

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**  
**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**  
**(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF March 22, 2006 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Hon. Joy Austin-Lane, Takoma Park  
John Britton, City of Rockville  
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County  
Rick Canizales, Prince William County  
Hon. Redella S. Del Pepper, Alexandria  
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC  
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County  
Victoria Greenfield, Charles County  
Hon. T. Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County  
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia City Council, MWAQC Chair  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County  
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Hon. Mick Staton, Loudoun County  
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Donald Wambsgans, District of Columbia Department of Environment  
Hon. Patrice Winter, City of Fairfax

**Others Present:**

Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Julie Crenshaw, AQPAC  
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Environmental Health Services  
Maurice Keys, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Mike Kiss, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Mary Richmond, Montgomery County  
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria  
Kanathur Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Rama Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Environment  
Stanley Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Environment  
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County  
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners  
James Wilson, E.H. Pechan and Associates  
Carl Winstead, Fairfax County Department of Transportation

**Staff:**

Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP

Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP  
Mike Clifford, COG/TPB

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP  
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

Ron Kirby, COG/DTP  
Wendy Klancher, COG/DTP  
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP

## **1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period**

Chairman Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. One speaker, Julie Crenshaw, spoke during the public comment period. Ms. Crenshaw said that a press conference was held yesterday because of concerns that 17 of 21 pages of a recent report from Mirant regarding TRONA injection at the Potomac River Generating Station were redacted. She said studies have been prepared that suggest that the Potomac River Generating Station causes air quality problems in Virginia, with impacts in Washington, DC and Maryland as well. She referred to a letter prepared by AQPAC to MWAQC seeking electric reliability without the type of environmental concerns posed by the Mirant facility. She also presented a document containing comments from the City Attorney for Alexandria to the local citizen's association. One important concern is that there is no indication that the Mirant study evaluates the potential PM<sub>2.5</sub> impacts of TRONA injection, which could be significant. She said that when the new transmission lines into the region are installed, the region will no longer need this facility for electric reliability.

## **2. Approval of Minutes, Announcements**

Mr. Mendelson called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the February 22, 2006 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Mendelson briefly provided information on the status of the multipollutant bills and regulations discussed last month. He said that in Virginia, the Clean Smokestacks bill, HB1055, was passed unanimously by both the House and the Senate. In Maryland, the Air Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC) approved the Clean Power Rule on March 13. The Healthy Air Act legislation (SB154) passed the Senate on March 16 in an amended version. The latest versions of the Clean Smokestacks bill, the Healthy Air Act, and the Clean Power Rule are posted on the COG website.

Mr. Mendelson provided a brief update on the Potomac River Power Plant. Since last month when Mike Dowd, Virginia DEQ, briefed MWAQC about the status of the plant, DEQ has filed a request for rehearing with the Department of Energy. The FAA recently approved higher stacks at the Power Plant. Mirant has not announced a decision to build higher stacks.

Mr. Mendelson presented a plaque to Dana Kauffman, Supervisor, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, for his leadership of MWAQC this past year. Dana has been a member of MWAQC since 2000, he chaired the Technical Advisory Committee in 2004, and chaired MWAQC last year. On behalf of MWAQC, Mr. Mendelson thanked Mr. Kauffman for his leadership on behalf of air quality in the region.

Mr. Mendelson described the agenda for the meeting. He said there will be briefings on the SIP's foundation: attainment modeling, emissions inventories and control strategies. There are two action items: a vote on a comment letter to the Transportation Planning Board about a scope of work for future conformity determinations, and a vote on the proposed FY2007 MWAQC Work Program and Budget. The vote on the budget is a Matter of Major Concern, according to the

MWAQC bylaws, and it requires the majority approval of representatives in attendance from each state's membership.

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee**

Mr. Sydnor reported on the activities of the TAC. He referred members to the one page summary of relevant policy issues. He said that the most important item being considered by the TAC is the attainment modeling effort. Work to complete the emission inventories and the Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) calculations is on-going. Decisions of the OTC about regional measures will be announced in June. The TAC will need to decide which of the OTC regional measures should be adopted in the Washington, DC region. The TAC is also working to develop preliminary control strategies that can be evaluated through the modeling process. Mobile source budgets and regional strategies will need to be coordinated with the IAQC.

