



Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency

*Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency
Agencia Regional de Aire Limpio de Yakima*

Meeting of the Board of Directors March 2024

Reunión de la Junta Directiva
Marzo 2024

March 14, 2024

14 de Marzo de 2024

Notice of Language Services

The Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (YRCAA) offers free interpretation of public meetings and translation of board documents. To request interpretation of this Board of Directors' Meeting, to obtain a translation of this document, or to provide public comment at this meeting in a language other than English, please call 509-834-2050 extension 100 or send electronic mail to admin@yrcaa.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

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Public Comments

Members of the public may submit comments to the Board by: a) speaking in person or remotely (see below) during the public comment period of any meeting; b) mailing them to 186 Iron Horse Ct. Ste. 101, Yakima, WA 98901; or c) sending them via electronic mail to admin@yrcaa.org.

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Meetings are broadcast and rebroadcast on the Yakima Public Access Channel (Y-PAC). Visit www.yakimawa.gov/services/yctv. Public comment may be offered remotely via Zoom video or telephone conference call. See the agenda for the URL, meeting ID, and phone numbers (long-distance charges may apply). Please raise your virtual hand (*9 on a phone) to be recognized.

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La agencia Regional de Aire Limpio de Yakima (YRCAA) ofrece interpretación gratuita de reuniones públicas y traducción de documentos de la junta. Para solicitar la interpretación de esta reunión de la Junta Directiva, obtener una traducción de este documento o proporcionar comentarios públicos en esta reunión en un idioma que no sea inglés, llame al 509-834-2050 extensión 100 o envíe un correo electrónico a admin@yrcaa.org al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión.

Notificación de No Discriminación

La Agencia Regional de Aire Limpio de Yakima (YRCAA) no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, discapacidad, edad o sexo en la administración de sus programas o actividades. La YRCAA no intimida ni toma represalias contra ningún individuo o grupo por haber ejercido sus derechos de participar u oponerse a acciones protegidas por 40 C.F.R. las Partes 5 y 7 o con el propósito de interferir con tales derechos en violación del Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964; Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973; la Ley de Discriminación por Edad de 1975, todas modificadas.

Comentarios Públicos

Los miembros del público pueden enviar comentarios a la Junta por: a) hablando en persona o de forma remota (ver a continuación) durante el período de comentarios públicos de cualquier reunión; b) enviándolos por correo a 186 Iron Horse Ct. Ste. 101, Yakima, WA 98901; o c) enviándolos por correo electrónico a admin@yrcaa.org.

Acceso remoto

Las reuniones se transmiten y retransmiten en el Canal de Acceso Público de Yakima (Y-PAC). Para ver un cronograma actual, visite www.yakimawa.gov/services/yctv. Los comentarios públicos se pueden ofrecer de forma remota a través de Zoom video o conferencia telefónica. Consulte la agenda para obtener la URL, el ID de la reunión y los números de teléfono (es posible que se apliquen cargos de larga distancia). Levante su mano virtual (*9 en un teléfono) para ser reconocido.

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

March 14, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.

Sunnyside Fire Station; 513 S Eighth Street; Sunnyside, Wash.

Duration – 30 minutes (estimated)

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. ~~Changes to the Agenda~~ (not permitted for special meetings)**
- 4. Public Comments**
The public may address any matter relevant to the business of the Board at this time. Please state your name and the item you wish to address. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.
- 5. Board Meeting Minutes for February 2024**
- 6. Payroll Transfers for January 2024**
- 7. Vouchers and Payroll Transfers for February 2024**
- 8. Executive Director's Report**
- 9. Adjournment**

Please note the different location and time!

Zoom information
URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6058007569>

Meeting ID: 605 800 7569
Phone number: 253-215-8782 or 253-205-0468

If you wish to attend the YRCAA board meeting and require an accommodation due to a disability or need interpretation or translation services, call 509-834-2050 ext. 100 or send an email to admin@yrcaa.org.

Reunión Extraordinaria de la Junta Directiva

14 de Marzo de 2024 – 5:30 P.M.

Estación de Bomberos de Sunnyside; 513 S Eighth Street; Sunnyside, Wash.

Duración – 30 minutos (estimativo)

AGENDA

- 1. Llamar al Orden**
- 2. Registo de Asistencia**
- 3. ~~Cambios en el Orden del Día~~ (no permitido para reunión especial)**
- 4. Comentarios Públicos**
El público puede abordar cualquier asunto relacionado con los asuntos de la Junta en este momento. Indique su nombre y el artículo que desea abordar. Los comentarios están limitados a tres (3) minutos por persona.
- 5. Actas de la Reunión de la Junta para Febrero de 2024**
- 6. Transferencias de Nómina para Enero de 2024**
- 7. Comprobantes y Transferencias de Nómina para Febrero de 2024**
- 8. Informe del Director Ejecutivo**
- 9. Cierre**

¡Tenga en cuenta la diferente ubicación y la hora!

Zoom información
URL: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6058007569>

ID de reunión: 605 800 7569
Número de teléfono: 253-215-8782 or 253-205-0468

Si desea asistir a la reunión de la junta de YRCAA y requiere una adaptación debido a una discapacidad o necesita servicios de interpretación o traducción, llame al 509-834-2050, ext. 100 o envíe un correo electrónico admin@yrcaa.org.

