

# Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: November 12, 2004  
Time: **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 NOON**  
Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm  
Place: **COG Training Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor**  
MWCOG, 777 North Capitol St., NE, #300  
Washington, DC 20002

### Agenda

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- 10:00 1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (October 8, 2004)**  
*Chairman Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County*
- 10:10 2. Mid Course Review: Status Report**  
*Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP*
- 10:40 3. Control Measure Development: Priority Measures Lists**  
*Jeff King, COG/DEP*
- 11:00 4. Update on Transportation Conformity**
- **Update for the 2004 CLRP and 2005-2010 TIP**  
*Jeff King, COG/DEP*
  - **Update for the 8-hour Conformity Analysis**  
*Mike Clifford, COG/DTP*
- 11:15 5. Voluntary Measures: Tracking Implementation**  
*Jeff King, COG/DEP*
- 11:30 6. MWAQC Schedule: Update**  
*Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP*
- 11:40 7. State Air Agency Report**
- 11:50 8. Other Business**
- 12:00 9. Set Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn: November 12, 2004**

**DRAFT**

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
October 8, 2004  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
COG Training Center**

**Present:**

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of Environment  
Sharon Affinito, Loudoun County (by telephone)  
Rick Canizales, Prince William County Department of Public Works  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment  
Deirdre Elvis-Peterson, District of Columbia Department of Health  
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment  
Victoria Greenfield, Charles County Office of the Commissioner  
Matthew Jalali, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Maurice Keys, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Mary Richmond, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria Department of Environmental Quality  
Art Smith, Loudoun County (by telephone)  
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Stanley Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Health  
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

**Staff:**

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP  
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP  
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

**Observers:**

Charlie Baummer, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority  
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Mark Colwell, Prince William County  
Debra Jacobson, George Washington University School of Law

## **1. Call to Order**

Stanley Tracey served as Chair as Hon. Dana Kauffman was unable to attend. Mr. Tracey called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. The minutes of the September 10, 2004 meeting were approved as amended.

## **2. Ozone Season Summary - Exceedances**

Ms. Rohlfs provided a summary of ozone season exceedances by monitor for both the 1-hour and 8-hour ozone standards. The information included results for 2003 and 2004.

Updated information included an exceedance at the Annandale monitor, and a third exceedance at the Mt. Vernon monitor. If there are additional exceedances at the Mt. Vernon monitor in 2005, the region will be out of compliance with the 1-hour ozone standard. The two monitors with 2 exceedances each are the Prince George's Equestrian Center and the Franconia monitors. The attainment date for the 8-hour ozone standard is 2010.

Rick Canizales asked about whether exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard will be tracked through the end of the 2005 ozone season considering the possibility that the 1-hour standard will be revoked in June 2005. Joan Rohlfs stated yes. Diana Franks and Bill Skrabak noted the importance of tracking the region's progress in meeting air quality goals. Joan Rohlfs also stated that it is possible that the 1-hour ozone standard will not be revoked due to pending litigation.

## **3. Attainment Modeling Status Report**

Sunil Kumar provided information on the status of work on attainment modeling for the 8-hour ozone standard. He provided information on the purpose of attainment modeling, the models used, the current status of modeling, and next steps. Pending activities are emissions modeling for 2002, MM5 (meteorology) modeling refinements, and 2002 base case/attainment year photochemical modeling.

Jim Ponticello asked for clarification about the roles of Virginia and New York in the modeling process. Sunil Kumar said that Virginia DEQ is providing the emissions database and New York Department of Environmental Conservation is handling model runs, post-processing, and is working with University of Maryland to obtain the MM5 results.

## **4. Mid Course Review: Status Report**

Sunil Kumar reported on the status of the mid-course review. He summarized recent changes to the analysis and draft report. Added to the report were recently calculated design values for 2004, a statistical analysis to remove the effects of meteorology (KZ filter), and a spatial analysis showing the changes in zones exceeding the 1-hour ozone standard. The report was also reorganized in response to comments received from TAC members.

Joan Rohlfs asked about the cause of the higher design value in 2004. Sunil Kumar responded that it was because 2004 was the third complete year of data for the Prince George's County Equestrian Center monitor, so design values for this monitor could now be calculated. This monitor measured relatively higher ozone concentrations (137 ppbv) than the previous high monitor, Arlington (131 ppbv).

Didian Tsongwain asked Mr. Kumar to explain the difference between the KZ filter statistical analysis which does not show a downward trend and the spatial analysis which shows a decrease

in the size of the zone exceeding the 1-hour ozone standard. Sunil Kumar explained that the KZ filter analysis was done only for the Arlington County monitor, whereas the spatial analysis included all monitors in the region.

Kanti Srikanth suggested that the report be revised to highlight the monitoring data from Shenandoah National Park in regards to illustrating the impacts of local emission reduction programs on air quality. Howard Simons noted that with additional controls being installed in areas to the west of the Washington, D.C. region, additional declines in the measured concentration at Shenandoah National Park should occur. Mary Richmond noted that implementation of the NOx SIP call should also result in further reductions in the region's design value. Tad Aburn noted that the University of Maryland research report on the impacts of the blackout clearly shows the impact of transported ozone on air quality in the Washington, DC-MD-VA 1-hour ozone nonattainment area. The study also suggests that emissions from power plants may have more of an impact on transported ozone than the mobile sector.

