

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: October 8, 2004
Time: **10:00 p.m. – 12:00 NOON**
Lunch will be served at 12:00 pm
Place: **COG Training Center, 1st Floor**
MWCOG, 777 North Capitol St., NE, #300
Washington, DC 20002

Agenda

- 10:00 1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (September 10, 2004)**
Chairman Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County
- 10:10 2. Ozone Season Summary -- Exceedances**
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
- 10:15 3. Attainment Modeling: Status Report**
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
- 10:25 4. Mid Course Review: Status Report**
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
- 10:45 5. Conformity Subcommittee Report: Recommended Comments on
Draft Conformity Assessment for FY2005 TIP and 8-hour
Ozone Conformity Scope of Work**
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Bill Skrabak, Chair, TAC Conformity Subcommittee
- 11:15 6. Control Measure Development: Proposed Process**
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
- 11:35 7. State Air Agency Report**
- Mirant Settlement
- 11:55 8. Other Business**
- Tracking Implementation of Voluntary Measures
 - MWAQC Bylaws Revision
- 12:00 9. Set Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn: November 12, 2004**

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MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary September 10, 2004 10:00 am – 12:00 pm COG Board Room

Present:

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of Environment
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Rick Canizales, Prince William County
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment
Howard Chang, Tricounty Council of Southern Maryland, Calvert and Charles County
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment
Alex Hekimian, Montgomery County M-NCPPC
Matthew Jalali, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Hon. Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Maurice Keys, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Chris Meoli, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Mary Richmond, Montgomery County
Julie Ruszczuk, Virginia Department of Transportation, Northern Virginia
Howard Simon, Maryland Department of Transportation
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Health
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County, Department of Environmental Resources

Staff:

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
George Nichols, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP

Observers:

Charlie Baummer, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Julie Crenshaw, Air Quality Public Advisory Committee, Chair
Tim Nutter, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance

1. Call to Order

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The minutes of the July 16, 2004 meeting were approved as amended.

2. Ozone Season Update

Jennifer Desimone reported on the ozone season since the most recent update provided at the last TAC meeting on July 16. The region has not experienced exceedances of the 1-hour ozone standard since the last update. There were exceedances of the 8-hour standard on three days since the last update. The 8-hour exceedances occurred on July 21 (9 monitors), August 4 (1 monitor), and August 24 (2 monitors). PM 2.5 concentrations have consistently been in the good to moderate range since the last update.

Jim Sydnor asked: how many exceedances can the region experience next year and still remain in compliance with the 1-hour ozone standard. Sunil Kumar responded by stating: no more than one exceedance at the Prince George's County Equestrian Center or the Mount Vernon site.

3. Mid Course Review Status Report

Sunil Kumar provided a report on the status of work on preparing the midcourse review for the Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia 1-hour ozone nonattainment area. He explained the midcourse review process and noted the deadline is December 31, 2004. He noted that there has not been a steady decline in recent years in the design value. However, he noted that compared to values in 1988, there has been a significant decline. He explained that transport of ozone is contributing to the region's challenge in reducing the design value further. He described data from upwind and downwind monitors and how the high nighttime ozone concentrations observed by high elevation monitors (Methodist Hill in PA) indicates significant transport from other regions.

Dana Kauffman asked whether a similar upwind/downwind analysis could be done for the Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia nonattainment area's monitors that are detecting high ozone concentrations. Tad Aburn noted that monitors in the area are not located at elevations that are high enough to illustrate the impact of the daily background load and nighttime concentrations.

4. Attainment Modeling Status Report

Joan Rohlfs provided information on the status of work on attainment modeling for the 8-hour ozone standard. There have been two calls of the working group in May and August to discuss progress. Virginia DEQ will be taking the lead in modeling for the Washington region. EPA guidance is not expected to be released until mid-November. MDE is making progress on developing the necessary inventories. The target is to complete the effort by September/October of 2006 so that the submittal can be ready in 2007. The 2002 inventory will be the base year for the modeling. OTC is evaluating 2002 episodes for modeling. Two relevant meetings, OTC modeling and MANE-VU, are scheduled for September. The working group will meet again after the OTC meetings. She also noted that there has been some interest in setting up in-house modeling capabilities with COG to support development of alternative modeling runs.

Jim Sydnor, Tad Aburn, Dana Kauffman all asked about the reasons behind the need for COG capabilities for modeling. Ram Tangirala noted that he is concerned that the current modeling efforts may not be completely adequate with regards to the domain fit. He would like the option

of local capability for fine scale modeling. Tad Aburn also noted that it may be possible to satisfy Ram Tangirala's modeling needs by coordination on the modeling scope and methods. It was generally agreed that further information would be gathered and made available at the next meeting, including costs and staff requirements.

5. TPB Conformity Schedule Update

Mike Clifford provided an overview of the TPB conformity schedule. He noted that significant recent efforts have been to improve the analysis, including use of Mobile6, revising the travel demand model, updating land activity inputs, and adding scenarios for the Intercounty Connector. TPB is anticipating release of the conformity analysis on October 1, 2004.

Howard Simons asked about the horizon years for the 1-hour conformity analysis. Mike Clifford responded that the years are 2005, 2015, 2025, and 2030. William Skrabak asked whether there was any sense of the changes caused by using new growth forecasts or the newest version of the travel demand model. Mike Clifford responded that the modeling development teams will be determining and presenting this information. Ram Tangirala asked if the new growth inputs would affect Mobile6. Mike Clifford responded by stating no.