1. **Call to Order**

Chairperson DeVaney called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in the council chambers, Yakima City Hall; 129 N Second St.; Yakima, Washington.

2. **Roll Call**

Roberson conducted roll call and declared a quorum present.

Board members: Amanda McKinney, County Representative, Present
Steven Jones, Ph.D., County Representative, Present
Janice Deccio, Large City Representative, Present (arrived late)
Jose Trevino, Small City Representative, Present (arrived late)
Jon DeVaney, Member-at-Large, Present

Staff present: Marc Thornsburg, Executive Director
Jocelyn Roberson, Acting Clerk of the Board

3. **Changes to the Agenda**

DeVaney asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were requested.

4. **Public Comment**

DeVaney asked if there were any public comments. None were offered.
(Janice Deccio and Jose Trevino arrived)

5. **Board Meeting Minutes for January 2024**

DeVaney asked if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes. McKinney moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jones Seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

6. **Vouchers and Payroll Transfers for January 2024**

DeVaney asked if staff had any remarks concerning the vouchers and payroll transfers. Thornsburg noted the absence of a payroll transfer and explained this was due to the pay date having occurred on the same day the packet went out. DeVaney called for a motion to approve the vouchers for January 2024. McKinney so moved. Jones seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

7. **Executive Director's Report**

Thornsburg noted the recently retired Carl Brookshire also provided support for the technology systems in the office and Thornsburg has now assumed those duties. He added Pamela Herman has accepted another position and Jocelyn Roberson will serve as the acting Clerk of the Board until a decision has been made as to redistributing the duties previously performed by Herman.

Thornsburg stated a replacement air quality specialist had been hired the prior week and the Agency was short four staff, not counting the new hire, out of ten with remaining staff taking on added responsibilities. He explained the situation was forcing staff to focus primarily on

urgent issues, resulting in the delay of other matters. Thornsbery added the Agency is advertising for the one open air quality specialist position. He added his intent is to reallocate a substantial portion of the resources for the position vacated by Herman to operations, but a final determination has not been made so there will be a future update. DeVaney asked if operations meant enforcement or permitting. Thornsbery replied it could be either or some combination of both and he was still evaluating what is needed and how best to achieve it.

Thornsbery stated registration for 2024 had gone out. He noted a few complaints had been received by staff, but these were for legitimate errors by the Agency which were promptly corrected. Thornsbery expressed hope the number of errors found would be small and stated he was pleased the complaints received were for legitimate issues. Jones asked if the errors were in reporting by registrants. Thornsbery explained the errors were by staff. McKinney asked if the errors had been corrected. Thornsbery affirmed the corrections.

Thornsbery stated the EPA announced the new primary annual average for PM_{2.5} under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and it is 9 micrograms per cubic meter, as anticipated. He added the implications of the change are yet to be determined and anticipated spending at least two months reviewing the matter before returning to the board with additional information. Thornsbery noted his preliminary assessment is that the county will likely not fall into nonattainment, but will be very close to doing so.

Deccio asked what the prior level had been. Thornsbery stated it was 12 micrograms per cubic meter, noting this represented a twenty-five percent (25%) decrease and could potentially affect the Yakima area. He added while the final outcome is unknown at this time, a likely result would be the need for additional work to ensure the Agency has good information and a comprehensive list of registrants, allowing for a better understanding of current conditions and where to focus resources to ensure the area stays in attainment.

Thornsbery noted it is likely the area will continue to be in attainment and will not have to meet the more stringent requirements that would be necessary if it were in nonattainment. He explained it would benefit the area to work to avoid nonattainment as doing so would offer greater latitude in how the community collectively chooses to address the issue and the timeframe in which the work must be done versus having these imposed from outside.

Jones reported the EPA had stated the 2020-2022 reading for Yakima was 11.8 and asked if Thornsbery had updated data available. Thornsbery stated he did not, adding the figure cited likely did not exclude exceptional events. He explained exceptional events are extraordinary occurrences, such as wildfires, that a locality cannot control or affect and expressed belief once such events are removed, the final figure will be more in line with the new 9.0 standard.

Thornsbery reminded the Board of the question concerning the pending DTG Recycle permit from the prior meeting, noting staff is very close to releasing the permit with a couple of

minor items yet to review before it is delivered to a licensed professional engineer for final review and, thereafter, posting to the Agency website. He added a link was now available where persons could sign up to receive notices to their e-mail concerning permit applications, approvals, and updates.

DeVaney requested Thornsby explain the significance of a permit issued by the Agency. Thornsby stated an air permit only signifies the operation permitted will do so within the standard limits for air emissions. He added the air permit covers a relatively small portion of the broad range of permitted elements such as groundwater, operations and maintenance of the facility, financial assurance to ensure funds are available to close the facility at the end of its life cycle, and a facility closure plan—none of which pertain directly to air quality. Thornsby explained there can be some overlap and offered the example of facility closure where managing the buildup of landfill gas under the cap could involve air emissions that would be of interest to the Agency despite larger element not being directly within its scope. He added the Agency does have a role to play, but it is relatively limited.

Thornsby noted in addition to notification of permit-related actions, a link has also been added allowing people to subscribe, and unsubscribe, from notices regarding upcoming board meetings and hearings.