#### **B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee**

Ms. Engel-Cox, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported on a recent meeting. She said that AQPAC is tracking the progress of legislation and regulations in Virginia and Maryland and is pleased with the progress. She asked for information on the District of Columbia's initiatives, including recently announced highway and stadium construction projects. AQPAC received a briefing on the potential Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) and will want further information in the future. She said AQPAC sent a letter to TAC with questions regarding AQPAC member representation on TAC. She announced that there are several openings for new members of the AQPAC.

#### **C. Report of the Clean Air Partners**

Ms. West, Clean Air Partners (CAP) managing director, reported. CAP hosted focus groups with participants of the Air Quality Action Day (AQAD) program. The purpose was to assess the level of activity and understand the effect of EPA's new standards on levels of participation. The groups also considered various options related to what criteria are used to call an Air Quality Action day. The options considered included calling AQADs on days that are forecasted to be code orange; on multi-day episodes; or dropping the use of AQADs all together and simply forecasting the color code and recommending appropriate actions. The attendees in Washington, DC and Baltimore had a strong preference for dropping the use of the term Air Quality Action Day and strengthening the public health messages and call for action. The CAP Board of Directors were briefed on these results and agreed to move forward with the recommended changes.

CAP participated in a Printing Industry of Northern Virginia (PIVA) conference in Fairfax on March 7. In the coming months, CAP will continue to work with the printing industry in Virginia to assess support for a voluntary episodic program to reduce emissions from this source sector. CAP is also working with a consultant on a draft air quality education curriculum initiative which may be pilot tested in Northern Virginia throughout the remainder of the year.

CAP is working on its work program and budget, which will be presented to the CAP Executive Committee in April.

Phil Mendelson and Jill Engel-Cox asked about the public messages associated with different air quality levels. Harriet West said that the message will be based on the color code. There will be no change in the forecasting criteria. The message will include information on actions the public should take to reduce emissions and protect public health. Messages will be for both PM and ozone.

#### **D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council**

Mr. Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment, reported. The IAQC has not met since November. The most recent action was sending the annual letter to MWAQC. IAQC continues to work with COG staff on the budget. The process of IAQC working with the MWAQC Executive Committee and COG staff has been positive. While the IAQC has not met, there has been significant effort to address transport. At the special OTC meeting on February 22, the members agreed to move forward on model rule development in a number of areas. The OTC will take action on these initiatives in June. In addition, given the long term need for broad scale regional programs to reduce emissions, the OTC has begun to work closely with states in the mid-west and Texas on a super-regional effort called the State Collaborative.

#### **4. SIP Schedule: Status**

Joan Rohlf's reported on the SIP schedule. She said that due to a delay in release of EPA guidance, the schedule has been moved back by 2-3 months. Final inventories and estimates of emission reduction requirements should be completed by May. Modeling of future control scenarios should proceed through early summer. Work on developing weight of evidence will continue through August. The SIP should be ready for MWAQC in October, with a public comment period in October/November, and approval for submittal to IAQC in December/January. The region will know if state legislatures will need to delegate new authority by September. New mobile budgets should be developed by June through August.

#### **5. Attainment Modeling: Status Report**

Mike Kiss presented preliminary attainment modeling results using the EPA-approved CMAQ model. The goal of attainment modeling is to evaluate strategies that may enable the region to attain the 8-hour ozone standard. Weight of evidence will also be required as part of the attainment demonstration.

The OTC has completed its 2009 future base case model runs. In addition, Virginia DEQ has completed 2 adjusted future base case scenarios. OTC is modeling the entire ozone season. The Virginia DEQ runs were for June 6 to August 16 to shorten run times. The DEQ time period does capture all of the major meteorological conditions affecting pollution episodes.

