



TIMELINE

of Some Key Events Related to Air Pollution and Air Quality Regulation

1948

Smog event in Donora, PA

1955

Ozone reaches 850 ppb in downtown Los Angeles in September

1955

Air Pollution Control Act of 1955: Funds federal research into air quality

1962

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson published

1963

Clean Air Act of 1963: Funds research into techniques for monitoring and controlling air pollution

1967

Air Quality Act of 1967: Expands funding for research into techniques for monitoring and controlling air pollution

1970

Clean Air Act of 1970: Creates the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), tasks it with setting air quality standards called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which states are required to meet

1977

Clean Air Act amendments: Incorporates the concept of nonattainment and Class I areas (national wildlife areas)

1990

Clean Air Act amendments: Addresses control of acid rain, establishes the permitting regulations states use to keep air clean, expands toxic pollution definitions, plans for phase out of chemicals related to depletion of ozone layer

2002

North Carolina passes Clean Smokestacks Bill

For more information on the history of the Clean Air Act, see www.epa.gov/airprog/oar/caa/amendments.html



Sources for the 1948 Donora Smog

Radio News Story

(National Public Radio 2009)
"Smog Deaths in 1948 Led to Clean Air Laws"
by Ann Murray, NPR.org, April 22, 2009
www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=103359330

Letter to Governor

Handwritten letter from Mrs. Lois Bainbridge
to Pennsylvania Governor Duff, October 31, 1948

Transcript of letter:

Webster, Pa.
October 31, 1948
Hon. James H. Duff
Harrisburg, Pa.
Dear Sir:

Handwritten transcript of the letter:
New James H. Duff
Harrisburg, Pa.
Dear Sir:
I am writing for "Smoke Control" in Washington County. Pittsburgh has it, why can't Donora after the tragedy of October 30 & 31st.
The Zinc Works has ruined Donora & Webster. The company has talked about moving it for years but nothing has been done about it. Perhaps this will awaken some of the high officials who have built beautiful homes outside of Donora in the surrounding country where vegetation will grow.
The towns of Monessen, Charleroi and Monongahela adjacent to Donora & Webster had fog, but there weren't 20 deaths as Donora & Webster had. There is something in the Zinc Works causing these deaths.
The Zinc Works is very old fashioned. It could be moved & electric furnaces installed. That would help consume the fumes & do away with the awful acid & smoke. It eats the paint off your houses. Even fish can't live in the Monongahela River, the bank on which the mill is situated.
I would not want men to lose their jobs, but your life is more precious than your job.
They closed the smelting plant today. We found that you could breathe normally without having the air polluted with acid fumes.
Webster was here before the Donora Zinc Works was constructed, so why should we suffer? A beautiful town is now almost a "Ghost Town."
I know you are quite a busy person, but will you please consider this letter just a little bit?
Thanking you, I remain, Respectfully yours,
Mrs. Lois Bainbridge
Box 254
Webster, Pa.

Original handwritten letter with a red circular stamp:
Read, the bank at which the mill is situated.
I would not want men to lose their jobs but your life is more precious than your job.
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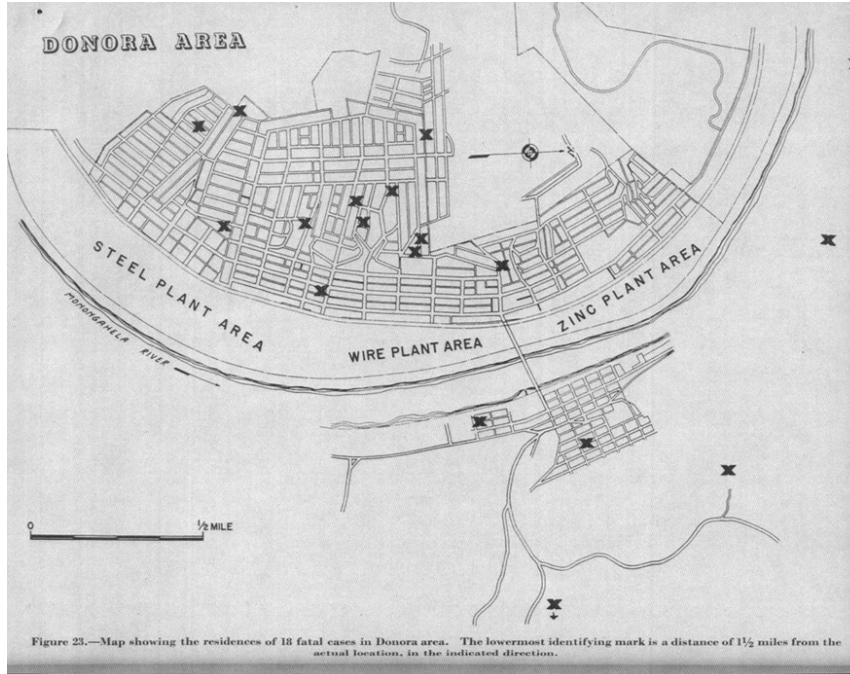
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Box 254
Webster, Pa.

Sources for the 1948 Donora Smog (continued)

Historical Photos

Map showing the residences of 18 fatal cases in Donora area during 1948 Donora Smog



Courtesy of Donora Historical Society

Donora-Webster bridge over the Monongahela River



Courtesy of the Donora Historical Society.



Sources for the 1948 Donora Smog (continued)

Historical Photos (continued)

Smokestacks from 3rd Street in Donora, 1943-1955



Courtesy of the Donora Historical Society.

Smokestacks in Donora, PA, as seen from across the river in Webster, PA, 1948



Courtesy of the Donora Historical Society.



