

Environment & Energy

New Colorado Law to Toughen Up Toxics Emissions Reporting

By Zach Bright

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Some Colorado businesses will have to report toxics emissions data annually starting next year, with the state set to strengthen air toxics monitoring under a new state law.

H.B. 22-1244—signed Thursday by Gov. Jared Polis (D)—will require owners and operators of certain sources of pollution to submit annual toxic emissions reports starting with calendar year 2023. It also will require the state to set up a monitoring program and operate six toxics monitoring stations, up from Colorado's lone station in Grand Junction.

"The true impact of HB22-1244 will be measured in its implementation," Rebecca Curry, Colorado policy counsel at Earthjustice said in a statement, "and it is incumbent upon all of us to keep the pressure on to hold industry accountable for its toxic air pollution."

1. The Colorado Air Quality Control Commission will adopt before May 2026 regulations to reduce "priority" toxic air contaminants. The commission will designate five contaminants as "priority" before May 2025 and can amend or add on to the list every five years thereafter.
2. The state will also begin studying gaps in toxics data, then make and adopt recommendations to improve reporting methods before May 2025.
3. Emissions control regulations that Colorado adopts must prioritize disproportionately impacted communities and will be incorporated and enforced in permitting processes.
4. Some business organizations have opposed the bill, such as National Federation of Independent Business, which said in a statement that the additional reporting requirements "will be very costly for many small businesses."

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