The OTC 2009 base case runs were based in part on the EPA Integrated Planning Model (IPM) projections, which may be overly optimistic regarding controls on power plants. The Virginia DEQ adjusted case #1 assumed no new EGU controls. Emissions for 2009 were derived by applying a growth rate to 2002 emissions. The results of this scenario can be compared to the OTC 2009 base case results to assess the range of benefits of the anticipated EGU controls under CAIR. The Virginia DEQ adjusted case #2 assumed new EGU controls as a result of phase II of the NOx SIP call, the Maryland Clean Power Rule, and the D.C. and Virginia CAIR rules. Emissions in adjusted case #2 were higher than emissions in the OTC future base case because the EPA projections of EGU controls were less conservative than the state-level assessment.

Mike Kiss presented the modeling results in terms of impact on design values for the monitors in the region. He presented results for the OTC future base case and the Virginia DEQ adjusted case runs. A comparison of results for the full season and the June 6 to August 16 runs indicates that the shortened runs provide results that are comparable to the full season. All of the 2009 future case runs indicate that most of the monitors in the region will have design values below the 85 ppb threshold, but that there will still be several monitors with modeled exceedances of the NAAQS (e.g., Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince George's Equestrian Center monitors).

Mike Kiss presented results of several sensitivity analyses conducted as part of the ASIP process. Results suggest that significant additional reductions of emissions from low-level NO<sub>x</sub> sources may have the greatest impact on reducing ozone concentrations in the region. Air quality benefits are further enhanced if a larger region adopts such a low-level NO<sub>x</sub> emission reduction strategy.

ASIP has also modeled design values for the Washington region for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. Preliminary results suggest that the On-the-Books and On-the-Way (OTB/OTW) measures may enable the region to attain the standard by 2010.

Mike Kiss said that future control case scenarios need to be developed and may have to be evaluated several times as part of an iterative process to identify the most effective control strategy. He also said that an approach for handling weight of evidence will need to be developed. EPA may place more emphasis on weight of evidence in the 8-hour ozone SIP.

Tad Aburn said that the results are positive and show that the existing controls will be effective at moving the region closer to attainment. The remaining reductions may be more difficult to achieve.

In response to questions, Mike Kiss said that the final modeling runs will cover the full ozone season. Phil Mendelson expressed concern about the fact that attainment in 2009 will also be based on monitored exceedances in 2007 and 2008, and that control measures may not yet be in place. Mike Kiss said that 2007 is not explicitly covered in the model, but that modeling is based on the 2002 meteorological conditions which were "worst-case." A rough estimate of the reductions need to achieve the NAAQS is that 40 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> reductions will reduce ozone concentrations by about 1 ppb.

## **6. Control Measure Strategy: Status Report**

Jeff King provided an update on work to identify and advance potential new control measures for the 8-hour SIP. He also provided an update on work to evaluate Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM) for the region.

The TAC Control Measures Workgroup has met monthly since late 2004. The workgroup developed a long master list of measures and from that list has chosen a variety of measures that could be considered priorities for further development. As was done for the 1-hour ozone SIP, the workgroup is also attempting to advance voluntary measures through a bundling concept. EPA guidance allows the region to commit to reductions for an overall bundle of voluntary measures leaving flexibility in how to implement individual measures in the bundle. The Washington, DC region is also part of the larger Ozone Transport Region (OTR). The Ozone Transport

Commission (OTC) is charged with identifying programs to reduce emissions and improve air quality across the OTR. Measures advanced by the OTC several years ago became key parts of the 1-hour SIP. The OTC is again in the process of identifying broad regional measures that could be adopted in the DC region to help meet the 8-hour standard. The OTC priority measures are: 1) Consumer Products Phase II rules, 2) Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings Phase II rules, and 3) an initiative to reprogram or reflash emission control defeat devices in certain heavy duty trucks. The OTC generally supports diesel emission reduction efforts through the Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative. The OTC has listed another 15 or so measures where further work is required before model rules can be developed. All of the applicable measures being considered by the OTC are contained in control measure lists for the Washington, DC region.

Jeff King provided a list of potential priority measures, the associated innovative measures bundle, and a summary of recent actions of the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC). He said that there will be a Control Measures Workgroup call to focus on the measures in these lists and to decide on which control strategies to advance for further future control case attainment modeling. Work is also ongoing with the Local Government Initiatives Subcommittee chaired by Mary Richmond to identify which measures may be feasible for the innovative measures bundle.

