

Special MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
March 23, 2021, 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Present:

Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Courtney Grimes, District Department of Energy & Environment
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation
Norman Whitaker, Virginia Department of Transportation
Samuel Gaber, Fairfax County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Virginia Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Gregory Beacott, EPA R3

Staff:

Kanti Srikanth, COG
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Jon Schermann, COG/DTP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

Call to Order and Purpose of Meeting

Kelly Crawford called the meeting to order at 10 am. She said that this special meeting was held to discuss various planning options for the 2015 ozone standard.

Tom Ballou discussed a draft document, which included a number of proposed planning steps to be taken moving forward for the above standard. He said that the Air Directors of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia have collectively developed and agreed to the following ozone planning process to proactively support the continued improvement of air

quality in the Washington region. The main elements of the agreement and plan are as follows:

1. On or about May 1 the three jurisdictions will submit a voluntary nonattainment area classification bump-up request to EPA from marginal to moderate. The individual states and/or MWAQ may issue press releases on this action.
2. This will begin the process to develop an attainment SIP for the DC area to be submitted to EPA by early 2023. The schedule for the process is currently being developed by MWAQC TAC.
3. In the September/October timeframe, the states and MWAQC will review the 2021 ozone season air quality data to determine if the area has attained the standard. At that point the states and MWAQC will decide whether to move forward with the attainment plan or transition to a redesignation/maintenance plan path if the data supports this.
4. During the same planning timeframe, the Virginia DEQ with the support of the District, Maryland, and MWAQC staff will develop a redesignation request and maintenance plan for the DC area for the 1-hour ozone standard that is needed to move forward with Virginia's NNSR certification requirements for the 2015 ozone standard.
5. The addition of buffers to the mobile source budgets under the attainment or maintenance plan scenarios will be considered as allowed for each scenario.
6. The pending MWAQ work plan and budget will be used to formalize this agreement which will be approved by all the parties involved through the MWAQC process.

Tad agreed with above elements. Kelly agreed with them too and added that the purpose of this call was to communicate them to all stakeholders.

Virginia Burke enquired about the process that will be followed between now and May 1st. Kelly said that state air agencies will submit a request for the voluntary bump-up by May 1st along with a certification of air quality data for 2020. Tad added that MDE will work with MDOT to convey EPA the request for the voluntary bump-up on behalf of states. Tom said that VDEQ will work with VDOT on the contents of the plan agreement document. Kanti said that local elected officials will be informed about the agreement on the voluntary bump-up on the MWAQC-Executive Committee call on April 14th. Virginia Burke said that MDOT prefers the 1-year extension option, but accepts the decision of state air agencies for voluntary bump-up. She asked for more information on what the plans are in the event 2021 data does show the region attaining the standards. Virginia Burke said that more clarity on planned actions is needed after the 2021 ozone season. The question was if the region's 2021 ozone season data is below the 2015 ozone standard and the submittal of RFP and attainment SIPs are no longer needed, then how will EPA be notified of the decision to switch to the submittal of the redesignation request and maintenance plan. Tom said that the decision to switch to a maintenance plan would be made after reviewing the 2021 data and there would be coordination with the EPA. Jim Ponticello noted that the EPA's own process would also provide for them to decline a request to bump up should the data show the region attaining the standards and they would pursue issuing a clean data determination. Jim also said that VDOT is generally supportive of the decision on the redesignation request and maintenance plan and mobile budgets in the plan agreement document but would like to add a few changes to it. He specifically pointed to the text in the above bullet no. 3 and said he would prefer a more definitive language for switching to the redesignation request and maintenance plan if the 2021 data supports that. He also pointed to the text in the bullet no. 5 and said that he would prefer a more definitive language for providing mobile budgets. He further said that he

would send revised text to COG staff to reflect what he is suggesting for those two bullets. Tom said that that he was not sure if state air agencies would decide to switch to the redesignation request and maintenance plan if the RFP/attainment SIPs would not need to be developed due to the agreement among those agencies related to the 1-hour ozone standard maintenance plan. Jane asked about the milestone years for the on-road mobile inventories needed for the 1-hour maintenance plan. Tom said that milestone years have not been decided yet.

Kanti summarized the discussion and follow-up actions for the call. He said that COG staff will work with Jim, Virginia Burke, and others to revise the document describing the points of agreement for SIP planning between now and the April 13th regular TAC meeting. He said that the revised document will be shared with MWAQC-TAC members on April 13th when the 2015 ozone standard planning and the MWAQC FY2021-2022 budget will be discussed. He said that it will be another opportunity to review and discuss this document further as needed. Tom, Tad, and Joseph agreed with what Kanti said. Jim said that he would send his edits for the plan agreement document to staff. Virginia Burke said that she would work with Jim and looks forward to the revisions.

The meeting ended at 10:30 am.