



AIR CURRENTS

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Newsletter (Winter 2007)

MWAQC Elects Nancy Floreen as Chair

Nancy Floreen, council member at-large, Montgomery County, was elected as the 2007 Chair of MWAQC at the December 13 meeting. Ms. Floreen has served on MWAQC since January 2003. She served as Vice Chair for the past two years. Ms. Floreen was elected to the Montgomery County Council in 2002. She previously served on the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County.



Nancy Floreen

In December MWAQC also elected three Vice Chairs: Dave Snyder, council member, City of Falls Church; Leta Mach, council member, City of Greenbelt; and Phil Mendelson, council member, District of Columbia.

INSIDE	
Maryland Considers Adoption of California Emissions Standards	2
Climate Change Forum	3
MWAQC Appoints New Stakeholders	4
Clean Air Partners Celebrate 10 Year Anniversary	4
Air Quality Report	5
IAQC Update	5
AQPAC Town Meeting	6
Local Governments Air Clean-Up Initiative	6
Washington Region Adopts Use of Biodiesel	7
Air Quality Links/MWAQC Schedule	8

Court Sends 8-Hour Ozone Rule back to EPA

On December 21, 2006, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that EPA's 8-hour ozone implementation rule treats ozone nonattainment areas unequally and allows "backsliding" by nonattainment areas for the 1-hour standard. The court remanded the 2004 Rule back to EPA.

The metropolitan Washington region/nonattainment area, while not affected by the first issue regarding unequal treatment, could be affected by the court's decision relating to backsliding. EPA believes there should be no weakening of controls when an air quality standard is made more stringent.

The Court stated that areas classified as nonattainment under the one-hour ozone standard, such as the Washington region, are not allowed to remove the controls such as penalties, rate of progress milestones, or contingency plans that were part of their one-hour ozone SIP.

(Continued on Page 2)



(Ozone Rule, continued from Page 1)

The Court gave two examples of possible backsliding that could affect the Washington region. One is New Source Review (NSR), a permitting process for major facilities such as power plants that restricts major modifications and new construction based on an area's air quality classification. Another example given by the court affects the Section 185 penalty required for Severe nonattainment areas.

Under the 1-hour ozone standard, which the 2004 Rule revoked effective in June 2005, the Washington region was classified as a "Severe" nonattainment area and the states were required to adopt NSR permitting thresholds that expanded the number of facilities regulated. A facility with the ability to emit 25 tons or more became regulated under this provision. With the new 8-hour ozone classification of "Moderate," however, the number of facilities could be reduced to those with the ability to emit 100 tons or more.

EPA's response to the court's decision regarding NSR permits and Section 185 fee penalties will determine whether provisions from the region's 1-hour ozone "Severe Area" SIP are continued in the 8-hour ozone SIP.

EPA has until the end of March to file a motion for reconsideration. The impact of EPA's response to the court decision will not be known for several months.

Maryland and District Consider Legislation to Adopt California Emissions Standards

Legislation has been introduced in Maryland and in the District to require adoption of the California Low Emission Vehicle standards, also known as CAL LEV II (adopted 2004). The Clean Air Act provides authority for California to adopt more stringent motor vehicle emission standards than the federal government and authorizes states to opt into the California program.

Maryland State Senator Pinsky joined by 22 senators introduced the legislation in Maryland and Governor O'Malley has urged its adoption. In the District, Councilmember Phil Mendelson, a three-time chair of MWAQC, introduced similar legislation this month. If adopted, automobile manufacturers will be required to meet lower emission standards for all vehicles sold in Maryland and the District effective two years after enacted. CAL LEV II will require reductions in VOC, NOx and greenhouse gas emissions.

Last year automobile manufacturers and dealers filed suit to block CAL LEV II. A U.S. District judge recently ordered the California Air Resources Board to delay enforcing tailpipe-emission standards for greenhouse gases. The case had been scheduled to go to trial Jan. 30. The judge plans to delay until the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a related global warming case.

To date, ten states have opted into the rigid California standards. States that have adopted CAL LEV II include Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Pennsylvania, Oregon, and Washington.



Forum Explores Solutions to Climate Change

COG's Regional Climate Change Staff Roundtable brought together more than 75 environmental planners, local government executive representatives and other policy makers to begin plans for a regional climate change agenda.

