

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: September 9, 2008

Time: 10 am to 12 pm

TELECONFERENCE

Call In Number: 1-888-898-8635

Passcode: 774715

DRAFT Agenda

- 10:00 1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (July 8, 2008)**
Chairman Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
- 10:10 2. Ozone Season Summary**
Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, will present the ozone season summary.
- 10:20 3. CAIR Vacatur: Update**
Joan Rohlfs and Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, will discuss potential impacts of the CAIR Vacatur on regional air quality planning.
- 10:35 4. PM_{2.5} Clean Data Policy/Redesignation Request**
Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP, will discuss a possible Clean Data Determination and Redesignation Request for PM_{2.5}. Doris McLeod, Virginia DEQ, will discuss potential interim and outyear milestone years for a maintenance plan.
- 10:50 5. PM_{2.5} Designation Letters**
Jeff King, COG DEP, will present the PM_{2.5} designation recommendation letters from the states as well as the EPA responses.
- 11:00 6. COG Climate Change Report: MWAQC Comments**
Jeff King, COG DEP, will discuss the COG Climate Change Report and possible MWAQC comment letter.
- 11:20 7. Conformity Update**
Mike Clifford, COG DTP, will provide an update on the conformity determination for the 2008 CLRP and 2009-2014 TIP.
- 11:30 8. Other Business**
- 11:45 9. State and Local Air Agency Report**
- 11:55 10. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn**
Next TAC Meeting: October 14, 2008



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**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 8, 2008 10am to 12pm
COG Board Room, 3rd Floor**

Present:

Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of the Environment
Cecily Beall, District Department of Environment
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Environment
Candice Gay Hall, Department of Defense REC Region III
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment
Jeff Harn, Arlington County Department of Environmental Services
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Mark Rawlings, District Department of Transportation
Walt Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Bill Skrabak, Alexandria Department of Environmental Quality
Robin Snyder, District Department of Environment
Khoa Tran, Alexandria Department of Environmental Quality
Flint Webb, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Association
Mike Zamore, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Staff:

Leah Boggs, COG/DEP
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Ken Decker, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Daivamani Sivasailam, CPG/DTP

Observers/Participants:

Bill Butler, Mirant
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC
Russ Dickerson, University of Maryland
Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Joe Zimmer, City of Alexandria Citizen

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (June 10, 2008). Ms. Franks called the meeting to order at 10:12. The minutes of the June 10, 2008 meeting were approved with a minor change. Diane Franks asked that the minutes be revised to state that the agenda item regarding the fly ash disposal issue in Maryland was removed from the agenda because Maryland is currently in litigation over the issue.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil Kumar presented the ozone season summary. There have been 23 code yellow, 5 code orange, and one code red day so far this season. Most of the exceedances occurred during the first two weeks of June. The highest 8-hour ozone concentration (102 ppb) occurred on June 12 at the Lewinsville monitor. There was one exceedance of the new daily fine particle standard on June 14. Tom Ballou suggested that the June 14 event may have been influenced by the large forest fire in North Carolina and may need to be reported as an exceptional event.

3. New Ozone Standard: What is Being Done to Meet the New Standard?

After reviewing the implementation timeline for the new standard, Diane Franks discussed strategies being considered to meet the new ozone standard. Some of the measures included as voluntary initiatives in the SIP for the existing 8-hour ozone standard may be more developed further to provide additional reductions, including efforts to address distributed generation, high electric demand days, and tree canopy improvement.

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) is discussion programs such as additional controls on EGUs, controls on ICI boilers, and new California VOC controls. Super-regional partnerships (OTC, Lake Michigan Air Directors Cooperative (LADCO), Visibility Improvement State and Tribal Association (VISTAS)) are being developed which if successful could significantly reduce pollution transported into the region. To advance a new multipollutant strategy, the OTC may also recommend that Congress strengthen CAIR because of the need for new controls to meet the new lower ozone standard. Supporting analyses focus on modeling, and determining effective rates, compliance dates, and timings of reductions.

Howard Simons asked about conformity requirements for the new standard. There won't be a new mobile budget until it is set in the new SIP, expected in 2011; an interim test will be required. EPA will issue a transition regulation in the Fall.

Diane Franks said that though CA LEV II was adopted by many states, it hasn't been implemented because the required federal waiver was denied and subsequent court appeals are pending. In response to a question from Russ Dickerson, Diane Franks said that there are several enacted, phased in, or pending regulations that affect the nonroad sector, including locomotives and small engines. In response to a question from Bill Skrabak, Diane Franks and Tom Ballou said that New Jersey and Connecticut are other states that are working on high electric demand day initiatives. Strategies include working with generators to ensure that the cleanest units come on-line first, and use of water injection.

4. Impact of Climate Change on Air Pollution

Russ Dickerson discussed the impact of climate change on air pollution. He said that experts predict a climate change penalty of 2-8 ppb ozone associate with higher temperatures. Increased precipitation may occur in winter with less rain in the summer. It may be warmer in the warmer times of years. PM pollution may also increase in winter due to higher wintertime temperatures. There may also be longer heat waves.