Mike Clifford presented DTP's work program for the 8-hour conformity analysis. He noted that to complete the analysis, COG/DTP had to request modeling inputs for 2010, a new milestone year for the conformity analysis. For doing the 8-hour conformity analysis, the TPB technical committee prefers using the 8-hour mobile budget option that includes Stafford County. He provided a draft letter to this effect. The 8-hour conformity analysis must be completed by June 15, 2005.

Jim Sydnor, Tad Aburn, and William Skrabak all asked why the work program doesn't have both the 1-hour and 8-hour conformity analyses on the same schedule if the only difference is the 2010 analysis year. Mike Clifford responded that there was concern about holding up funding for transportation projects if the 1-hour conformity schedule continues to be delayed.

Ram Tangirala mentioned that the milestone date for attaining the 8-hour ozone standard may be changed from 2010 to 2009. Mike Clifford stated that TPB is aware of this potential change, but stated that TPB has received guidance to use 2010 as the analysis year for now.

6. PM 2.5 Health Effects and Sources

Sunil Kumar provided estimates of the composition of PM 2.5 in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. He noted that based on both annual averages and peak high concentrations, sulfates (from power plant emissions) dominate, followed by carbonaceous materials from motor vehicles.

William Skrabak noted that particle pollution in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. region is not only caused by power plants in the Ohio Valley. The City of Alexandria, Virginia commissioned a study by Dr. William Levy, Harvard University, which found that local power plants also contribute to the problem. Joan Rohlf asked for a copy of the report cited by Mr. Skrabak. Mr. Skrabak also noted that the study looked at health impacts on various subpopulations and found that economic status could have a large impact. Ram Tangirala noted that the major sources of organic carbon particle pollution are on- and off-road vehicles.

7. EPA Guidance for Renewables and Energy Efficiency Measures

Dana Kauffman introduced Jeff King and Didian Tsongwain as new arrivals to the MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee.

Jeff King provided a presentation on the recently released EPA guidance on obtaining SIP credit from renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. EPA hopes to promote energy efficiency and renewable projects as control measures in SIPs. The guidance establishes the procedures that can be used to quantify and validate emission reductions. EPA used the Montgomery County wind energy purchase as the example of an eligible renewables energy project in the guidance.

As with EPA's past guidance on voluntary measures, in order for an EERE project to be eligible, emission reductions must be quantifiable, enforceable, permanent, and surplus. The requirement that emission reductions be considered surplus has important implications for regions operating under a NOx cap and trade system. In order for the measure to be considered surplus, states must retire allowances commensurate with the magnitude of emission reduction from the measure. The new maximum for emission reduction credits available from voluntary measures is 9%.

Tad Aburn stated that it is very important to understand that NOx allowances must be retired in order for SIP credits to be approved for energy efficiency or renewables projects. He stated that lowering the cap on NOx allowances is what drives the credit.

Dana Kauffman asked about the potential for SIP credit for green building codes in Virginia. Mr. King stated that it would be possible to develop such a program if the state of Virginia developed policy to retire allowances.

8. Voluntary Programs/Gasoline Containers

Jeff King discussed concerns raised about potential fire safety issues with the new CARB-compliant gasoline containers. There have been 3 conference calls to discuss these concerns.

The Fairfax County Fire Marshal's office was notified by county employees that there may be a problem with the plastic CARB-compliant gas cans. Under high temperature, there is a potentially unacceptable pressure build-up inside the container because the cans are not equipped with an automatic venting mechanism. Upon cooling, a vacuum condition can occur. In either case, serious deformation of the container is possible. It is believed that container deformation is a problem because it can cause the bottom of the container to become rounded so that the container rolls over, and/or the seams of the container rupture.

An official from the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's office (Skip Hile) is working to develop a final recommendation for approval of the new CARB-compliant cans in the county. Mr. Hile has conducted tests and is coordinating with the National Fire Protection Association. Mr. King showed several photographs of recent tests conducted in Fairfax County. He noted that the test results indicate that CARB-compliant cans that do not vent can sustain pressures of up to 5.5 psi. All non-vented cans did deform, with variability in the degree of deformation noted across the different can manufacturers. CARB may be revising their regulations within the next year to address such concerns.

Virginia's regulation requiring that only CARB-compliant cans be sold in the state will take effect on January 1, 2005. Jurisdictions should ensure that gas cans provided to county or municipal employees for official business are OSHA approved, metal "safety cans". The safety concerns noted above should not apply to use of safety cans.

9. State Air Agency Report

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland Department of the Environment. Maryland is continuing to work with counties on the PM 2.5 designations. He noted that compared the number proposed by Maryland, EPA wants to designate more counties as nonattainment. He noted that Maryland has proposed that control areas be considered in addition to nonattainment areas.

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

Mr. Sydnor reported for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He noted that all monitors in Northern Virginia are showing attainment of the PM 2.5 standard. He noted that EPA has proposed that counties in Northern Virginia be included in the nonattainment designation for PM 2.5. Virginia is expecting a response from EPA on this issue.

Mr. Sydnor also noted that on September 9, 2004 there was a public hearing on the consumer products regulation. He stated that the regulation will be adopted the Virginia Air Board in November.

10. Other Business

Mr. Kauffman provided an MWAQC bylaws revision update. He stated that the plan is to resolve all issues and adopt the new bylaws by October.

Mr. Skrabak asked about the status of revisions to the PM 2.5 standard. No one had information about the issue.

Mr. Aburn stressed the importance of beginning to identify and develop new control measures. He noted that the SIP in 2007 should include all regulations.

11. Set Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn

The TAC will meet next on October 8, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.