According to the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), 2006 was the warmest year in U.S. history. Globally, the warm seasons are growing longer. Climate change has the potential to impact our region in a number of important ways, including coastal zone flooding, heat waves and other dangerous weather events, and changes in precipitation patterns.

The half-day forum focused on programs in the metropolitan Washington region that could contribute to solutions to climate change, often referred to as global warming. Speakers from the District of Columbia and Arlington, Fairfax and Montgomery counties discussed measures currently underway to lessen the impacts of climate change such as green building and energy efficiency measures. They were joined by representatives of national programs including the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign, U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection

Agreement, ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, Energy and Environment Study Institute (EESI), the Climate Change Institute and Friends of the Earth.

Major consensuses throughout the speakers seem to be that an effective climate change initiative should include a 3-pronged approach:

interest include establishing consistent regional inventories and reduction targets, leveraging program resources, and initiating a focus on balancing the region's economic growth with its need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the long term.



Seated from left to right: Leta Mach, Paivi Spoon and Nancy Floreen

transportation green fleet, energy efficiency and renewable energy. COG is currently working on plans to address the concerns raised during the discussion, which may include the development of a regional conference later this year with a broader audience -- the private sector, elected officials, and others. Areas of potential

For more details on the roundtable, including the agenda and presentations you may contact George Nichols by phone at 202-962-3355 or by email at gnichols@mwkog.org.

This year marks the 10-Year Anniversary of Clean Air Partners

Clean Air Partners was established in 1997 by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC). The Memorandum of Understanding between COG and BMC to create Clean Air Partners was signed at a meeting in Bowie, Maryland at the Belair Mansion. Clean Air Partners will hold a re-signing ceremony at the Belair Mansion in June to celebrate their anniversary. During the ceremony, COG and BMC will reaffirm their original commitment and recognize its founding members.

During the last decade, Clean Air Partners has educated the public about the health effects of air pollution and motivated employers and individuals to take voluntary actions to improve air quality in the Baltimore-Washington region. In the past year, the organization has taken on new projects, such as developing a Business Roundtable, creating an air quality science curriculum for sixth grade students and redesigning its web site.

Clean Air Partners' marketing consult unveiled a new logo that will be used on materials developed this year, which include brochures, membership

packets, and stationary sets.

Clean Air Partners contracted with Sonoma Technology to redesign its web site. The new web site will be launched in May and include custom real-time



Kim Greer, Chair, Clean Air Partners
Director of Corporate Communications, Washington Gas

data, historical data, and forecast displays. An AirAlert system will be

developed; businesses and individuals can sign-up to automatically receive e-mail based forecast and unhealthy air notifications.

Clean Air Partners is working with Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on pollution prevention program for vehicle repair facilities. Clean Air Partners will draft a survey and accompany DEP representatives on meetings with shop owners. For further information about Clean Air Partners, check the web site at Cleanairpartners.net or call Jen Desimone, at 202-962-3360.

MWAQC Appoints New Stakeholders

Stanley Tracey, Acting Director for the D.C. Department of Environment, and Chairman of MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), appointed four Stakeholders in January. The Technical Advisory Committee provides MWAQC with analysis and recommendations for the air quality plan. Stakeholders are nonvoting members of the Technical Advisory Committee. They serve until the end of the calendar year.

2007 Stakeholders

Flint Webb

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Stakeholder, 2005 and 2006.

Bob Stroik, Air Quality Specialist, *National Park Service, National Capital Region*

Mr. Stroik is a new candidate from the National Park Service. He operates the webcam at the Netherland Carillon and the DC IMPROVE monitoring site.

Ken Von Schaumburg

Squire Sanders

Mr. Von Schaumburg's legal practice focuses on regulatory counseling, environmental litigation and government policy advocacy.

John Kinsman, Director of Air Quality Programs

Edison Electric Institute

Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association of United States shareholder-owned electric companies, international affiliates, and industry associates worldwide.

IAQC Update



Maryland and District of Columbia representatives on the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC) have changed this year as a result of elections in November 2006. The IAQC is composed of the secretaries of the environment and transportation for Maryland, Virginia and the District.

