

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
June 10, 2012 10:00 to 12:00
Teleconference

Present:

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Jon Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria

Todd Lang, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Staff:

Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (March 13, 2012)

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10:05. The March 13, 2012 Meeting Summary was approved with no changes.

2. OTC Annual Meeting

Joan Rohlfis discussed EPA's schedule and other OTC actions taken and considerations at the annual meeting in Alexandria. EPA is currently considering a rule for the light-duty vehicles, which will affect such vehicles belonging to the model years 2017 through 2025. This is likely proposed by Mid-August 2012. OTC is considering a number of rules related to a variety of nonroad diesel engines, heavy-duty diesel vehicles (I/M programs), and consumer products. Staff also discussed the soon-to-proposed PM2.5 standards due to be finalized in December 2012. In June, EPA also proposed that the CSAPR (interstate transport rule) is equivalent to BART. CSAPR is still being litigated, a court ruling is expected this summer. Mention was made of Design Values will increase now that 2009, a mild year, will not be used in the calculation. EPA's Clean Air Markets Division is also releasing a new report on environmental benefits.

3. EPA Regulatory Update

Sunil Kumar discussed EPA regulatory initiatives, including rules addressing Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE) and the Stage 2 Vapor Recovery rule. Staff informed that the hours for operating certain RICE engines are being increased leading to increase in NOx, VOC, and PM2.5 emissions on high electricity demand days. These days also tend to coincide with high temperature days, which favor high ozone formation. Therefore, this rule has a potential to increase ozone levels leading to exceedances of the standard. Stage 2 vapor recover rule waives the federal requirements for retail gasoline sellers to have stage 2 compliant gasoline nozzles. These nozzles prevent VOCs to escape in the atmosphere while refueling vehicles at gas pumps. Onboard refueling vapor recovery systems installed in modern vehicles take care of the same and therefore EPA believes the stage 2 rule is not required now. States still need to demonstrate through SIP revisions that an alternate measure providing similar emission benefits is available before they can sunset the stage 2 rule.

4. MDE Long-Range Planning Rule (Transportation)

MDE staff briefed the members about MDE's long range planning rule related to transportation emissions. This rule sets up voluntary targets for CO2 and NOx. NOx level is set up at 90% of the currently projected NOx emissions for 2030 and 2040 in the constrained long range transportation conformity plan (CLRP). If the targets are not met, then the transportation sector needs to adopt a strategy to do so in the future. This draft rule is scheduled to be finalized by December 2012. VDOT and VDEQ submitted written comments expressing concerns about the rule and its applicability to Virginia jurisdictions.

5. Air Quality Forecasting and Ozone Season Update

There have been 2 exceedance days, both involved typical conducive conditions. Sunil Kumar also discussed a concern about the Sterling Office of the National Weather Service deciding to stop issuing code orange based air quality alerts. NWS recently stopped issuing such alerts, but is still issuing air quality alerts for code red and above. COG, MDE, and VDEQ are in touch with NWS and requesting the NWS to reconsider their decision. Members said they need to check with agency staff involved with the issue to decide about whether to approve a proposed comment letter.

6. EERE in SIPs

Tom Ballou or Doris McLeod discussed recent training on inclusion of energy efficiency and renewable energy in SIPs, both in terms of permitting and planning. The training was well received and offered information on a variety of options. Implementation will be impacted by a variety of considerations

including federal agency forecasts of generation and demand, which are used for SIP inventories, and may already account for such system improvements.

7. PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan - Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets and Safety Margins

Members summarized the ongoing negotiation on setting Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEBs) for the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. A straw man hybrid is being considered. A meeting is being planned to continue to negotiate the proposed transportation buffers.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. State and Local Updates

Tom Ballou and Doris McLeod reported for Virginia. DEQ submitted a letter to EPA seeking the Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Fredericksburg areas of Virginia be included in the voluntary program. There will be public notice soon on the 2008 infrastructure SIP, and the Sewage Sludge 129 Plan. A technical committee will be addressing on-road emissions for I/M. The permit fee rule was approved. In response to a question from Bill Skrabak, Tom said that there were no formal engagements yet on the issue of possible offset credits.

Brian Hug reported for Maryland. There was a recent EPA clean data determination for Baltimore for PM2.5. Also noted was that that Baltimore achieved the 1-hour ozone standard in 2008. The next advisory committee meeting will be held in September. There are a number of public meetings on the Maryland climate plan through July.

Cecily Beall reported for the District. Since the Takoma school fire, the monitor there has been out. DC is working to establish a new location. Ram Tangirala said that at some point there may also be issues with the River Terrace monitor, which has been at times the lead PM monitor. There were no comments on the Opacity regulation. The Pepco Benning Road shutdown is being delayed on a monthly basis by the PJM for electricity reliability concerns. It was planned to be closed in May. The target is to close by December.

Bill Skrabak said that the Genon facility is on schedule to shut down on October 1. An air quality monitoring location at the Health Department building must relocate.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20. The next meeting will be held Tuesday July 10, 2012.