

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
June 8, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Present:

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
Demetra McBride, Arlington County
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation
Norman Whitaker, Virginia Department of Transportation
Samuel Gaber, Fairfax County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Virginia Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Mary Travaglini, Organic Lawn and Landscape, Montgomery County

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
Erin Morrow, 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 May 11th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil briefed members on the current ozone season air quality data. There were exceedances of the 2015 ozone standard. No PM_{2.5} exceedance was observed as of that date. Ozone and PM_{2.5} levels were overall higher in March May 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. Joseph requested COG staff to include the number of exceedances for each ozone monitor in

slide 17.

3. 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP Planning

Sunil briefed members on a list of questions that were developed in association with state air agencies and subsequently sent to EPA regarding RFP and attainment SIPs for the Washington region for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. Jeff King described the process, timeline for development of various types of control measures needed as part of the SIP. He also mentioned that a master list of measures will be developed. A priority list will be developed out of those measures using proper prioritization criteria. A list of Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM), voluntary measures, contingency measures, and Weight of Evidence will also be developed.

Virginia Burke said that Maryland does not intend to join the District and Virginia in sending a letter to EPA requesting voluntary bump up. Tom Ballou said that Virginia did not send the letter yet as it was waiting for Maryland's decision on this. He said that Virginia will focus on the RFP and attainment SIPs.

Jim Ponticello asked if existing measures can be used as control measures. Sunil said that in the past the Washington region always included existing measures as control measures in its SIPs if those measures keep on providing benefits.

Joseph Jakuta informed the group that he along with Doris will be co-chairing the control measures group.

4. Update on EPA Rules

Sunil briefed members on a recent EPA interim final rule to rescind the 2020 Benefit-Cost rule and the NHTSA proposal to withdraw the SAFE 1 rule that preempted state GHG Standards and ZEV mandates. EPA conducted a comprehensive review of the Benefit-Cost Rule and concluded that the rule should be rescinded in its entirety for following reasons.

- The Benefit-Cost Rule imposed broad restrictions and requirements on when and how the Agency must conduct benefit-cost analyses (BCA) for CAA rulemakings without explaining why those requirements were needed.
- The rule was not necessary to carry out the CAA because EPA already prepares a BCA for CAA rules that warrant such analysis.
- The rule limited the EPA's ability to rely on the best available science.
- The rule's requirements invited net benefit calculations in regulatory preambles that are misleading and inconsistent with economic best practices.
- The rule did not reconcile its provision that EPA consider the required BCAs with the substantive mandates of the Clean Air Act.
- The pre-existing and ongoing administrative process provides for ample consistency and transparency.

On April 28, 2021, EPA published a Notice of Reconsideration on whether the decision to withdraw portions of California's 2013 Advanced Clean Cars program waiver was a valid and appropriate exercise of the Agency's authority. This Notice of Reconsideration seeks comment on several issues in SAFE-1 including:

- Whether it was proper for EPA to reconsider a previously issued CAA waiver;
- Whether EPA's action to withdraw California's waiver in consideration of EPCA preemption was appropriate;

- Whether the interpretation of CAA section 209(b)(1)(B) presented in SAFE-1 as another reason for withdrawing California's waiver was appropriate; and
- Whether EPA's interpretation in SAFE-1 of section 177 of the CAA that allows States to adopt California motor vehicle emission standards, but not California's GHG standards, was appropriate.
- If EPA determines that SAFE-1 was inappropriate and rescinds that action in a final determination, then the ZEV mandate and GHG emission standards within the ACC program would become effective.

Joseph informed the group that DOEE plans to send a comment letter for the SAFE-1 rule.

5. Lawn Mower Exchange Initiative

Mary Travaglini of Organic Lawn and Landscape, Montgomery County briefed members on an initiative to exchange gas lawn mowers with electric ones in the Montgomery county. The inaugural 2022 GO ELECTRIC event will be held on March 19, 2022. The county's Department of Environmental Protection is working with partner agencies, organizations, and businesses to bring residents the opportunity to GO ELECTRIC. The event will feature vendors who sell landscape equipment, electric cars, LEDs and ENERGY STAR® appliances, as well as solar installers all who help residents switch to more energy efficient options.

The event will be held outdoors at a location to be determined, adjacent to an available open-air covered garage in case of foul weather. Capacity will be limited throughout the event based on County health guidelines at the time.

In addition to demonstrations of the energy efficient electric equipment and hearing from dynamic speakers, the event will include incentives for guests including:

- An electric landscape equipment exchange: people and companies who recycle or exchange their gas-powered landscape tools to receive rebates and/or steep discounts from vendors to purchase electric equipment; folks who don't have tools to exchange will also receive some discounted rates on electric equipment. (Residents with income limits or small/minority owned businesses who register in advance will be provided additional rebates contingent on funding)
- An appliance recycling event: Pepco (to be determined) will mail residents rebates who recycle working refrigerators, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers
- A light bulb exchange – residents can swap out their CFLs and/or incandescent bulbs for free LED light bulbs
- A resource fair: residents receive information about home energy audits, tours of County electric buses and cars, home car chargers, electric bikes, solar options, and more information about electrification
- Discounts, incentives, and raffles

Jeff said that he is working with Kanti on designing a pilot program on electric vehicles and looks forward to working with the county.

6. State & Local Updates

There were no updates for Maryland and Virginia. The District has scheduled the NOx RACT public hearing date. The public comment period for the regional haze SIP ended with one positive comment received.

The conference call ended at 11:30 am.