

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
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DRAFT MINUTES OF April 27, 2011 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville
Renee Hamilton, Virginia Department of Transportation
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Caroline Petti, ACPAC
Hon. Redella "Del" Pepper, City of Alexandria
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. David Snyder, City of Falls Church

Staff

Jeannine Altavilla, COG/DEP
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Paul DesJardin, COG/CPS
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

Others

Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Mike Lake, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
(on phone) Jennifer Tabor, Department of Defense

1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 12:10pm.

Chair Pepper noted that a public comment email was received. Staff informed the committee that the email was from a City of Alexandria resident about pollutants in the region, including toxic pollutants like mercury, expressing concern that the region is not doing enough to reduce pollutant levels.

Chair Pepper welcomed Jennifer Tabor from the Department of Defense who joined the meeting over the phone. Renee Hamilton from the Virginia Department of Transportation was welcomed as a new MWAQC member.

The minutes from the February 23, 2011 meeting were approved. Mr. Snyder abstained from voting on the minutes because he was not at the meeting.

2. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tad Aburn reported on April 12th TAC meeting. The PM_{2.5} redesignation and maintenance plan is currently the main technical item the committee is working on. The committee also discussed new EPA regulatory actions, including MACT and SO₂ designations. The committee was updated on the Integrated Community Energy Planning efforts. Daily air quality forecasting will begin April 14th. Committee members also noted that there will be a possible change in the ozone standard which could stretch the ozone season in the region.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Caroline Petti, the new committee chair, reported on ACPAC. After a recent recruitment, ACPAC has welcomed a broad array of new members. The committee's role is to stay abreast of air quality and energy issues. At the last meeting on April 18, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Jay Fisette discussed ACPAC's role in relation to both CEEPC and MWAQC and discussed Arlington County's Energy Plan. Additional presentations came from: a committee member from GenOn, Clean Air Partners, and COG staff on PM_{2.5} status. The committee meets the third Monday every month and would welcome the presence of any MWAQC members.

Clean Air Partners (CAP)

Leta Mach reported for Clean Air Partners. The group had representatives distribute information at several Earth Day events across the region. The air quality forecast widget has been added to several member/partner websites. New radio ads will debut at the Annual Meeting with the theme "Real People – Real Stories." The 2011 poster contest is complete, with winners selected on April 14th. The students and their teachers will be formally recognized at the Annual Meeting on May 18. The Annual Meeting will take place on the evening of Wednesday, May 18th at Nationals Park in the District of Columbia. Following the meeting, ceremony, and reception there will be a behind-the-scenes tour of the stadium.

3. 2011 Ozone Season Regional Air Quality Trends

Jen Desimone and Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, presented on forecasting for the upcoming ozone season and trends in ozone and particulate matter in the region.

Forecasts are developed for ozone and particulate matter, issued out to three days. The public forecast is the higher of the two substances each day. Forecasts are a consensus developed by MWCOG, the Maryland Department of Environment and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Forecasts are based on the Air Quality Index (AQI). The forecast can be found in numerous online locations, as well as through a hotline and radio and television media personnel who receive the forecast from COG. Air alerts are available through Clean Air Partners for four regions with several notification options, and the alerts include health messages and tips.

EPA standards for ozone are based on a design value which takes the three year average of the fourth highest daily maximum 8-hour average ozone concentrations. Historical trends beginning with the 1997-1999 design value show that the region has made a great amount of progress and is below the 1997 NAAQS standard, but has not yet reduced concentrations below the 2008 NAAQS standard of 0.075 ppm. PM_{2.5} standards consider design values daily and annually. The annual design value measures the three year average of annual mean PM_{2.5} concentrations and the daily design value measures the three year average of the 98th percentile of PM_{2.5} concentrations. Observing the design values beginning with the 1999-2001 design value shows that the region is below both the daily and annual standards since the 2006-2008 design value. Annual exceedance days for both ozone and PM_{2.5} vary greatly but a general decreasing trend can be observed. The region has not had any Code Red days for PM_{2.5} since 2006. A chart with both the number of ozone exceedance days and the number of days at 90°F annually shows that since 2006 the number of exceedance days has decreased and has been less than the number of 90°F days. Ozone concentrations are based on two factors, NO_x and temperature. Showing fewer exceedance days for each day over 90°F demonstrates that the NO_x levels in the region have decreased.

4. *PM_{2.5} Redesignation Request/Maintenance Plan Schedule

Overview of Inventory Development

Approve Schedule (ACTION)

Joan Rohlfs presented information on the redesignation request. The presentation began with a background on fine particles, including the sources and health effects. The region was designated as nonattainment in 2004 based on the 1997 PM_{2.5} standard. The region submitted the State Implementation Plan (SIP) in 2008. EPA issued a Clean Data Determination for the region in 2009, which will be used as the attainment year.

The region will now submit to EPA for Attainment status. This status will help gain public recognition for progress made in the region and will reduce significant obstacles for new generation capacity in the region, which is necessary for economic development.

A redesignation request and maintenance plan must be submitted to EPA. The region will develop an inventory for selected years in the redesignation request, including point sources, area sources, nonroad sources, and onroad sources. Inventories for 2002, 2007, 2017 and 2025 will be included. Once submitted, EPA has 18 months to approve the plan. The out year 2025 was selected to allow for the greatest time for approval of the plan by EPA. Inventories will need to be done for all of the considered years, because new models have been released and the same model

must be used for all inventory years. The schedule for submitting the redesignation request is to have the draft plan completed in February 2012, approved for public comment in March. The final plan would be approved in May 2012.

