



Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
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DRAFT MINUTES OF July 31, 2014 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Cecily Beall, District of Columbia, Dept. of Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) (via phone)
Lyn Erickson, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County (via phone)
Andrew Kambour, Chair, ACPAC
Hon. Leta Mach, Council Member, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Redella "Del" Pepper, Council Member, City of Alexandria
Hon. Hans Riemer, Council Member, Montgomery County
Hon. David Snyder, City of Falls Church
Hon. John Vihstadt, Arlington County

Other Attendees

Molly Berger, for Tad Aburn, MDE
Katrina Forrest, for Councilmember David Grosso, District of Columbia

Staff

Leah Boggs, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)/ Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)
Amanda Campbell, COG/DEP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, Director, COG/DEP

1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 12:12pm.

Members approved the minutes from the May 21, 2014 meeting and the current meeting agenda with no changes.

2. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP on behalf of Tad Aburn, MDE

At TAC's last meeting on July 17, 2014, members heard an update on the ozone season and fine particle data. Mr. Aburn presented on the sectoral ozone contribution problem and MDE's special project. Members also heard preliminary results for the Reasonable Further Progress plan. Members were briefed on the 2011 Base Year Inventory and EPA's proposed greenhouse gas rule for existing power plants.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC), Andrew Kambour, Chair

ACPAC met twice since the last Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) meeting. ACPAC heard a presentation on the transport rule and associated future implications. In July, ACPAC discussed the Climate & Energy Awards program applications. Winners will be announced in September or October. ACPAC also heard a presentation on the Climate, Energy, & Environment Policy Committee Progress Report.

Clean Air Partners (CAP), Jennifer Desimone, Managing Director

CAP is in the middle of its annual media campaign, which involves radio ads, online ads, and transit ads. CAP held a successful twitter chat on air quality and health during Air Quality Awareness Week. Chair Snyder participated with CAP Chair Lon Anderson and Dr. Janet Phoenix for an interview on NBC4's Viewpoint talk show (available on the COG website). CAP has been successful in getting coverage on WJLA, WTOP, Baltimore Sun, and Washington Post.

The education team is in the midst of summer outreach, with 30 summer camp activities reaching more than 1,200 youth so far this summer. CAP also revised the employer toolkit and additional electronic materials (see meeting packet). Ms. Desimone shared the new online infographics on Cleanairpartners.net. CAP Board elected a new member, Katherine Mitchell, representing DC Councilmember McDuffie.

Chair Snyder asked COG staff to share these helpful materials more widely with transportation and other organizations in the region.

3. Ozone Season Summary, Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP

So far the region has experienced relatively good air quality this summer with only two code orange days and no code red days. On the code orange days, westerly wind patterns and a high pressure system contributed to ozone in the region..

Ozone and fine particles are the primary causes of poor air quality. Fine particle exceedances have also decreased over time, with no exceedances so far this year. In fact, the region has reached attainment of the fine particle standard. The region has seen fewer ozone exceedances in recent years due to a variety of federal, state, and local emission control programs. See slides in meeting packet for more details.

Several members including Chair Snyder agreed that this is an important good news story and asked staff to examine ways the committee could bring attention to it. Suggestions included coordinating with existing events to engage the press and public affairs, such as a tree planting, blog post, or local TV news.

4. Gold Book: Control Measures for Local Jurisdictions, Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP

Ms. Ricker noted the long history of local leadership in delivering clean air. The Gold Book is a compendium of voluntary state and local actions that improve air quality. COG staff revised the document in response to feedback from several committees. Sections include:

- Climate, Energy & Sustainability Plans
- Regional Partnerships
- Green Power & Grid Modernization
- Energy Efficiency
- Transportation Demand Reduction

- Transportation Options
- Vehicle Emissions Reduction
- Additional Ideas

The draft Gold Book is available at <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/allYWltd20140728073225.pdf>

Attendees found the Gold Book thorough and helpful.

Mr. Vihstadt asked that the Gold Book include a glossary and define all acronyms. The Gold Book should incorporate the most recent years' information if possible, referring to p. 24 and p. 52.

Mr. Reimer added that Montgomery County recently passed a new initiative to purchase 100% renewable energy beginning this fiscal year.

Chair Snyder asked staff to use the updated Metro map with the Silver Line.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the Gold Book with the changes mentioned.

5. CEEPC Annual Progress Report and Resource Guide, *Maia Davis, COG/DEP*

Ms. Davis described COG's climate plans and goals, the Climate & Energy Resource Guide, the region's accomplishments relative to other regions and the region's current status in implementing several climate & energy actions.

