

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**May 25, 2021, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Present:**

Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Alexander Paulos, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Courtney Grimes, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Dan Goldberg, George Washington University  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute  
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria  
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation  
Scott Fincham, Loudoun County  
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Virginia Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Andrew Dick, Electrify America

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Kanti Srikanth, COG/DTP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP  
Maia Davis, COG/DEP  
Mark Moran, COG/DTP  
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

**1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary**

Joseph Jakuta chaired and called the meeting to order at 10 am. The April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved without any changes. Kanti announced that Jeff King was appointed as the Director of Climate, Energy, and Air Program starting May 10, 2021.

**2. Briefing on Electrify America Projects**

Andrew Dick briefed members on projects currently being implemented by Electrify America. He also talked about projects currently under consideration. Electrify America is

the largest and most powerful open DC fast charging network in the US and is investing \$2 billion over 10 years in ZEV infrastructure, education, and access. The company expects to install or have under development about 800 charging stations with about 3,500 ultra-fast chargers by December 2021. Electrify America is implementing Cycle 2 and planning for Cycle 3 investments and continues to invest in the metro Washington region.

### **3. Ozone Season Summary**

Sunil briefed members on the current ozone season air quality data. No ozone or PM2.5 exceedance has been observed in the Washington region in the season as of May 11<sup>th</sup>. Ozone and PM2.5 levels were overall higher in March and April of 2021 compared to same months in 2020. Warmer and drier than normal weather might have contributed towards higher pollutant levels this year. Increased emissions from different sources this year might also have played a role.

### **4. 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP Planning**

Kanti talked about the 2015 ozone NAAQS planning agreement document, which was developed by the three state air agencies. Tom said that VDEQ is in favor of the revised document and voluntary bump-up. Jim said that VDOT is also in favor of the revised document. Kanti said the regardless of the outcome of the above document, RFP and attainment SIP development will continue. Sunil talked about the updated schedule for developing those SIPs. Jane asked if the attainment year for demonstrating transportation conformity purposes should be considered 2023 or 2024 as the actual attainment date is August 3, 2024. Sunil said that question would be added to the list of questions being developed for EPA regarding the RFP and attainment SIP development.

### **5. Draft MWAQC FY2021-2022 Work Program & Budget**

Jen Desimone discussed the draft MWAQC FY2021-2022 work program & budget for the Washington region. She described the revision made to the document regarding EPA only accepting voluntary bump-up request if the region does not attain by October 2021. Kanti asked members if this revision was acceptable. Kari Snyder said that she is still waiting to hear back from the higher management in MDOT on that issue.

### **6. Emission Controls from Peaking Units on High Electricity Demand Days**

Tad Aburn discussed Maryland's Peak Ozone Day Partnership program, which started in 2017 around the Baltimore area. The monitoring attainment test focuses on peak ozone days. Peak days for ozone happen when the weather is hot. As a result, EGU units tend to run at high capacities emitting most NOx emission on those days. the most clean and less clean units

Shaving the ozone peaks will reduce risk, help us towards attainment.

Besides regional transport, high emissions locally in the Washington region is responsible for all ozone exceedances. This can be best addressed by local measures on high emitting "peak day" emission sources. This program builds from the forecasting program. MDE sends partners multi-day advance warning notice and a Call To Action Notice for the next day when ozone levels are expected to exceed the current ozone standard. For this program, top 30 or 40 peak day emitters need to be identified in the region.

In addition, MDE also asks Curtailment Service Providers to not advise clients to perform any type of testing for on-site generators or operate on-site generators unless there is a true energy emergency. MDE also advises clients to take any other reasonable actions that can be

performed to reduce NOx emissions. CSPs are asked to report to MDE after each call-to-action notice.

Communication materials for notices mentioned above have already been developed for Baltimore, which could be used for the Washington region.

Tad expressed hope that this program will be adopted regionally. Tom said that this is currently beyond VDEQ's ability but could be considered in the future. Joseph said that he would talk to Kelly about it. Tad said that it could also be used as an educational tool. Kanti said that this could be used as a voluntary measure. Tad said that this program is more about attainment.

## **7. 2021 State of the Air Report**

Sunil Kumar discussed the 2021 State of the Air report for the Washington region published by the American Lung Association. ALA provides the status of the air quality for the whole country every year. It also provides weighted scores and grades for each county and reports for top 25 most polluted cities for ozone and PM2.5 (24-hour & annual). ALA used number of code orange and above days and factors assigned by ALA to those days instead of the Design Value to calculate Scores/Grades/Ranks for Ozone & 24-Hour PM2.5 for cities. ALA used Design Value to assign grades/ranks for Annual PM2.5 for cities. EPA uses Design Value for evaluating attainment status for ozone and PM2.5 standards for an area. The Washington region is at the 22<sup>nd</sup> position in the list of top 25 most polluted cities for ozone whereas it did not figure in such list for PM2.5 pollution.

## **8. State & Local Updates**

There were no updates.

The conference call ended at 12:00 pm.