##### **5. Conformity Subcommittee Report: Recommended Comments on Draft Conformity Assessment for FY2005 TIP and 8-hour Ozone Conformity Scope of Work**

Bill Skrabak, Chair of the TAC Conformity Subcommittee, provided a summary of the recent TAC Conformity Subcommittee meeting on October 4, 2004. The subcommittee heard a briefing from Mike Clifford of COG/DTP and draft comment letters that address TPB's *Air Quality Conformity Determination Of The 2004 Constrained Long Range Plan And The FY2005-2010 Transportation Improvement Program For The Washington Metropolitan Region* and transitional 8-hour conformity budget, the work scope, and the 2010 project elements.

Bill Skrabak asked Mr. Clifford about K factors. Mr. Clifford described that the K factors refer to the trip distribution model whereby the analysts would account for discrepancies between modeled and actual numbers for particular origin/destination trips. The TRB commented that Version 2.1C of the Travel Demand Model had too many K factors. He stressed that the model refinements that had the largest impact on emissions were modifications of the volume-delay function and updates to the highway capacity and free-flow speed inputs.

Bill Skrabak referred the committee to the draft comment letter on TPB's *Air Quality Conformity Determination Of The 2004 Constrained Long Range Plan And The FY2005-2010 Transportation Improvement Program For The Washington Metropolitan Region* for review and recommendation to MWAQC. He made a motion that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the letter as written to MWAQC. Howard Simons and Kanti Skrikanth suggested revising the letter. The first suggestion was to refer to model improvements and updates rather than changes. The second suggestion was to refer to all emission reduction measures by States and local governments, not just TERMS adopted in 2002. The committee agreed to revise the letters as suggested. The committee discussed the importance of the margin of safety, especially considering the challenge of meeting the 8-hour ozone standard. Howard Simons stressed that flexibility is needed to target emission reduction measures most effectively. The motion, with the agreed-upon changes, was seconded by Rick Canizales. The motion passed with no objections.

Bill Skrabak referred the committee to the draft comment letter on TPB's proposed transitional 8-hour conformity budget, the work scope, and the 2010 project elements for review and recommendation to MWAQC. He made a motion that the Technical Advisory Committee

recommend the letter as written to MWAQC. Rick Canizales suggested revising the letter by removing a reference to "preference that the 1-hour and 8-hour analyses be handled concurrently". The committee agreed to revise the letter by removing that sentence. The motion was seconded by Rick Canizales and the motion passed with no objections.

#### **6. Control Measure Development: Proposed Process**

Joan Rohlf's proposed a process for developing control measures for the 8-hour ozone standard. The deadline for the next Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) report may be December 2006. Given the timeline required by States to promulgate regulations, it is important to begin the process of identifying and developing control measures. She proposed formation of a workgroup, consideration of existing lists of available control measures, and agreeing on criteria to screen and evaluate measures. She proposed two schedules, one that coincides with a December 2006 deadline, and one that is completed early, or by the summer of 2006.

Kanti Srikanth noted that vehicle registration data isn't available until July, so if there is a need to use 2004 registration data, the inventory deadline of May 2005 may need to be revised. Joan Rohlf's responded by noting that the EPA guidance has not yet been released, so the schedule may change. The workgroup will also have the ability to change the schedule during the process.

Tad Aburn stressed the importance of getting started on identifying and developing control measures. Jim Sydnor agreed with Tad but said that evidence of need is required for regulations to be introduced. Bill Skrabak mentioned that local governments may already be implementing control measures and may need assistance from COG staff to develop approvable methods to quantify the emission reductions for SIP credit.

It was agreed that membership of the workgroup would be solicited and established by email.

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

Mr. Sydnor reported for Virginia. He discussed the recent announcement of the Mirant Settlement. There is currently a public comment period. The settlement, if approved, establishes reductions that will get the region below the NOx SIP Call levels by 2010. The SIP doesn't extend to 2010, only 2005.

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. He also referred to the Mirant Settlement and noted that significant pollution controls will be installed on units in the nonattainment area.

Bill Skrabak indicated that information on the permit for the Potomac River plant is available on the internet. He also said that because Mirant has filed for bankruptcy, the Consent Decree must be approved by Courts in Virginia and Texas.

Bill Skrabak asked about whether the use of ammonia in selective catalytic reduction (SCR) controls may cause water quality impacts from nitrogen deposition in the region. Tad Aburn said he would identify staff that could help address his concern and noted that it is important that ammonia be handled properly.

Mr. Tracey reported that the District Department of Health has nothing to report.

## **8. Other Business**

Joan Rohlf asked the States about tracking the implementation of voluntary measures committed to in the SIP. Jim Sydnor requested a summary of the voluntary measures so the States could gather the information to respond.

Joan Rohlf reminded the members that the deadline for submitting comments on the MWAQC bylaws revision is October 20, 2004.

## **9. Set Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn: November 12, 2004**

The TAC will meet next on November 12, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