With the new MOVES model the region should still be able to show inventories that will pass the standards. It will be good for the public to know the good that is being done. It will be important to ensure that the maintenance plan is still aggressive. The public campaign must be clear that work on air quality is not done.

Mr. Aburn noted that Maryland is considering litigation to lower the fine particle standard, which could result in the region being in nonattainment. The issue largely comes from power plants upwind, so support from outside of the region would be necessary to meet the lower standards.

The redesignation schedule was approved unanimously.

5. EPA Regulatory Update (SO₂, Toxics, GHG)

Jeff King presented on the EPA regulatory updates for the final Industrial Boil MACT rule, the proposed Power Plant MACT rule, the approval of a new refrigerant substitute that could lead to a ban on HFC-134a, and SO₂ designations guidance. The Industrial Boiler MACT addresses multiple sources and establishes emission limits for multiple toxins. It has a one-time energy efficiency audit requirement. There is a lawsuit pending. The proposed power plant MACT pertains to certain types of electrical generating units and includes heavy metals, PM, and acid gases. Through the EPA Significant New Alternatives Policy program (SNAP), HFO-1234yf was approved for motor vehicle air conditioners. EPA released guidance on the process and schedule for nonattainment designations for SO₂. State recommendations are due to EPA this summer and will be based on monitored and modeled data. Designations will be made by county. Counties in this region are likely to be unclassifiable.

6. Diesel Idle Reduction Campaign: Driver Recognition

Jen Desimone presented on the ongoing Driver Recognition program in the Diesel Idle Reduction Campaign. The program aims to decrease diesel emissions in the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore region. The effort is led by COG in collaboration with the District Department of the Environment, the District Department of Transportation, Maryland Department of the Environment, and now the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The 2010 Diesel Idle Reduction Campaign established a Driver Recognition Program. Nominations are accepted monthly and can originate from companies, enforcement personnel, industry stakeholders, or the general public. Street Teams for the campaign have gone to several locations in the region and nominated drivers who were not idling on the spot for the program. Destination DC is donating a dinner for two that will go to one winner monthly, as well as a quarterly grand prize drawing for those that received the dinner for two. All drivers nominated and approved will receive commendation letters.

7. Region Forward Coalition, Performance Measures

Jeff King, DEP, and Paul DesJardin, CPS, presented on performance measures related to air quality in the Region Forward initiative. Region Forward will integrate the work being done at COG. The COG Board approved the organizational structure and workplan for the Region Forward Coalition. Delegates on the Coalition have shown lots of interest. There will be many

involved beyond voting members to ensure that work is integrated across sectors. Three preliminary meetings will be held, one each in DC, Maryland and Virginia, to flesh out the program, and a kick-off meeting will be held June 19th. Jeff and Maia from COG DEP will form the baseline analysis for goals and targets in air quality.

Goals for air quality are to: significantly decrease greenhouse gas emissions; and to protect and enhance the region's environmental resources. There is a target in 2014 for having air quality improving below federal standards. There are indicators including emissions per vehicle mile traveled, energy use, and forest cover and tree canopy.

The four overarching categories that Region Forward covers are: Accessibility, Sustainability, Prosperity, and Livability. A Goal is an aspiration, a Target is a specific measure, and an Indicator will inform whether or not the region is moving in the right direction.

8. State and Local Air Reports

Ms. Beall reported for the District. Remaining stimulus funds are being used to post several hundred anti-idling signs throughout the District this summer. The contract for the Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) has been issued. The organization is up and running with an office, staff and a website.

Mr. Ballou presented for Virginia. In reference to Mr. King's discussion on the SO₂ standard, it is probably a correct assumption that areas will be considered "unclassifiable." It is a drastically different approach than other pollutant standards. All major sources, greater than 100 in Virginia, must be modeled. To complete this modeling by 2013 will be a large workload. The Regional Haze SIP final permit is complete, and Virginia has not met all elements of the state SIP. Using the MOVES model, it found that Fredericksburg has a potential problem with conformity in the future. The state is in the process of revising the SIP with Mobile 6 budgets being transitioned to the MOVES model. It will be submitted to EPA later this year.

Mr. Aburn presented for Maryland. The state has adopted regulations for the new ozone standard, which has not yet been released. The state has also adopted NO_x regulations for cement kiln reductions. Maryland is a pilot state for EPA NO₂ roadside monitoring. The process has started in Baltimore and some in the District area and preliminary results show levels close to or below standards. Mr. Britton would be interested in a presentation to the committee. It is a Maryland state law to reduce GHG emissions 25% by 2020, as well as to complete a plan to achieve these reductions by 2012. The stakeholder draft will be released this summer and will hopefully highlight some of the work being done in the DC region.

Ms. Rohlfs informed the committee that the American Lung Association has released their state of the air reports. The region is not on the list of areas that exceeds PM standards, but is on the list for the 25 most ozone polluted region, at number 14. The Baltimore/Washington/Northern Virginia region receives an F because of this, but the report does acknowledge that there has been great progress in the region due to the Clean Air Act. Committee members asked that staff provide them with talking points and a copy of the article to bring back to their jurisdictions.

9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn:

The next meeting date will be June 22, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.