DeVaney requested Thornsby remind the Board of the schedule for the fiscal year 2024-25 budget. Thornsby explained a budget workshop is typically conducted during the April meeting with a public hearing held at the subsequent May meeting and adoption of the budget during the June meeting. He added such a schedule is anticipated for this year and staff will be working during March in preparation for the April budget workshop. Thornsby noted his expectation the process would be easier this year compared to the prior year when there were a number of significant discussions and changes.

Thornsby reminded the Board it had planned for a meeting to be held in the Lower Yakima Valley in Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. He noted the March meeting is currently being considered rather than the previously discussed April meeting given the budget elements previously described and assuming a venue can be secured. Discussion followed regarding the availability of individual board members. Thornsby noted the only open question is whether access via video conference would be available and explained this would largely be dependent upon the venue.

DeVaney suggested Thornsby present the newest staff members at a future board meeting. Thornsby concurred.

Jones requested an update regarding the EPA mobile air quality lab. Thornsby explained the unit was to spend three weeks each at one location in the upper valley and one in the lower valley with the City of Yakima and the City of Toppenish ultimately selected. He added it was his understanding a power problem at the Toppenish location forced a change to

the City of Wapato where the unit is now located after moving from Yakima. Thornsbury stated his belief the time there was nearly over and the results of the work performed at both locations would be forthcoming at a later date. He noted EPA had requested information from the Agency concerning any events or issues that might have occurred during the period work was taking place so they could be accounted for in the results.

Jones noted the EPA had stated it would be focused on overburdened communities and asked Thornsbury if he had a plan were the area to exceed the new threshold. Thornsbury replied no such plan exists at this time.

Jones stated the EPA is continuing work on the National Air Emissions Monitoring Study (NAEMS) and noted the 2019 EPA final rule as reported in Federal Register volume 84 number 114 excludes animal agriculture from reporting under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) [the rule referenced amended the release reporting regulations under EPCRA section 304 by adding the reporting exemption in 40 CFR 355.31 for air emissions from animal waste at farms].

He added there is currently no model upon which to estimate emissions from animal agriculture and the work conducted within the state in support of the NAEMS [in 2012] occurred prior to implementation of the “Best Management Practices for Dairy Operations” (BMPs) within Yakima County [in 2013]. Jones questioned whether this rendered the data stale and the models based upon it no longer accurate under current conditions.

Thornsbury acknowledged the concern expressed, adding the study included various locations across the nation with the greatest number of dairies in Washington (with 2) and Wisconsin. He noted because the data from Washington is a relatively small percentage of the total collected it is unlikely local implementation of the BMPs would substantially affect data accuracy or the final outcome. Thornsbury stated there would be further discussion on the matter. McKinney stated Congress may be preparing to take up consideration of regulatory impacts as well.

DeVaney reminded board members to communicate issues they would like to see addressed so they can be scheduled and placed on future meeting agendas.

8. **Adjournment**

McKinney moved to adjourn. Deccio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

DeVaney adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

Jon DeVaney, Chairperson

Jocelyn Roberson, Acting Clerk of the Board



**Payroll Reimbursement
January 2024**

Gross Wages		\$	41,275.70
ER Taxes Paid	\$	3,722.84	
ER Medical Paid		8,679.15	
Pers 1 ER Paid		-	
Pers 2 ER Paid		2,705.11	
Pers 3 ER Paid		1,144.75	
SUTA		-	
L & I		769.83	
Benefits		\$	17,021.68
Bank Charges	\$	46.75	
Other		-	
Miscellaneous		\$	46.75
Total Payroll		\$	58,344.13

Christa Owen (DATE)
Primary Auditing Officer

Marc Thornsbury (DATE)
Secondary Auditing Officer

Jon DeVaney (DATE)
Board Chairperson



02/05/2024

Accounts Payable

YRCAA Fund: 614-6140
Enterprise Fund: 614-1410

<u>Name</u>	<u>Warrant No.</u>	<u>GL No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Natalie Bazan*	35830	4105	3,800.00	02/06/2024
Charter Communications	35831	4201	309.51	02/06/2024
Coleman Oil Company	35832	7032	31.06	02/06/2024
Lisa Cyr*	35833	4105	4,600.00	02/06/2024
Fosseen's Home & Hearth*	35834	4105	21,424.56	02/06/2024
David Gutierrez*	35835	4105	1,600.00	02/06/2024
KeyBank	35836	Various	674.25	02/06/2024
Bethanye McDonald*	35837	4105	1,600.00	02/06/2024
Menke Jackson Law Firm	35838	4101	1126.25	02/06/2024
NTH Degree Environmental Engineering Sol	35839	4101	1,800.00	02/06/2024
Rowdy Construction*	35840	4105	4494.45	02/06/2024
Mathew Simms*	35841	4105	100.00	02/06/2024
StorageMax	35842	7045	225.00	02/06/2024
Yakima Chimney Guys*	35843	4105	1,418.08	02/06/2024

Total **\$43,203.16**

* 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.