Air quality monitoring data has been showing improvements over time, especially after implementation of the NOx SIP Call. Air pollution episodes are typically correlated with stagnation and light winds. Models have shown the heat impact of large highways that could also contribute to enhanced ozone formation.

The relationship between ozone formation and high temperatures breaks down at very high temperatures. It's possible that the very high surface temperatures are able to break through the boundary layer causing increased mixing. During situations where the Bermuda high is affecting the region, air pollution increases because of subsidence-induced inversions.

5. Conformity Determination

Mike Clifford discussed the proposed conformity determination for the 2008 CLRP and 2009-2014 TIP. Regional emissions for all pollutants are forecast to be below the relevant mobile emission tests (interim and proposed new SIP mobile budgets) for all milestone years. TERMS do not need to be invoked to demonstrate conformity. The conformity determination may need to be revised to withdraw all capacity increasing projects if the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission funds are restored through legislative action in Richmond. Jeff King presented a draft comment letter. The public comment period closes on July 12. The letter was approved with no changes.

6. WMATA Ride Free on Code Red

Jen Desimone discussed the Ride Free on Code Red Day program. On June 9, there were problems with the receipt of the forecasted code red day such that WMATA did not offer free bus rides. The problem related to the format of the forecast email. The situation has subsequently been resolved by modifying the email format so that the words "code red" will appear in the text and the subject line. Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet and Flint Webb suggested that both the ozone concentration and the AQI be provided, and that the public be given more information about the changes to the AQI cutpoints.

7. PM_{2.5} Redesignation Request

Jeff King and Doris McLeod discussed a possible PM_{2.5} redesignation request. Doris McLeod suggested that MWAQC consider requesting redesignation for the 1997 PM_{2.5} standard given the region's clean data for the past several years. A maintenance plan would need to be prepared. There is some urgency for action if there is interest in establishing maintenance plan milestone years that would be comparable to the existing planning horizons (2010, 2020, 2030 for transportation conformity). Howard Simons and Jim Ponticello expressed concern about the increasing emission levels for direct PM_{2.5} in the outyears, stating that a safety margin may be needed. Diane Franks said that Maryland is still litigating the 2006 annual PM standard so may not fully support a redesignation request. Bill Skrabak said he supports investigating the possibility of redesignation and preparation of a maintenance plan, but that with the outstanding litigation and the upcoming designation process for the 2006 PM standards, the group should proceed cautiously. All agreed that Doris McLeod should discuss the planning horizon with EPA to determine acceptable interim and outyears for a maintenance plan.

8. Other Business

Bill Skrabak described the recent settlement with Mirant regarding the Potomac River Generating Station. The settlement allows Mirant to proceed with the stack merge, but sets up a

\$34 million escrow account that will be used to fund additional controls based on the results of an engineering study. The City of Alexandria will be able to have input on the decision about which controls to install. \$2 million will be used for fugitive emission control. PM CEMs must be installed. SO2 limits were also set in the settlement. The settlement is consistent with the City's short term goal of cleaning up the plant. In response to a question from Flint Webb, Bill Skrabak said that Mirant is still in litigation over the no trading provisions of the Virginia CAIR rule. Tom Ballou said that the goals and activities of the Virginia PM workgroup are still valid.

Tom Ballou said that the State Air Pollution Control Board approved the permit for the Wise Country power plant on June 25.

John Kinsman provided an update on litigation. The challenge to the 2006 annual PM standard will be heard in September, with a decision by the end of the year. The challenge to the 08 ozone standard may take a couple of years to resolve. John Kinsman also said that the courts recently ruled in Georgia to stop construction of a coal-fired power plant due to failure of the state to consider BACT for carbon dioxide emissions. This decision currently only applies in Georgia, but may be used as evidence in other cases. The EPA has released an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking input on possible options to regulate greenhouse gases.

Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet and Bill Skrabak discussed the need for wind speed data from the airports. Diane Franks suggested that a letter could be prepared to request the data in the desired format.

9. State and Local Air Agency Report

Cecily Beall reported for the District. The PM Infrastructure SIP hearing is expected in a couple of weeks. The District is working on climate change, including hiring a consultant to assist with the inventory and action plan. The OTC Phase II VOC regulations are still pending.

Tom Ballou reported for Virginia. The Climate Change Commission is breaking up into workgroups. The final report is due to the General Assembly by mid December. The OTC VOC rules have not yet been acted on due to the schedule of the Air Board.

Diane Franks reported for Maryland. The Distributed Generation rule passed the advisory council with no significant adverse comment. The opacity regulation is being revised. The draft Climate Change report is being finalized.

Bill Skrabak reported for the City of Alexandria. On May 10, the City held an EcoCity Summit. Subsequently, to meet one of the goals of the Summit, an environmental charter was adopted in June. The next step is to prepare an Environmental Action Plan over the next year. The City has already hired a consultant to prepare the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Virginia and COG may be able to help by providing data on criteria pollutants.

10. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm. The next TAC Meeting will be held on September 9, 2008.