Sources for the Development of Los Angeles Smog in the 1940s and 50s

News Article

(KCET 2012)

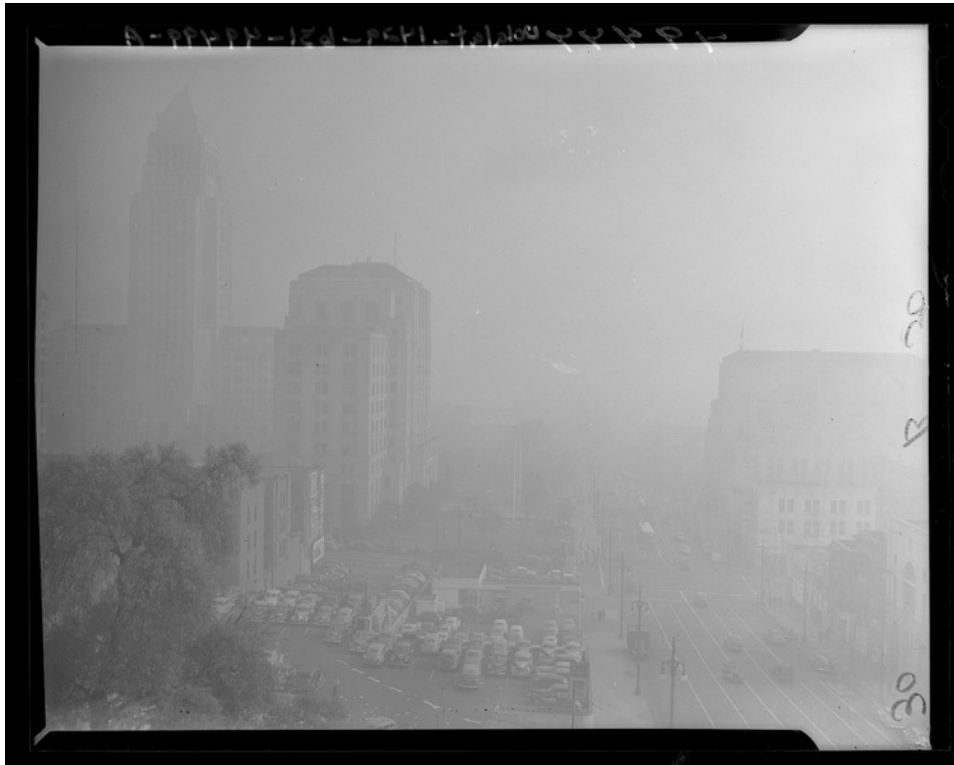
"How Los Angeles Began to Put its Smoggy Days Behind"

by Jeremy Rosenberg, KCET.org, February 13, 2012

www.kcet.org/socal/departures/columns/laws-that-shaped-la/how-los-angeles-began-to-put-its-smoggy-days-behind.html

Historical Photos

Los Angeles Civic Center January 6, 1948



Courtesy of the UCLA Library Special Collections, Los Angeles Times Photographic Archive

Sources for the Development of Los Angeles Smog in the 1940s and 50s (continued)

Historical Photos (continued)

Smog Protection Experiment at the University of Southern California, 1947



Courtesy of University of Southern California, on behalf of the USC Libraries Special Collections

Citizens Protesting Los Angeles Smog



Courtesy of University of Southern California, on behalf of the USC Libraries Special Collections



Sources for the Development of Los Angeles Smog in the 1940s and 50s (continued)

Political Cartoon

Stamp Out Smog: Los Angeles City Hall Yelling for Help



Archived in the library of the South Coast Air Quality Management District; provenance unknown



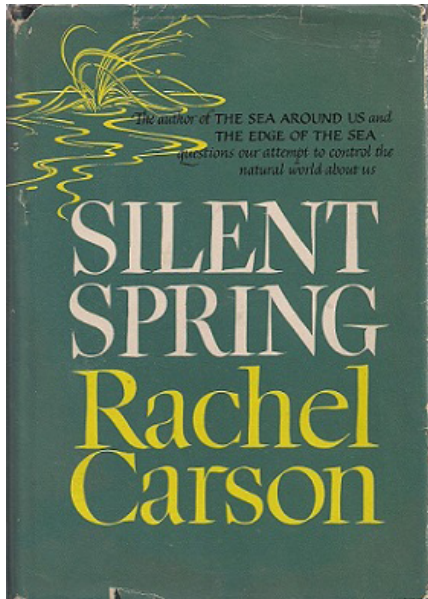
The Clean Air Act

Historical
Sources
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Sources for *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson (1962)

Excerpt from *Silent Spring*

Paragraph from Chapter 14 about humanity's contribution to pollution
by Rachel Carson, 1962



“...Man, alone of all forms of life, can create cancer-producing substances, which in medical terminology are called carcinogens. A few man-made carcinogens have been part of the environment for centuries. An example is soot, containing aromatic hydrocarbons. With the dawn of the industrial era the world became a place of continuous, ever-accelerating change. Instead of the natural environment there was rapidly substituted an artificial one composed of new chemical and physical agents, many of them possessing powerful capacities for inducing biologic change. Against these carcinogens which his own activities has created man had no protection, for even as his biological heritage has evolved slowly, so it adapts slowly to new conditions. As a result these powerful substances could easily penetrate the inadequate defenses of the body.”

Television News Story

(CBS News)

“The Price of Progress,” reporting on Rachel Carson’s legacy
September 19, 2007

Watch two sessions: 1-2:15 AND 6:55-8:15

www.cbsnews.com/videos/the-price-of-progress/

Political Cartoon

“*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson the Pesticide Threat,” a woman swatting a bug with a copy of *Silent Spring*

by Len Norris, June 9, 1964

<http://edocs.lib.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/Cartoons?CartoonID=904>