Mr. King also provided an update on work to evaluate Reasonably Available Control Measures for the region. The workgroup developed criteria to screen all of the measures on our master list to determine whether any could be considered RACM. Using the criteria and the master list, the control measures workgroup is meeting on a weekly basis to agree to the evaluation for each measure.

## **7. Comment Letter: Conformity Scope of Work**

Jeff King presented a draft MWAQC comment letter for MWAQC approval for sending to the TPB. The letter addresses the TPB draft conformity scope of work for the 2006 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). The focus is on the work scope and schedule for demonstrating conformity for the 8-hour ozone standard, the annual PM standard, and wintertime carbon monoxide. TPB is proposing to handle the determination based on guidance from EPA regarding demonstrating conformity during the interim period prior to development of SIP budgets for ozone and fine particulates. The ozone budget will be based on the approved mobile budget established in the 1-hour SIP. There is no budget for PM. The PM interim emissions tests will be based on emissions in the build scenario no greater than emissions in 2002. TPB has proposed that emissions analysis and conformity determination only be undertaken for direct PM<sub>2.5</sub> and for precursor NO<sub>x</sub>. The state air agencies are still working to determine which of the other precursors of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (VOCs, SO<sub>x</sub>, ammonia) contribute significantly for possible inclusion in the analysis for the next conformity cycle and beyond, but these determinations are not yet available. Staff are developing new temperature and humidity values and are working on new methods to analyze emissions on an annual basis. Additionally, the Planning Directors of the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC) have indicated that the Cooperative Forecast Round 7.0 will not be updated this year, therefore, potential changes in travel demand resulting from pending Department of Defense base realignments and closures in the region will not be reflected in the regional emission analysis for conformity or the new SIP mobile budgets being developed this year. TPB intends to adopt this year's determination in October.

This draft comment letter was prepared by the Conformity Subcommittee and recommended by TAC. The key points in the letter are: MWAQC supports the use of the interim ozone mobile emissions budgets based on the approved 1-hour ozone SIP budgets, and the interim PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions test of build no greater than 2002 baseline. For the fine particulate determination, MWAQC supports the TPB proposed approach of emissions analysis and conformity determination only for direct PM<sub>2.5</sub> and for precursor NO<sub>x</sub>. MWAQC encourages the TPB's analysis to reflect latest planning assumptions and inputs. MWAQC urges maintaining commitment to emission reduction measures reflecting the idea that meeting the new budgets may be challenging.

In response to questions, Mike Clifford said that since the TAC approved the draft letter, at the request of the DC Office of Planning, the Planning Directors have decided to update the Cooperative Forecast Round 7 to Round 7.0A to reflect the land use changes in the District associated with the planned baseball stadium to be built on South Capitol Street.

A motion to approve the letter was made and seconded. The letter was approved unanimously with no changes.

#### **8. MWAQC FY07 Work Program and Budget**

Joan Rohlfs presented the proposed MWAQC FY07 work program and budget. She summarized the proposed work tasks, including SIP development, emission inventory development, attainment modeling coordination, local measures support, transportation conformity, public participation, and committee support. The scope also proposes a study of non-road equipment inventories. She reviewed the proposed budget for each of the tasks as well as the allocation of contributions from state and local governments.

A motion to approve the work program and budget was made and seconded. The work program and budget were approved unanimously with no changes.

#### **7. Air Agency Report**

Don Wambsgans from the District said that he would like to meet with members of AQPAC to discuss the issues raised about the District of Columbia's air quality planning.

Jim Sydnor reported that the CAIR legislation was passed by the legislature. In addition to codifying the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) emission requirements, the law requires that a study be conducted on controlling mercury emissions from power plants.

Tad Aburn reported that the Air Quality Control Advisory Council met and approved the Clean Power Rule (CPR). The CPR will now move to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee of the General Assembly. The General Assembly is still in session and is still considering the proposed Healthy Air Act. MDE hopes to have the CRP effective in June.

**8. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn** The next meeting, a work session, will take place on April 26. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.