Jocelyn Roberson (DATE)
Primary Auditing Officer

Marc Thornsby (DATE)
Secondary Auditing Officer

Jon DeVaney (DATE)
Board Chairperson



02/16/2024

Accounts Payable

YRCAA Fund: 614-6140
Enterprise Fund: 614-1410

<u>Name</u>	<u>Warrant No.</u>	<u>GL No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>
Abadan Reprographics	35844	4801	232.70	02/20/2024
Alliant Communications	35845	4201	380.98	02/20/2024
Leonard and Graciela Black*	35846	4105	1,600.00	02/20/2024
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation	35847	4701	262.44	02/20/2024
Coastal*	35848	4105	12,342.43	02/20/2024
Crystal Miller*	35849	4105	450.00	02/20/2024
Diana Ford*	35850	4105	1,550.00	02/20/2024
Intermountain Cleaning Service, Inc	35851	4802	425.00	02/20/2024
Iron Horse Real Estate & Property Mgt	35852	4501	4,956.53	02/20/2024
KIMA-TV*	35853	4105	1,700.00	02/20/2024
KUNW-TV*	35854	4105	1,700.00	02/20/2024
Lisa Sueann Gates*	35855	4105	100.00	02/20/2024
NTH Degree Environmental Engineering Sol	35856	4101	2,200.00	02/20/2024
Northwest Community Action Center*	35857	4105	350.00	02/20/2024
Pacific Power	35858	4701	210.86	02/20/2024
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services	35859	4501	763.51	02/20/2024
Precision Sheet Metal*	35860	4105	11,579.76	02/20/2024
Rowdy Construction*	35861	4105	7,949.23	02/20/2024
Skagit County Fairgrounds Mount Vernon**	35862	4506	750.00	02/20/2024
Kurt Sweeza*	35863	4105	1,600.00	02/20/2024
Terrace Heights Sewer District	35864	4701	114.00	02/20/2024
Jessica Vigil*	35865	4105	1,550.00	02/20/2024
Yakima County Public Services-Utility Di	35866	4701	23.58	02/20/2024

Total **\$52,791.02**

* 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,

Jocelyn Roberson (DATE)
Primary Auditing Officer

Marc Thornsbury (DATE)
Secondary Auditing Officer

Jon DeVaney
Board Chairperson

(DATE)



**Payroll Reimbursement
February 2024**

Gross Wages		\$	30,618.56
ER Taxes Paid	\$	4,396.92	
ER Medical Paid		9,531.40	
Pers 1 ER Paid		-	
Pers 2 ER Paid		3,634.90	
Pers 3 ER Paid		2,538.81	
SUTA		-	
L & I		1,098.65	
Benefits		\$	21,200.68
Bank Charges	\$	47.51	
Other		-	
Miscellaneous		\$	47.51
Total Payroll		\$	51,866.75

Jocelyn Roberson (DATE)
Primary Auditing Officer

Marc Thornsbury (DATE)
Secondary Auditing Officer

Jon DeVaney (DATE)
Board Chairperson



STAFF REPORT

Date: March 07, 2024
To: YRCAA Board of Directors
From: Jocelyn Roberson, Staff Accountant
Subject: Fiscal Program Report

Issue: Fiscal Reports

Analysis: March 2024 Accounts Payable (AP) and Payroll Authorizations for the months of January and February are enclosed for your approval. The Supplemental Income document is included as an informational item.

Recommendation: Accept and approve by minute action the February 2024 AP Fiscal Vouchers, totaling \$95,994.18, and the January and February 2024 Payroll Authorizations, totaling \$108,467.93.

YAKIMA REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY
SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME STATUS for CY 2023 on March 01, 2024
CY 2024 \$.48 PER CAPITA (Rounded Amounts)

City/Town	Past Due	Assessment Amount	Total Amt Due	Date Received	Amount Received	Balance Due	Responses
Grandview	\$ -	\$ 5,290	\$ 5,290	2/20/2024	\$ 1,323	\$ 3,968	Paid 1st quarter
Granger	\$ -	\$ 1,795	\$ 1,795	2/28/2024	\$ 449	\$ 1,346	Paid 1st quarter
Harrah	\$ -	\$ 278	\$ 278	2/21/2024	\$ 278	\$ -	Paid in full
Mabton	\$ -	\$ 948	\$ 948	2/21/2024	\$ 237	\$ 711	Paid 1st quarter
Moxee	\$ -	\$ 2,239	\$ 2,239	2/14/2024	\$ 560	\$ 1,679	Paid 1st quarter
Naches	\$ -	\$ 540	\$ 540	2/21/2024	\$ 135	\$ 405	Paid 1st quarter
Selah	\$ -	\$ 4,015	\$ 4,015	2/21/2024	\$ 1,004	\$ 3,011	Paid 1st quarter
Sunnyside	\$ -	\$ 7,920	\$ 7,920	2/27/2024	\$ 1,980	\$ 5,940	Paid 1st quarter
Tieton	\$ -	\$ 722	\$ 722	2/20/2024	\$ 181	\$ 542	Paid 1st quarter
Toppenish	\$ -	\$ 4,258	\$ 4,258	02-20-20243	\$ 1,065	\$ 3,194	Paid 1st quarter
Union Gap	\$ -	\$ 3,187	\$ 3,187			\$ 3,187	
Wapato	\$ 1,011	\$ 2,215	\$ 2,215			\$ 2,215	
City of Yakima	\$ -	\$ 47,136	\$ 47,136	2/22/2024	\$ 11,784	\$ 35,352	Paid 1st quarter
Zillah	\$ -	\$ 1,534	\$ 1,534	2/22/2024	\$ 384	\$ 1,151	Paid 1st quarter
Yakima Co.	\$ -	\$ 42,698	\$ 42,698	2/21/2024	\$ 10,675	\$ 32,024	Paid 1st quarter
Totals:	\$ 1,011	\$ 124,775	\$ 124,775		\$ 30,052	\$ 94,723	

Executive Memorandum

Date of Release: March 7, 2024
Date of Consideration: March 14, 2024
To: Honorable YRCAA Board of Directors and Alternates
From: Office of Engineering and Planning Division
Subject: February's Compliance, Engineering and Planning Division Report

Issue:

Monthly activities report to the Board of Directors of YRCAA.

