



John Mooney
Director, Air and Radiation Division
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Mail Drop AR-18J
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Mr. Mooney:

Ohio EPA is requesting approval for modifications to our air monitoring network in Akron and Canton, Ohio. Specifically, a site relocation in Akron and a site discontinuation in Canton.

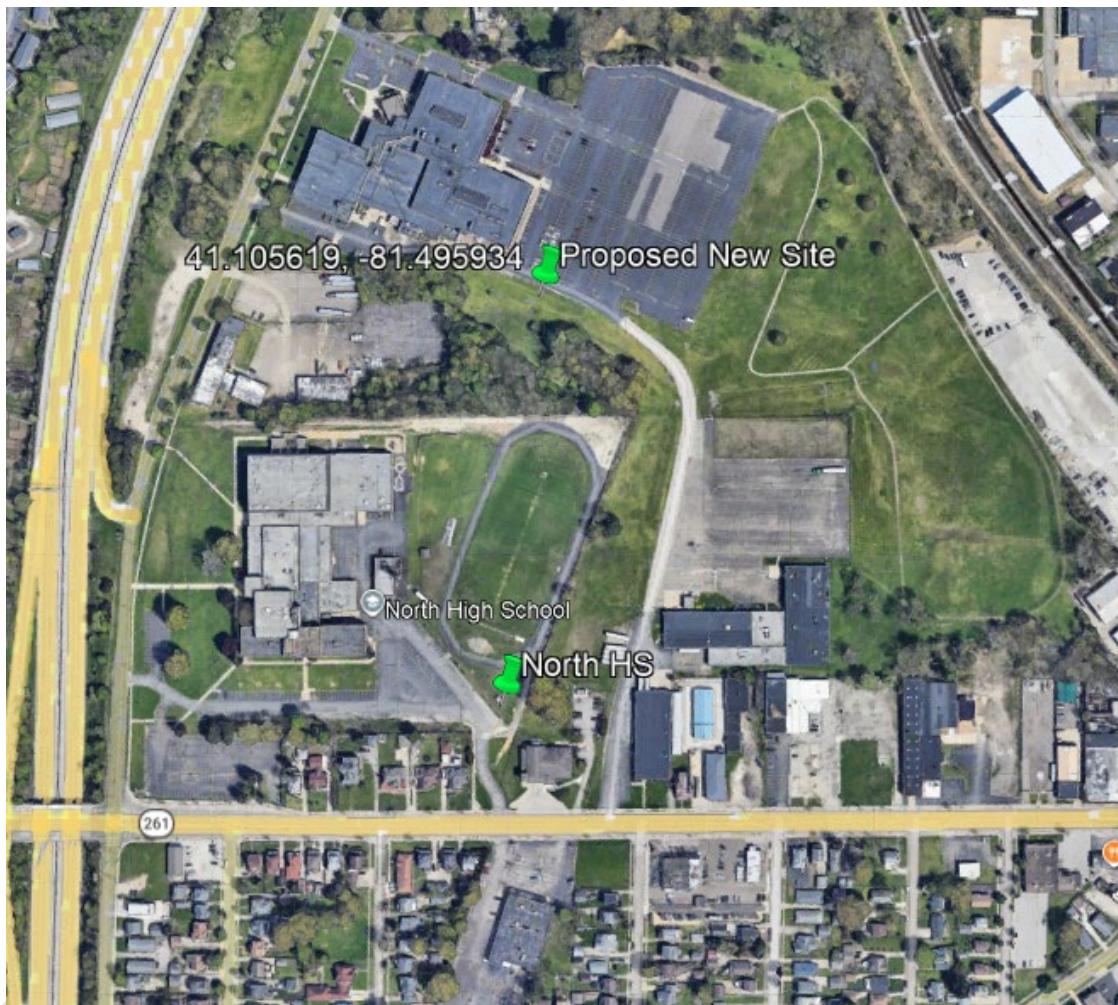
For Akron, Ohio EPA is requesting to relocate the North HS (39-153-0026) site located at 985 Gorge Blvd.,. This relocation is being requested due to building construction at North High School that will not allow for continued occupancy. This site currently monitors for ozone and as discussed in the 2026-2027 Air Monitoring Network Plan (AMNP) was the proposed location for additional PM_{2.5} monitoring for the Akron MSA.

