

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
June 13, 2023, 10 AM to 11:00 AM

Present:

Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Hannah Ashenafi, District Department of Energy & Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Melissa Atwood, City of Alexandria
Richard Dooley, Arlington County
Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland Department of Transportation
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Alissa Boggs, COG/DEP
Cristina Finch, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The May 9th meeting summary was approved without changes.

2. 2008 Ozone NAAQS Maintenance Plan Update

Sunil Kumar discussed the comment received from EPA based on their early engagement review of the plan document. The comment was related to a statement in the main plan document that read “Higher NO_x estimates generated by MOVES3.0.4 may pose an issue for TPB in demonstrating conformity with the 2008 ozone NAAQS in its upcoming analyses.” EPA recommended expanding more on the possible issue and how it might be addressed. Sunil discussed the proposed response to that comment that was prepared in coordination with state air agencies. Sunil described changes to the text in the second paragraph of the first page of the plan document and in Appendix D1 (onroad mobile inventory development methodology) to address EPA’s comment. Members agreed with those changes and recommended the plan be used by state air agencies for their public hearing and comment processes. As EPA did not send their comments on the plan by MWAQC’s May 24th meeting, MWAQC had approved the plan on

that date for public hearing and comment process with the understanding that the plan will be brought back for the committee's review and approval if EPA sent any significant comments that would require significant changes to the plan. Jim Ponticello enquired about the last date for the public hearing and comment period. Sunil said that the public comment and hearing processes haven't started yet. He said that the plan documents will be posted on the COG SIP webpage and the link will be shared with states.

3. Ozone Season Update

Sunil Kumar briefed members on the latest data of the 2023 ozone season. There were a total of 8 ozone and fine particle exceedances this year out of which two were code red for fine particles. The draft design value for the period 2021-2023 was 70 ppb. Sunil briefly discussed a list of items related to the 2015 ozone standard. Those included:

- Exceptional Event Request
- Implications of Possible Ozone Nonattainment
 - Moderate NAA Designation
 - Clean Data Determination
 - Failure to Submit Attainment SIP (2015 Ozone NAAQS)
 - Failure to Attain by Moderate NAA Deadline
 - Bump up to Serious Nonattainment Area

4. Request for 2023 VIN Data

Dusan Vuksan discussed the need for 2023 VIN data. The requested 2023 vehicle registration data will be used in various calendar year 2024 activities, including:

- Upcoming air quality conformity analysis of the Visualize 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (ozone-season pollutants),
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) analyses, and
- Upcoming State Implementation Plan (SIP) activities related to the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (depending on timing)

The current mobile emissions model (MOVES3.0.4) requires two key vehicle-related inputs to be specified by jurisdiction, obtained from vehicle registration data:

- The number of vehicles by 13 vehicle classes; and
- The age distribution by vehicle class

Dusan requested to receive a "clean" dataset by March 1, 2024 that will be used in various calendar year 2024 activities, including Air quality conformity analysis of the constrained element of the Visualize 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan, Visualize 2050 GHG Analysis, and the 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards Ozone Maintenance SIP (depending on timing)

5. EPA's Power Plant Rule

Tim Masters briefed members on the EPA's power plant rule. The proposals provide utilities options for meeting these standards as well as the time needed to plan and invest for compliance and continue to support a reliable supply of affordable electricity. EPA is also simultaneously proposing to repeal the Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) rule. The standards would set pollution limits that power plants must comply with, based on 3 possible emissions-control strategies:

- Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS)
- Co-firing a coal plant with natural gas
- Co-firing a natural gas plant with clean hydrogen

The most significant element of the proposal is a requirement for coal-fired power plants to reduce their emissions rate by almost 90% by 2030 unless they voluntarily commit to a legally binding retirement date no later than 2040. Plants that operate beyond 2031 but commit to

retire by 2040 would have to reduce their emissions by an amount based on co-firing 40% natural gas with coal (as a proportion of their energy input), resulting in a 16% reduction in their emissions rate.

6. State/Local Updates

Virginia- Tom said that the Virginia Air pollution Control Board repealed the carbon trading program ending Virginia's participation in REGI at the end of 2023.

Maryland- Roger said Maryland did not have any.

District- Thatch Gerike said that a public hearing was held on June 12, 2023 for revisions to the Air Quality Opacity SIP.

The meeting ended at 11:00 am.