In Maryland, Governor O'Malley appointed Shari Wilson as Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment and John Porcari, Secretary of Maryland Department of Transportation. Both Ms. Wilson and Mr. Porcari previously served in the Glendenning administration.

Mayor Adrian Fenty appointed Corey Buffo as Interim Director, Department of the Environment and Emeka Moneme, as Acting Director of the District Department of Transportation.

Virginia's representatives continuing on the IAQC in 2007 are Pierce Homer, Secretary of Transportation and Preston Bryant, Secretary of Natural Resources.

The Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC) was created in 2004 to transmit air quality planning proposals and materials to MWAQC for review and consideration. MWAQC transmits proposed plans and reports to the IAQC for submittal by the Governors and the Mayor to EPA. IAQC is a cabinet-level collaboration between the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2006 Ozone Season: Progress is Being Made

A great deal of progress has been made in improving the air quality in the Washington area. Code red days are quickly becoming a thing of the past, and recent trends are showing steady improvement toward meeting the 8-hour ozone standard. Below is a bar chart shows the air pollution color code for each day of last summer. Orange, red and purple colors indicate that the health standard has been exceeded. The 2006 ozone season compared favorably with past ozone seasons. Although the summer of 2006 was unusually hot, the region had the same number of unhealthy days for ozone as the previous year, 2005, which was much cooler.

"Code red days are quickly becoming a thing of the past..."

MAY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	61	73	59	71	69	64
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
52	34	54	72	45	50	56
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
46	46	42	53	55	43	57
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
56	47	36	60	67	56	56
28	29	30	31			
76	88	102	102			

JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				98	72	42
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
55	46	70	72	76	63	55
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
56	49	60	51	55	81	91
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
90	77	73	91	83	72	62
25	26	27	28	29	30	
38	23	24	79	76	68	

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
						72
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
69	80	84	50	47	47	64
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
60	71	86	71	44	71	54
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
58	116	125	100	81	84	56
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
51	68	62	69	79	42	58
30	31					
67	86					

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		100	83	78	67	75
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
88	83	73	68	52	58	57
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
76	70	60	85	82	86	55
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
56	67	83	90	86	88	82
27	28	29	30	31		
58	70	63	26	33		

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					31	25
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
42	45	35	46	56	70	66
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
69	29	38	28	30	37	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Local Governments Make Air Clean-Up a Priority

Local governments are important partners in the effort to clean up the air. In the 2004 regional air quality plan, local governments contributed several innovative programs that have further reduced pollution in the past couple of years. The Local Government Initiatives in the 2004 air quality plan included:

- Wind Energy Purchases
- Use of Low-VOC Paints
- Low-emission Vehicle Purchases
- Diesel Retrofits

Local governments are building on their 2004 commitments to clean the air by adopting new programs for the air quality plan being developed this year. The new local government initiatives include:

- Purchase of Alternative Energy (wind, solar). Several counties are purchasing up to 15% of their energy needs through wind
- Retrofit of School and Transit Buses. Diesel buses are being "retrofitted" to reduce harmful particle pollution and NOx emissions
- Energy Efficiency Projects. Jurisdictions are contracting to improve energy efficiency in buildings and facilities.
- LED Traffic Signal Retrofits. Light emitting diodes use 70 % less energy than the traditional traffic light
- Tree Planting Initiatives. Planting trees and

conserving urban tree canopy can help to reduce urban heat islands.

- Episodic Actions (code orange/red days). Examples include preventive actions on the days when high ozone concentrations are forecast, such as no lawn moving, delayed filling of gas tanks, and increased carpooling and teleworking.

These are significant local government efforts to improve air quality in the Washington region. Local governments will formally commit to implement many of these programs in the upcoming State Implementation Plan (SIP) to meet the 8-hour ozone standard.



AQPAC Hosts Air Quality Town Meeting

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) hosted a meeting in in October to discuss ways to improve the region's air quality. Panelists included: **Terry Hargrove**, American Lung Association of Virginia; **Michael Powell**, an expert in electrical energy with the Maryland law firm of Gordon Feinblatt; **Debra Jacobson**, Professorial Lecturer in Energy Law, The George Washington University Law School, and expert in renewable energy and energy efficiency; and **Ron Kirby**, Director of Transportation, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. **Jill Engel-Cox**, Chair, AQPAC, welcomed the fifty attendees, including several high school students.