The North HS site is not eligible for discontinuation under any of the criteria in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(5) of 40 CFR 58.14, therefore Ohio EPA is seeking to relocate this site under 40 CFR 58.14(c):

“(6) A SLAMS monitor not eligible for removal under any of the criteria in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(5) of this section may be moved to a nearby location with the same scale of representation if logistical problems beyond the State's control make it impossible to continue operation at its current site.”

Ohio EPA has identified a suitable relocation site located nearby at 1077 Gorge Blvd., approximately 300 meters away from the current location. This site will receive a new AQS ID and be named “Summa Health”. A siting audit was performed and documented in accordance with 40 CFR part 58, Appendix E. The Summa Health site meets all siting criteria.

Image 1. Current Location of North HS and Proposed New Location



Ohio EPA will continue to monitor ozone at North HS until the end of ozone season (October 31). Every effort will be made to establish PM_{2.5} monitoring at this new location by January 1, 2027, as outlined in the 2026-2027 AMNP. Ohio EPA will continue to communicate with U.S. EPA Region 5 regarding the progress of establishing this new location.

Due to the close proximity and similar siting criteria at each location these sites are monitoring the same air shed and allow for the same scale of representation to be monitored. The Summa Health site fulfills the requirement for a replacement site to be at a “nearby location with the same scale of representation” for North HS. Ohio EPA is requesting the data for these two sites to be linked in AQS.

In addition, Ohio EPA is requesting to discontinue the Republic Community (39-151-0025) site in Canton, Ohio. This site is located at 719 Marietta Ave. NE and monitors for lead. Ohio EPA is seeking to discontinue this site under 40 CFR 58.14(c):

“(3) For any pollutant, any SLAMS monitor in a county (or portion of a county within a distinct attainment, nonattainment, or maintenance area, as applicable) provided the monitor has not measured violations of the applicable NAAQS in the previous five years, and the approved SIP provides for a specific, reproducible approach to representing the air quality of the affected county in the absence of actual monitoring data.”

The Republic Community site began operating in April 2022 and has had no violations of the 2008 lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard¹. This site was established at the request of the community near the Republic Steel facility. Ohio EPA operates an additional lead site in this area, Republic Steel (39-151-0024), and this site will remain in operation. The continued operation of the Republic Steel site satisfies the commitment in Ohio EPA’s April 25, 2025, Redesignation/Maintenance Request “to continue to operate an appropriate monitoring network to verify the maintenance of the attainment status” in the Canton area. Additionally, the Republic Steel site is in closer proximity to the shutdown facility and has historically monitored higher ambient lead concentrations. As such, it would better represent any impact from the property of the shutdown facility. As previously reported in other communications to U.S. EPA the Republic Steel facility ceased operations in 2023.

Below are the design values and the highest 3-month averages for the Republic Steel and Republic Community sites from 2022-2026 for comparison.

Table 1. Lead Design Values for 2022-2026

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 ²
39-151-0024, Republic Steel (µg/m ³)	0.40	0.40	0.15	0.15	0.00
39-151-0025, Republic Community (µg/m ³)	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.06	0.01

Table 2. Highest 3-Month Average for 2022-2026

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026 ²
39-151-0024, Republic Steel (µg/m ³)	0.12	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
39-151-0025, Republic Community (µg/m ³)	0.11	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.00

Ohio EPA commits to continuing monitoring at Republic Community until December 31, 2026.

Ohio EPA made this change available for a 30-day comment period starting on October 9, 2026 and ending November 9, 2026. <No comments/Comments> were received. Ohio EPA is requesting

¹ Rolling 3-month average, not to be exceeded (0.15 µg/m³).

² Incomplete year, values as of June 2026.

approval to implement the above-mentioned modifications to our air monitoring network in Akron and Canton as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you in advance for your prompt action and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Jennifer Van Vlerah at 614-644-3696 or jennifer.vanvlerah@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Hodanbosi
Chief, Division of Air Pollution Control

Cc (e-mail only):

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