Discussion:

The following summarizes some of the activities for the month of February including some additional related information:

- Residential burn season will start on March 15, 2024;
- No burn bans were called for the month of February;
- Registered 97 sources in February;
- Working on New Source Reviews (NSR) permits;
- Issued one NSR Order of Approval permit;
- Reviewed/responded to 24 SEPA's projects;
- Working on Title V renewals;
- Issued 8 agricultural burn permits;
- Reviewed/approved 5 Notifications of Demolition / Renovation (NODR);
- Worked on the daily weather forecasts for the burn status and agricultural burn allocation;
- We expect no exceedances during the month of February as shown in the graphs below;
- Working on several permitting and compliance issues sources;
- Collected and shipped for analysis approximately 15 Air Monitoring Samples and completed 6 Quality Control (QC) checks on 5 Air Monitors. Investigated 38 complaints for the month of February. Issued two Notices of Violations (NOV);

The following Table itemizes, by type, the number of complaints received and the number of NOV's issued, for the month of February 2024:

Type of Complaint	Number of Complains	Number of NOV's*	Number of AOD's**
Residential Burning	32	1	
Agricultural Burning	4		
Other Burning and SFBD***			
Fugitive / Construction Dust	1		
Agricultural Dust			
Agricultural Odor			
Other Dust	1		
Surface Coating			
Odor			
Asbestos		1	
Others and NSR****			
Registration			
Industrial Sources			
TOTALS	38	2	0

* NOV- Notice of Violation

** AOD- Assurance of Discontinues

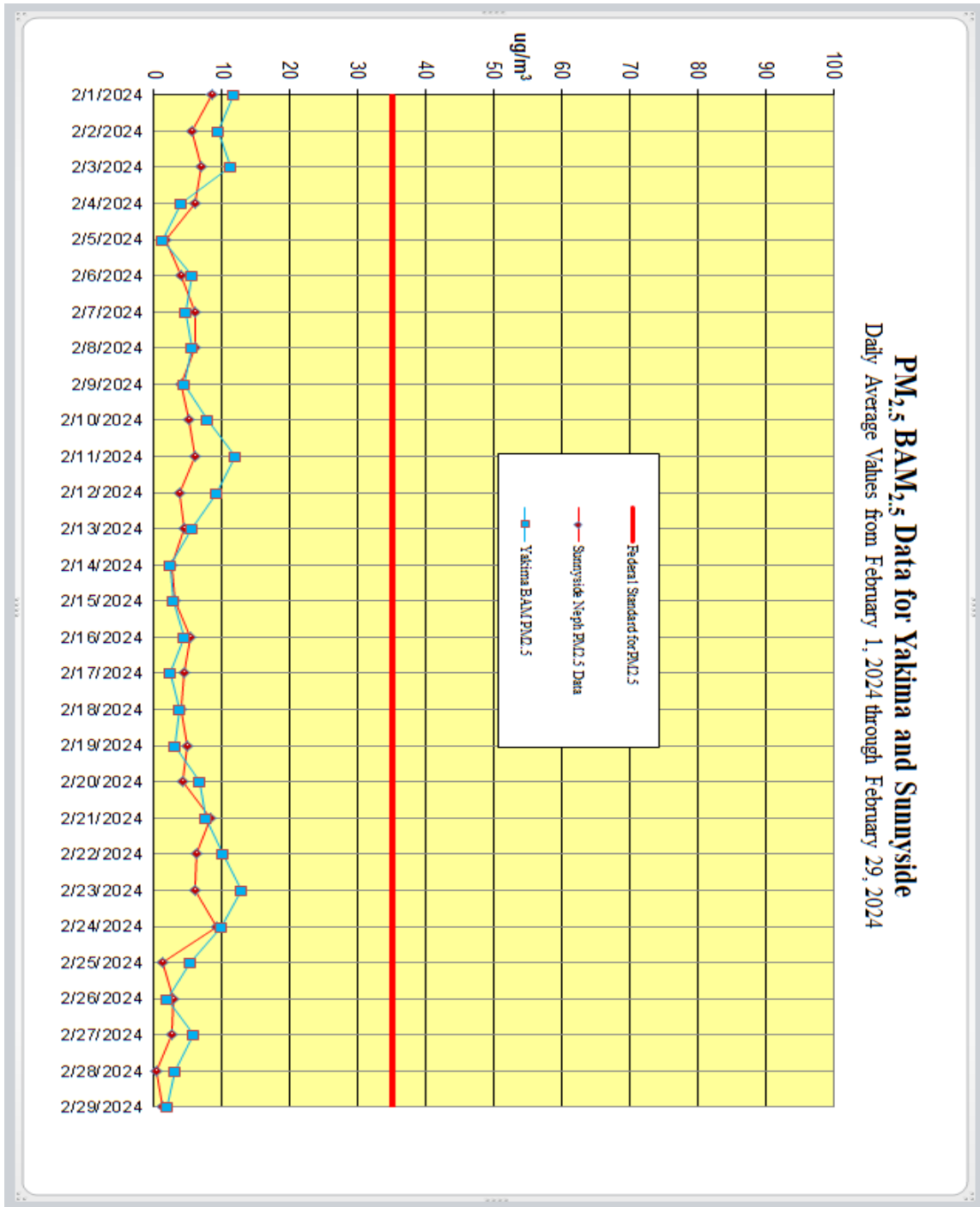
*** Solid Fuel Burning Device **** New Source Review

