



Downtown Timnath Air Quality Background Overview

Date: January 15, 2021

Public Information Session Meeting date: January 19th, 2021

Website: <https://timnath.org/updates/air-quality-panel/>

Overview

Old Town Timnath's collection of small businesses and local entrepreneurs create a vibrant small town feel and charming place for residents to gather. Each of these businesses offer something unique from retail, to personal services to manufacturing, which can occasionally create a conflict between commerce, residents and visitors. The purpose of this information session is specifically related to industrial air quality in Old Town Timnath and not oil and gas or other sources of air quality concerns.

What Contributes to Air Quality?

While several local businesses operate in Old Town, many of the questions about air quality are related to the Alpine Cabinet Company. Alpine has been an Old Town fixture since 1968, fabricating cabinets in the same Old Town Timnath location for all of those years. Odors from the staining, spraying, and cabinet finishing operations are periodically present in Old Town, causing residents to ask about air quality regulations and the potential health impacts.

Current Air Quality Conditions in Old Town Timnath

Due to resident concerns around the potential health impacts of the odors in Old Town, the Town of Timnath sought assistance from Colorado State University and adopted an Odor Ordinance. With the data collected by CSU, the Town reached out to the Colorado Department of Health & Environment to provide insights to the potential health risks associated with the odors.

2016 & 2018: Colorado State University Atmospheric Science Department Tests

At the request of the Town, CSU tested air samples taken in proximity of Alpine Cabinets and those samples identified several volatile organic compounds (VOCs) present in the air. However, the levels of the VOCs were below the thresholds established by the State of Colorado and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

2019: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Risk Assessment

At the request of the Town of Timnath, the Toxicology and Risk Assessment Program at the CDPHE reviewed the findings by the CSU tests and prepared a letter outlining the potential public health implications and an overview of short-term exposure risk and long-term exposure risk. The analysis indicated a low risk of short or long-term harmful health effects due to VOC exposures in the vicinity of Alpine Cabinets. The report does recommend additional air sampling if odors or health effects continue near this location.

Based on the findings and analysis of the current sampling that has been conducted, these nuisance odors pose a low health risk.



Town of Timnath's Role

Guided by the Town's Odor Ordinance, Timnath monitors for "nuisance odors" to protect, preserve, and promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Town. The Code states that if the Town receives a nuisance odor complaint about a property three or more times, from three separate entities, then the Town must launch an investigation to ensure the property does not violate the Town's regulation. If it is found to violate the Town's ordinance, the property owner must submit an odor management plan to the Town and then comply with that plan.

Specific to nuisance odor complaints raised in Old Town Timnath, directed at the Alpine Cabinet Company, the Town of Timnath has investigated each complaint using the Town's instrument to measure odor concentrations. None of those instances has the Town's instrument registered as a nuisance odor per the code. The Alpine Cabinet Company has been and continues to be in compliance with the Town's odor ordinance.

Keeping It Clean – Local Efforts

Based on the State of Colorado Air Pollution Control Division Field Inspection Report, Alpine Cabinet Company is in compliance with their State Air Permit. This report points to the various measures implemented by Alpine Cabinet Company to reduce VOC emissions and odors from their facility. The report indicates that they have three (3) spray booths with exhaust filters for the control of emissions of particulate matter due to overspray. The report also indicates that they emit 7.9 VOC tons/year and that their permit allows up to 22.0 VOC tons/year. Further the report also states that the lower VOC emissions are due to a product change with lower VOC content while still maintaining a quality product. Lastly, the report also references odor compliance and notes that there were very faint odors consistent with paint spray operations (all booths were in operation at time of the inspection) inside the building and no odors were noted outside at the property line and no measurable concentrations were noted.

Regulations

While the Town of Timnath's Code addresses nuisance odors, it is the State of Colorado that regulates air quality for health and safety. See the links below to reference the specific regulations:

- Town of Timnath Municipal Code: Sec. 7-2-210. - Nuisance odors
https://library.municode.com/co/timnath/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=CD_CH7HESAA_N_ART2NU_S7-2-210NUOD
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment - Air Quality Control Commission Regulations (<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/aqcc-regulations>)

Additional Resources

- Downtown Timnath Air Quality - Frequently Asked Questions dated January 15, 2021
- CDPHE Risk Assessment Letter dated April 29, 2019
- CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division Field Inspection Report dated January 27, 2020
- CSU Atmospheric Science Department Test Results – May 23, 2016 and November 29, 2018
- CSU Atmospheric Science Department Comparison of Results – December 2, 2018