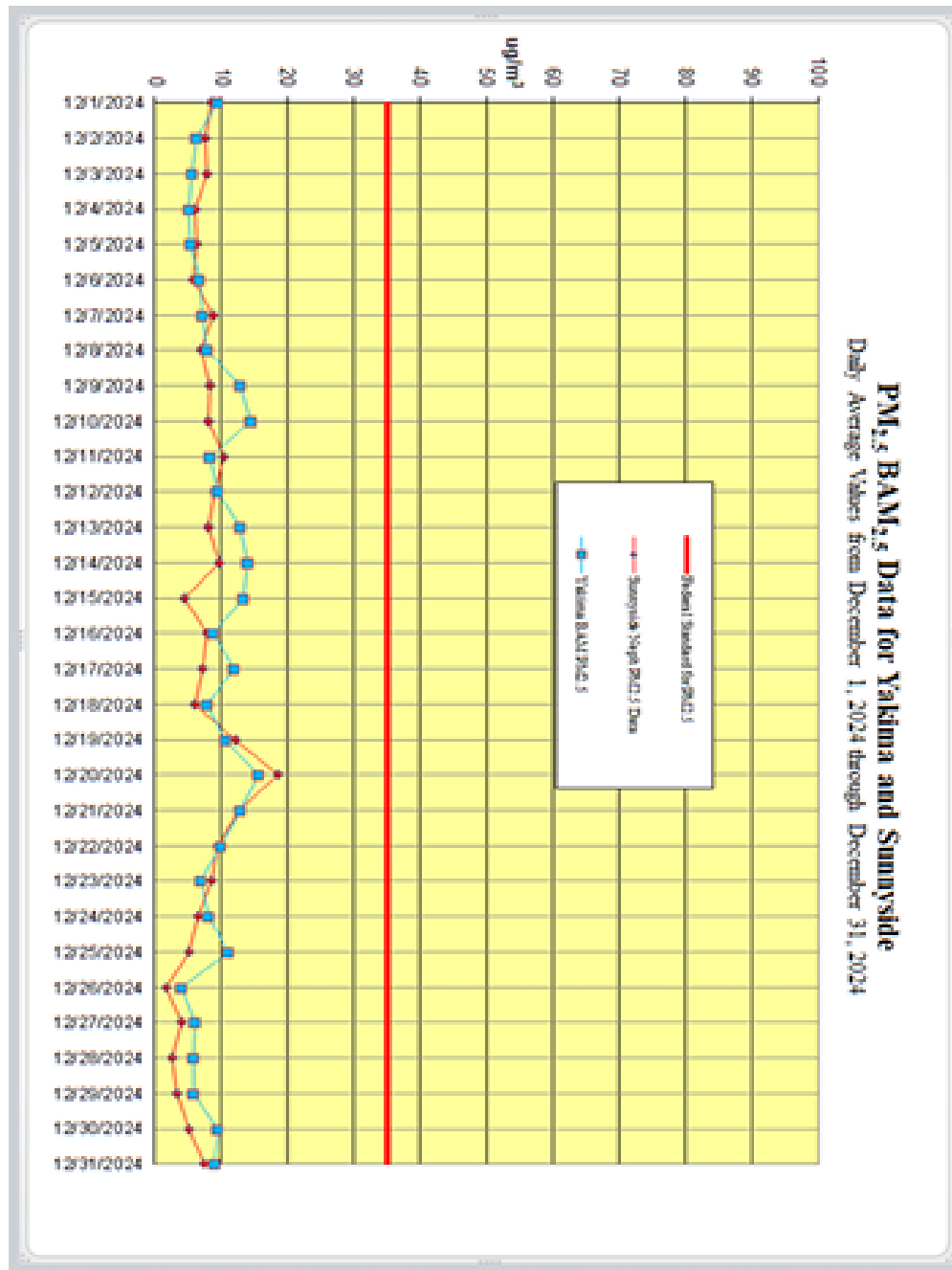
Activity	<i>Current Quarter</i>				FY25 Total to Date
	FY24 Total	Oct. FY25	Nov. FY25	Dec. FY25	
Minor Source Inspections	85	7	7	3	17
Complaints Received	189	11	10	9	30
NOVs Issued	35	0	7	2	9
AODs Issued	7		2	1	3
Warning Notices Issued	7		0	1	1
NOPs Issued	12	1	2	0	3
SEPA Reviews	263	23	21	20	64
AOP Applications Received	1	0	0	0	0
AOPs Issued or Renewed	2	0	0	0	0
Deviations/Upsets Reported	18	1	1	1	3
AOP Inspections	0	0	0	0	0
Public Workshops	2	0	0	0	0
Media Events	2	0	0	0	0
Media Contacts	3	0	0	0	0
Education Outreach Events	2	0	0	1	1
Sources Registered	240	0	0	0	0
NSR Applications Received	12	1	1	3	5
NSR Approvals Issued-Permanent	10	0	1	2	3
NODRs Received	117	14	5	5	24
Agricultural Burn Permits Issued	41	1	3	2	6
Conditional Use Permits Issued	7	1	0	0	1
Residential Burn Permits Issued	764	16	0	0	16
Burn Ban Days	16	0	1	3	4
Public Records Requests Fulfilled	21	3	8	0	11