Attachments:

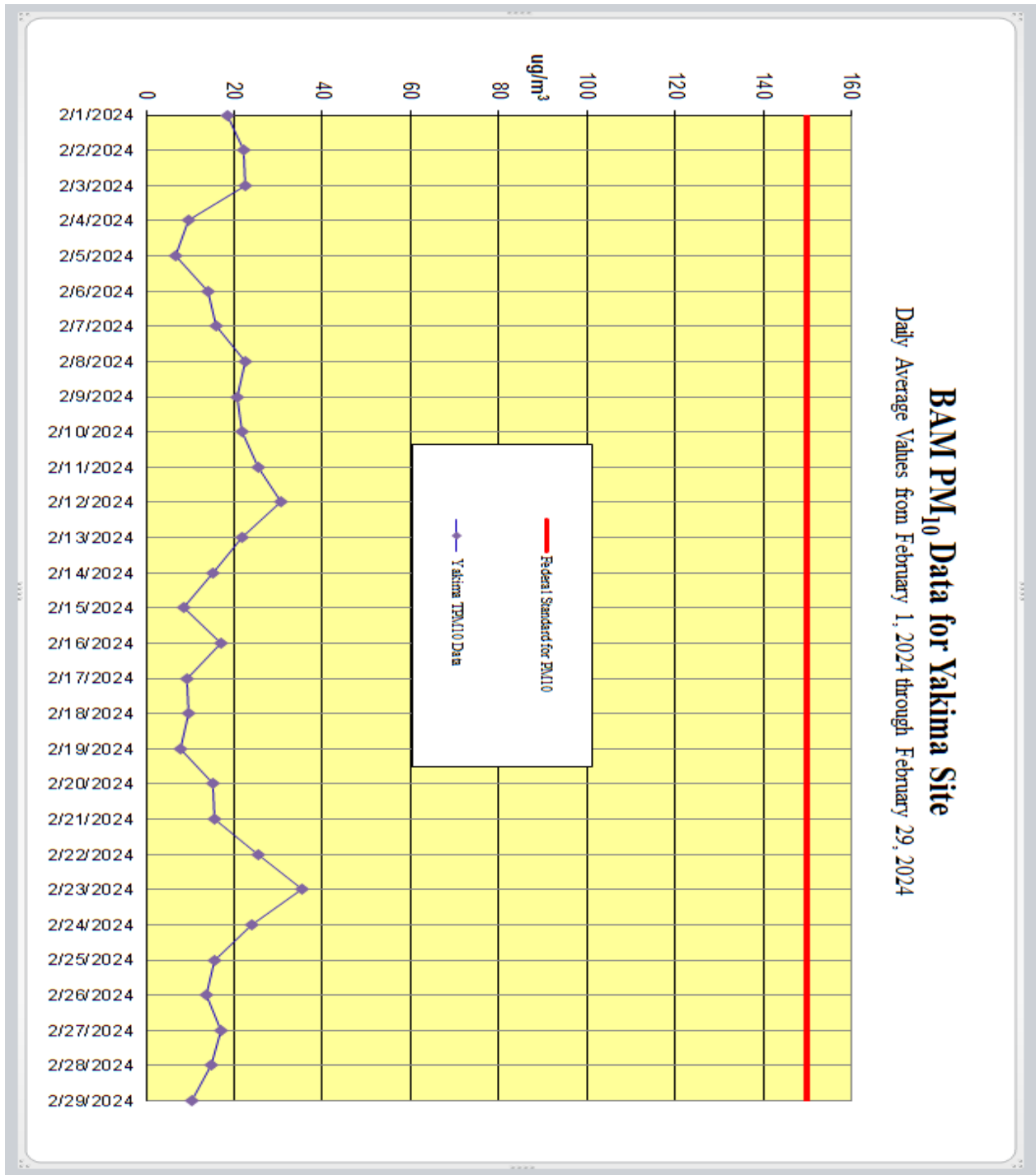
- ✓ *PM_{2.5} Monitor Data for the month of February 2024 and the annual graphs.*
- ✓ *PM₁₀ Monitor Data for the month of February 2024.*

