Air Quality Control Region Encyclopedia Article

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Air Quality Control Region

The **Clean Air Act** defines an **air quality** control region (AQCR) as a contiguous area where air quality, and thus **air pollution**, is relatively uniform. In those cases where **topography** is a factor in air movement, AQCRs often correspond with airsheds. AQCRs may consist of two or more cities, counties or other governmental entities, and each region is required to adopt consistent **pollution control** measures across the political jurisdictions involved. AQCRs may even cross state lines and, in these instances, the states must cooperate in developing **pollution** control strategies. Each AQCR is treated as a unit for the purposes of pollution reduction and achieving National Ambient Air Quality Standards. As of 1993, most AQCRs had achieved national air quality standards; however the remaining AQCRs where standards had not been achieved were a significant group, where a large percentage of the United States population dwelled. AQCRs involving major metro areas like Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Denver, and Philadelphia were not achieving air quality standards because of **smog**, motor vehicle emissions, and other pollutants.