**Acronyms:**

**AOP** - Air Operating Permit; **NODR** - Notification of Demolition and Renovation; **NOP** - Notice of Penalty; **NOV** - Notice of Violation; **NSR** - New Source Review; **SEPA** - State Environmental Policy Act

## Attachment 2: An Air Quality Graph

- **PM<sub>2.5</sub> Data**
  - We expect no PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances for the month of December.



## Attachment 3: Monthly Vouchers



### Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency

188 Iron Horse Court, Suite 101  
Yakima, WA 98901-1488  
509-834-2050  
www.yakimacleanair.org

12/20/2024

#### Accounts Payable

YRCAA Fund: 814-8140  
Enterprise Fund: 814-1410

<u>Name</u>	<u>Warrant No.</u>	<u>GL No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
509 Ductless	36120	4105	11,998.80	12/24/2024
Alliant Communication	36121	4201	922.33	12/24/2024
Amazon Capital Services	36122	3101	75.74	12/24/2024
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation	36123	4701	274.14	12/24/2024
Coleman Oil Company	36124	3201	335.08	12/24/2024
Fosseen's Home & Hearth	36125	4105	16,531.52	12/24/2024
Daniel Haisch	36126	4105	700.00	12/24/2024
Intermountain Cleaning Service, Inc.	36127	4802	425.00	12/24/2024
Iron Horse Real Estate & Property Mgt	36128	4501	4,956.53	12/24/2024
KeyBank	36129	Various	1,259.14	12/24/2024
Law, Lyman, Daniel	36130	4101	5,690.30	12/24/2024
NTH Degree Environmental Engineering Sol	36131	4101	1,400.00	12/24/2024
Justin Otto	36132	4105	450.00	12/24/2024
R H Welch, Inc.	36133	4901	600.00	12/24/2024
Rowdy Construction	36134	4105	2,974.05	12/24/2024
StorageMax	36135	4506	75.00	12/24/2024
Terence Height Sewer District	36136	4701	122.00	12/24/2024
Thurston County Fair Complex	36137	4506	400.00	12/24/2024
Valley Publishing Co.	36138	4401	57.50	12/24/2024
Lola Whalen	36139	4105	700.00	12/24/2024
Paul Wilson	36140	4105	2,300.00	12/24/2024
Yakima Area Arboretum & Botanical Garden	36141	4501	400.00	12/24/2024
Yakima Chimney Guys LLC	36142	4105	1,363.65	12/24/2024
Yakima County Public Services – Utility Di	36143	4701	23.55	12/24/2024
Gregory Young	36144	4105	350.00	12/24/2024

**Total** **\$54,384.33**

\* Grant Reimbursement

\*\* NOC/Enterprise

I hereby certify the invoices and warrants described above for the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency have been examined, audited, and approved for payment.

Sherrie Springer (DATE)  
Primary Auditing Officer

Marc Thornsbury (DATE)  
Secondary Auditing Officer

Attachment 4: Monthly Payroll



**Yakima Regional  
Clean Air Agency**

188 Iron Horse Court, Suite 101  
Yakima, WA 98901-1468  
509-834-2050  
www.yakimacleanair.org

**Payroll Reimbursement  
November**

<b>Gross Wages</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>54,141.30</b>
ER Taxes Paid	\$	771.39	
ER Medical Paid		6,835.70	
Pers 1 ER Paid		-	
Pers 2 ER Paid		3,566.91	
Pers 3 ER Paid		1,256.37	
SUTA		69.91	
L & I		1,034.51	
<b>Benefits</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>13,534.79</b>
Bank Charges			
Other		-	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Payroll</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>67,676.09</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherrie Springer (DATE)  
Primary Auditing Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Thornsbury (DATE)  
Secondary Auditing Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon DeVaney (DATE)  
Board Chairperson