- **PM_{2.5} Data**

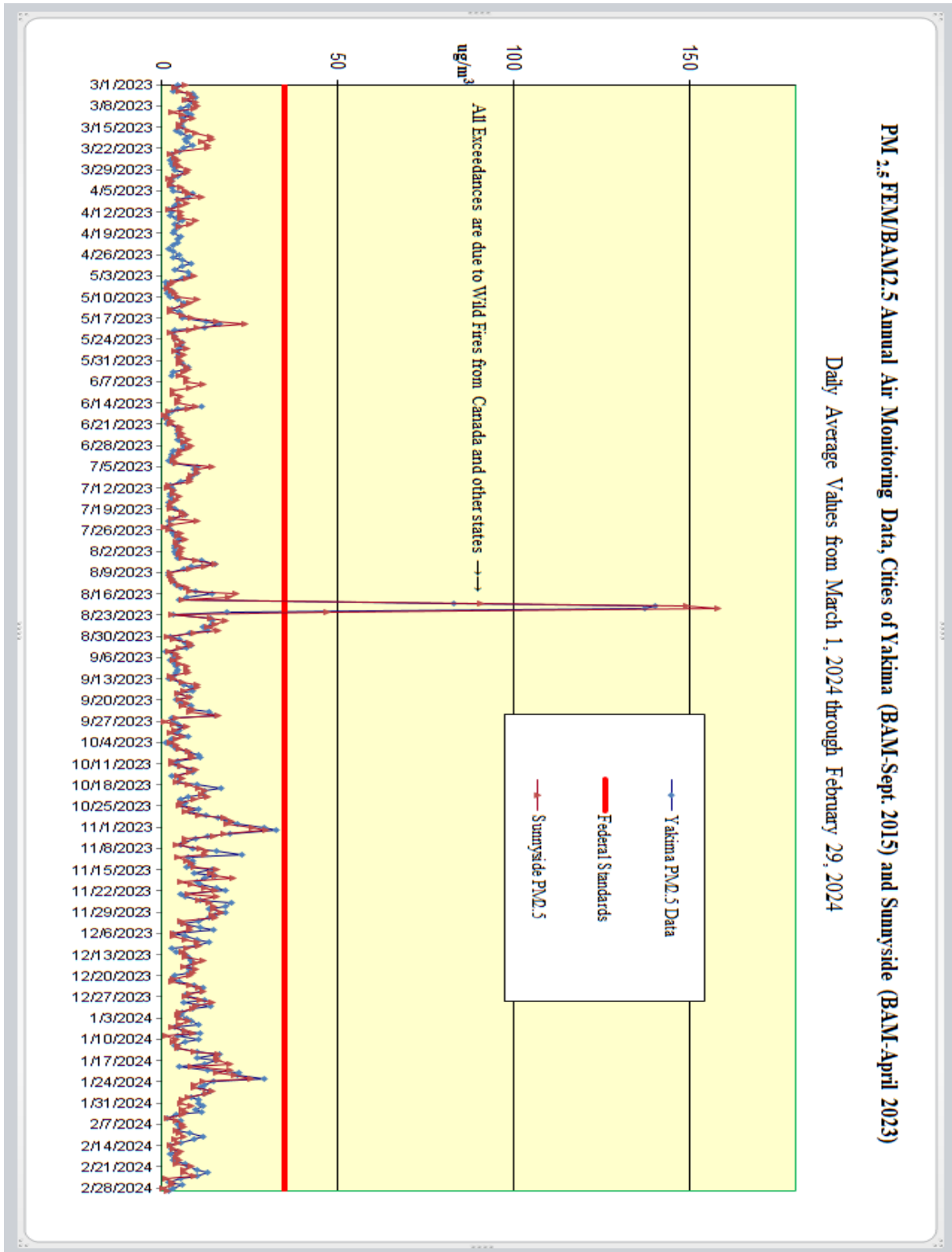
- We expect no PM_{2.5} exceedances for the month of February.



- **PM₁₀**
 - We expect no PM₁₀ exceedance for the month of February.



- **Annual PM_{2.5} Data**
 - Annual PM_{2.5} for Yakima and Sunnyside monitors for the specified periods.



Date of Release: March 7, 2024
Date of Consideration: March 14, 2024
To: Honorable YRCAA Board of Directors and Alternates
From: Office of the Executive Director
Subject: Monthly Activity Report

Activity	Current Quarter				FY24 Ttl. to Date
	FY23 Total	Dec FY24	Jan FY24	Feb FY24	
Minor Source Inspections	156	0	0	0	20
Complaints Received	161	8	1	38	116
NOVs Issued	77	0	5	2	10
AODs Issued	4	0	0	2	2
Warning Notices Issued	2	0	0	5	5
NOPs Issued	19	0	0	2	3
SEPA Reviews	297	19	25	24	163
AOP Applications Received	0	0	0	0	0
AOPs Issued or Renewed	1	1	0	1	2
Deviations/Upsets Reported	16	1	1	2	13
AOP Inspections	2	0	0	0	0
Public Workshops	2	0	0	0	2
Media Events	3	0	0	0	2
Media Contacts	8	0	0	0	3
Education Outreach Events	0	0	0	0	2
Sources Registered	375	0	0	97	103
NSR Applications Received	12	0	1	0	7
NSR Approvals Issued-Temporary	0	0	0	0	0
NSR Approvals Issued-Permanent	16	0	1	1	7
NODRs Received	180	5	1	1	68
Agricultural Burn Permits Issued	40	0	5	8	17
Conditional Use Permits Issued	5	0	0	0	1
Residential Burn Permits Issued	852	0	0	0	0
Burn Ban Days	34	2	8	0	16
Public Records Requests Fulfilled	29	3	0	0	16

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



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Joint Statement of Intent to Cooperate on Prescribed Fire and Smoke Management

Over the past decade, wildfires have grown dramatically in size, duration, and intensity. Human populations are increasingly at risk from these wildfires and wildfire smoke, with impacts disproportionately affecting people with low incomes and communities of color, as well as sensitive populations such as children and seniors. These risks are acute in the Pacific Northwest, where many communities are proximate to landscapes where wildfire occurs and threatens public health and safety. While accumulating fuels, a warming climate, and expanding human development exacerbate these risks, historic investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) have provided unprecedented resources for federal, state, and local agencies to collaborate at the scale needed to address the risks posed by undesirable wildfire.