Phil Mendelson, 2006 chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), opened the meeting with a brief overview of air quality in the Washington region and an explanation of MWAQC's responsibilities for planning to improve the air. He mentioned the "Gold Book" of innovative measures, such as wind energy purchases, retrofit of diesel

buses and use of less polluting paints, that have the potential to reduce pollution in the future.

Several members of the audience suggested ideas and programs for improving the air and the environment. Jim Davis, Mt. Vernon Council, said sustainable development, sustainable land use and



Continued on page 7

Town Hall Meeting, continued from page 6

transportation should be considered as a long term approach. Rodney Livingston, AQPAC member, supported the concepts mentioned by various audience participants including:

- Purchase cleaner fleets for government jurisdictions
- More teleworking Improve synchronization of traffic controls
- Reduce emissions from old power plants (Potomac River Power Plant)
- Increase tree cover in urban areas
- Include health costs when looking at the economics of clean air
- Urge the region to consider a plan to address CO2 and climate change
- Make large scale purchases of renewable energy
- Set regional standards for a renewable energy portfolio
- Promote bus travel through "free bus ride" campaigns
- Support smart growth

AQPAC Openings

AQPAC has several membership openings to represent the residents of rural Virginia, urban Virginia, rural Maryland, and the District of Columbia, as well as openings to represent a business/industry and an environmental/health organization. If you're interested in local air quality issues and want to have a voice in the local policy process, we would be interested in hearing from you. Please contact the AQPAC Chair, Jill Engel-Cox, at jengelc1@umbc.edu.

Washington Region Tests Biodiesel

Recently biodiesel is receiving much attention because it is a renewable energy source produced domestically that offers independence from foreign oil and provides environmental benefits. Arlington County is using biodiesel for its fleet.

Emissions benefits of ULSD and biodiesel are comparable; both fuels offer environmental benefits for fine particles, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and hydrocabons. As for concerns about greater NOx emissions from biodiesel, tests performed by EPA, NREL, the Navy and Texas give mixed results. EPA (2003) tests on show a range of impacts on NOx emissions, from a negative 2% to plus 2% increase. NREL tests in 2006 found no net impact on NOx emissions. The tests used of B20, a common blend of biodiesel that contains 20 percent biodiesel blended with 80 percent diesel. It appears that further research is needed to determine the impact on NOx emissions from biodiesel use.



Definitions

ULSD

In 2004 EPA adopted a rule ("Tier 2") requiring diesel fuel to meet emissions standards for diesel engines manufactured after January 1, 2007. The new diesel fuel is called Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) and must be used in 2007 and later diesel engines. ULSD has less than 15 ppm of sulfur, compared to conventional diesel with 500 ppm of sulfur. The new ULSD became widely available in the Washington region in July 2006. WMATA was an early purchaser of ULSD, purchasing it in 2003 before it was widely available.

Biodiesel

Biodiesel is an alternative to ULSD. Biodiesel is a clean-burning fuel containing no sulfur compounds. It is produced from a number of renewable sources including soybean oil, rapeseed oil, animal fats, and recycled cooking oil. The most common form of biodiesel is derived from virgin soybean oil.

MWAQC Role

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is the entity certified by the mayor of the District of Columbia and the governors of Maryland and Virginia to prepare air quality plan for the DC-MD-VA Metropolitan Statistical Area under Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

In executing its responsibilities, MWAQC coordinates air quality planning activities with the states and the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC), COG member local governments, other external committees, and the Transportation Planning Board; reviews policies; resolves policy differences; and adopts an air quality plan for transmittal to the IAQC and District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia for submittal to EPA.

2007 MWAQC Meeting Schedule

COG Board Room, 3rd Floor
12 p.m.— 2 p.m.

February 28, 2007	May 23, 2007	September 26, 2007
March 15, 2007	June 27, 2007	October 24, 2007
April 25, 2007	July 25, 2007	November 28, 2007
		December 12, 2007

Air Quality Links

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

<http://www.air-watch.net>

<http://www.cleanairpartners.net>

<http://www.epa.gov>

<http://www.airnow.gov>

<http://www.airquality.dc.gov>

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/air>

<http://www.deq.state.va.us/ozone>

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