The COG region ranks first among 15 metropolitan regions in number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified buildings and in the number of EPA Green Power Partner communities. The region is making progress on its Climate & Energy Action plan goals, but more needs to be done in the area of climate resiliency. Electricity and Natural Gas use has remained fairly stable while population has increased. At the same time, megawatt capacity of grid-connected renewable energy systems has nearly doubled every year from 2009 to 2013. Many of the renewable energy systems are located in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Frederick County.

Chair Snyder remarked that this presentation illustrates the significant work the region is doing on climate and energy related issues.

6. Legislative Briefings, *Jeff King, COG/DEP*

A. The Clean Power Plan involves a federal rulemaking process that addresses greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector. This rule targets existing large fossil-fuel based power plants in the US under the Clean Air Act. Proposed CO₂ standards for new sources were issued in September, 2013; proposed existing sources standards were issued in June 2014.

New sources have caps on the rate of emissions for natural gas and coal. For existing sources, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is setting individualized emissions targets for each state. EPA set the targets using an analysis of opportunities for "Best System of Emissions Reduction" (BSER) in each state over the period 2020-2030. The EPA examined state's ability to improve coal plant efficiency, switch from coal to natural gas, increase renewables, keep nuclear

plants open, and increasing demand-side energy efficiency. State goals differ markedly. States are not required to use the same BSER opportunities that EPA identified.

Mr. King said that this is the only opportunity to adjust or change state goals before they are finalized. EPA is cataloguing comments and examining possible alternative goals. By 2030, EPA expects the rule to reduce power sector carbon pollution by 30%, and criteria pollution by 25%. EPA estimates total climate and health benefits at \$55 to \$93 billion in 2030.

Virginia's target is 38% greenhouse gas emissions reduction and Maryland 37%. The District of Columbia, along with Vermont, does not have a target due to the lack of large power plants within their borders. The calculations and assumptions that EPA used in their analysis are complex. The rule is about 670 pages long. Mr. Kambour added that Georgetown Climate Center is compiling a list of the 250 items that EPA asked for comments. Mr. King said that COG staff could work on highlighting the most relevant items for states to review.

The rule might be delayed by Congressional action or by litigation. Also unknown is exactly how states' plans will be developed and how COG will interact with them to develop approaches that make sense. Also in question is how the rule will affect private sector decisions. Dominion Virginia Power representatives are already expressing concern about how the rule might affect their rates and business model.

Mr. King asked the group to discuss how and whether the COG Board, MWAQC or the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee might consider playing a role in the rulemaking and plan-making process. Several members agreed that developing consensus for a comment letter would be a challenge, but several had suggestions on exploring the options for doing so. Chair Snyder asked state representatives their point of view. He suggested that MWAQC could comment on the connection between Midwestern power plant emissions and the Washington Metropolitan ozone levels.

Mr. King said that the Midwestern states are being asked to reduce emissions at a rate comparable to Maryland, but they are starting with higher emissions. Mr. King and Mr. Walz said that representatives from Maryland and Virginia were still in the process of evaluating the rule.

Ms. Pepper thinks it is appropriate to comment on the pollution transport issue. Ms. Pepper advised finding a way to bring the comment forward in a tactful, factual manner.

Mr. Ballou said that Virginia environmental agencies are working to understand this complex proposal. Virginia expects to submit many comments; one of the issues is equity. Mr. Ballou said it may be hard to come to consensus on joint comments since different states have different goals.

Chair Snyder noted that there was some interest in exploring regional comments. Identifying consensus points and expressing them in an even-handed manner could provide value added for the National Capital Region. Chair Snyder asked COG staff to continue to work on this and share their findings.

B. Supreme Court Decision on Greenhouse Gas Regulation ("Tailoring Rule")

On June 23 the Supreme Court overturned portions of EPA's regulatory actions on greenhouse gases under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program. The court ruled that the Clean Air Act does not allow EPA to require sources to obtain a permit on the sole basis of its potential to emit greenhouse gases. More details are in the 2-page handout in the meeting package.

7. State and Local Air Reports

Virginia

Mr. Ballou reported that EPA gave Virginia notice that the particulate matter (PM) redesignation will be published in the next few weeks. EPA's process is to propose or publish, solicit comments, and then finalize, so Virginia is hopeful to have final approval for formal PM attainment designation.

Maryland

Ms. Berger reported that two State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions were approved in July. Maryland held a public hearing for the 20011 inventory. MDE is also managing an extensive stakeholder process to strengthen the Healthy Air Act.

District of Columbia

Cecily Beall reported that the District of Columbia held a public hearing on the proposed regulation for ultra-low sulfur heating oil. Some comments asked the District of Columbia to coordinate with similar Maryland regulations, which they are doing. The rule should be final soon.

- 8. The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee on **Thursday, October 2, 2014.****