In a March 2023 report to Congress *Wildfire Smoke – Opportunities to Strengthen Federal Efforts to Manage Growing Risks*, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) called upon the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and the Interior to better align air quality and land management goals for wildfire risk mitigation and establish joint strategies for achieving those goals. A subsequent national [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) between the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. EPA, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified the wildfire crisis as a public health crisis and outlines shared strategies to address it.

This joint statement of intent to cooperate builds on goals outlined in the MOU and articulates our commitment to regional collaboration to achieve these goals.

In November 2023, we convened to discuss, develop, and implement joint strategies to address the wildfire crisis in Oregon and Washington. During the November meeting, **we agreed that an increase in the pace of prescribed fire¹ is critical to reduce wildfire risk and increase ecosystem resilience in the Pacific Northwest. We also voiced support for using more prescribed fire and other fuel management**

¹ A prescribed fire is any fire intentionally ignited by management actions in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and regulations to meet specific land or resource management objectives.

strategies at larger geographic scales, while implementing new strategies at scale to minimize impacts on public health from the smoke created.

Excessive smoke, no matter its source, can pose a serious health risk to people. In supporting the increased use of prescribed fire, we are balancing the known health risks from prescribed fire smoke exposure against the even greater risk to life and health from severe wildfire and wildfire smoke exposure. We recognize preparedness and planning frameworks around prescribed fire are at different stages of development within the region. We will work with partners and local communities to prepare for and seek to reduce risk of smoke from prescribed fire, making every effort to ensure that vulnerable populations and communities disproportionately burdened by smoke from all fires are protected by pursuing increased public health interventions to meet the community need.

The November 2023 meeting was an initial conversation among a subset of state and federal leaders that collectively recognized the importance of engaging, importantly, with Tribal Nations, and others critical to addressing the wildfire crisis, including other federal, state, and local leaders. **Our commitment includes reaching out to others with land management and public health roles to engage them in joining us in these efforts.**

To achieve the objectives of increasing prescribed fire and minimizing impacts on public health from the resulting smoke, we commit to the following principles:

Act with urgency, using all available authorities, and collaborating with existing and new partners, including entities from the philanthropic community, to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire implementation while minimizing impacts to public health. Our agencies all have expertise and resources to contribute, and we are committed to leveraging those resources in new ways.

Protect public health, safety, and property. Work with partners and local communities to ensure meaningful community engagement, strengthened collaborative planning, support in pursuing resources, and increased and transparent health risk communication commensurate with the increased scale of prescribed fire near their community. This means communication before, during and after prescribed burns, using methods to reach all potentially affected people about prescribed fire events and how to protect themselves from smoke and interventions to reduce exposure to smoke. It also means ensuring all of these preparedness efforts to protect health are addressed in a specific time and place before committing to each decision to go forward with prescribed fire.

Identify and overcome the most limiting factors to achieving implementation of prescribed fire as a management tool at scale. Opportunities include working together to identify and resolve regulatory and operational challenges, encouraging an atmosphere of learning and creativity, shared problem solving, considering new business processes, looking for opportunities to streamline regulatory frameworks, and sharing resources to address planning, implementation, data gathering, reporting, and monitoring needs.

Be innovative and comprehensive in our approach and apply best practices. Develop and implement new strategies to minimize smoke impacts to communities. Be flexible, adaptable, and look for opportunities to coordinate schedules and projects. In planning and preparing for prescribed burns, use the best available information and modelling to predict smoke impacts, identify burn windows consistent with resource objectives, and minimize impacts on public health.

Try new approaches, learn, and adapt based on experience. Not all new strategies will be immediately successful, but we must build on our current knowledge to undertake the challenge before us. Develop appropriate monitoring strategies that track not only the smoke impacts and efficacy of prescribed fire treatments, but also the planning processes developed to increase the pace and scale of this work.

We are all committed to this work. We agree on the importance of partnering so we can better staff, manage, and implement larger prescribed fires and protect public health through improved planning, cross agency coordination, communication, and community preparedness. Although the resources and support we dedicate may vary by agency, we intend to demonstrate we can successfully and responsibly increase the pace and scale of prescribed burning and protect public health. We are committing that our agencies apply these principles and learn from two pilot projects, one in West Bend, Oregon, and one in North Central Washington and from the experience of these pilots, we will identify additional steps for how to build on the work within and across our agencies. We believe bringing together our wealth of knowledge and experience will allow us to more effectively identify and take action to better protect our forests and communities nearby.



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2/20/2024
Date



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Regional Forester
U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Region 6

2/20/2024
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Laura Watson
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Date