

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 19, 2007
Room 3
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association
Deron Lovaas, Maryland Urban
George Gurley, Urban Protectors
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia
Bill Butler, Mirant
Lee Schoenecker, APA
Jessica Butts, District of Columbia

COG Staff:

Joan Rolfs, COG DEP

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Chair Jill Engel-Cox called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm and the Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes (July)

The October minutes were approved.

3. Staff report on MWAQC, TAC, CCSC

The draft PM_{2.5} SIP is going through technical review. PM_{2.5} travels to the lungs where oxygen exchange happens, so it is thought to have more of a health effect than PM₁₀. Draft SIP corrections from the states are due on November 28. The state of Virginia will not complete writing their attainment modeling report until November 30, but their results have already been seen so hopefully there will not be any issues. The draft SIP will go to MWAQC on December 12. If approved, public meetings will take place at the end of January.

The AQPAC briefly reviewed a draft of the executive summary of the SIP. Jill noted that the figure on page 1-7 makes it look like emissions for 2009 are rising. This is because 2009 is the year before CAIR goes into effect, when emissions will go down significantly. AQPAC suggests this should be explained in the text. Bill suggested that 2009 figures might not represent real emissions because they do not include results from EPA's CAIR modeling. Mirant is spending \$100M to put scrubbers on three of their plants; they have already begun doing so. This is

expected to reduce particle emissions by nearly 50% by 2010. It was also clarified that data for emissions from point and area sources comes from the states; emissions data for non-road and on-road sources comes from COG. Sources are not equal in how they contribute to PM_{2.5} emissions.

The EPA is beginning to conduct hot spot analyses for PM_{2.5} monitors with daily air quality exceedances. The City of Alexandria wants Virginia to do one near the Mirant plant for the current SIP. However, there is no guidance on how to do so from EPA yet, and no existing PM_{2.5} monitors are exceeding daily standards.

Voluntary control measures will be included in the SIP as “supplemental” instead of “no bundle” measures; they will be described but without much detail.

The next Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) will be on November 28. A greenhouse gas emissions inventory is being developed for the region. AQPAC will discuss its potential role and involvement with the CCSC at the December meeting.

4. Discussion of Public Meeting, November 1

There was surprise and disappointment about the low turnout at the recent public meeting. Reasons discussed were the meeting concept and the vast differences in PM_{2.5} knowledge amongst meeting participants; follow-through on getting the word out; a lack of clarity on the target audience; a lack of name recognition to draw interest; and the need to offer something tangible to people as a reward for attendance.

The conversation shifted to COG’s involvement in DC compared to VA and MD. Joan explained that COG is a regional entity; the states focus on their issues, and COG is supposed to focus on issues that are relevant to the entire region. For example, MWAQC has no legal jurisdiction over Mirant, so they do not discuss the Mirant plant; the same goes for the PEPCO plant. AQPAC members raised the point that power plants emit pollutants that affect the entire region, so they should be discussed by COG.

Numerous ideas for improving the next public meeting were shared such as making the issue political; having a subcommittee to articulate the target audience; organizing a meeting about climate change only, a conference for students (as suggested by a member of the public at the recent meeting), and/or an existing air quality law primer; and developing a link between global warming and the Chesapeake Bay. Jill proposed this be discussed further at a meeting early next year.

5. Report from Nominating Committee for 2008 AQPAC Officers

AQPAC is generally pleased with its credibility with elected officials and constructive discussions. As such, the nominating committee nominated Jill Engel-Cox as Chair for another year. Deron Lovaas, the current vice chair, would like to step down but the nominating committee was unable to find someone to accept the position. They will continue their investigation and report back to the AQPAC before the next meeting. Joan will see if COG staff can resume the taking of meeting notes. Votes will take place in December.

6. New Business

Rodney expressed an interest in seeing the AQPAC budget for 2006 and the budget for the recent Town Hall meeting.

7. Next Meeting – December 9

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.