

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
April 9, 2013 10:00 to 12:00
Teleconference

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Elizabeth Gayne, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Walter Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Jennifer Tabor, Department of Defense
Anna Prados, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Cecily Beall called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The March 12, 2013 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Annual Progress Report for CEEPC Action Plan

Maia Davis, COG/DEP staff briefed on the draft progress report for CEEPC action plan. She described various proposed goals for the Washington region jurisdictions and corresponding accomplishments and actions currently in-progress. These goals are related to greenhouse gas inventories and plans, energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation, and outreach.

She informed the group that Jeff King is compiling electricity use data for 2012 from utilities to develop greenhouse gas inventories for comparison to the base year 2005. Once data has been analyzed, the progress report is expected to be complete in Fall 2013. Diane suggested using CAMD data for this purpose. Doris said CAMD does not include imported component of the energy consumption. Cecily suggested Jeff King present the CEEPC action plan progress report in the next meeting.

Tad Aburn said that it will be a good idea to present greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from mobile sources in CEEPC. MDE is interested in developing regulations for mobile source GHG emissions. Joan

said CEEPC is more interested in energy use in buildings and energy financing. However, mobile GHG emission is one of their focus areas. Kanti echoed the same sentiment as Joan. He added that the CEEPC goals are policy related and the committee does not go into the nitty-gritty of technical details of individual projects. He however pointed out that the CEEPC does get the “What would it take” scenarios for mobile emissions.

3. EPA Proposals: 1997 Ozone SIP & Tier 3 Rule

Sunil Kumar briefed on the EPA proposals related to the approval of the remaining components of the 1997 ozone SIP and the recently proposed Tier 3 rule by EPA.

EPA previously approved the base year 2002 emissions inventory, reasonably available control measures/technology (RACM/RACT), 2008 reasonable further progress (RFP) plan, 2008 mobile budgets, RFP contingency measures of the 1997 ozone standard SIP. Now it is proposing to approve the attainment demonstration, the 2009 and 2010 mobile budgets, and the attainment contingency measures.

States were asked to present their views on the proposed EPA actions. Virginia is in the process of taking a decision to submit a comment letter to EPA. Virginia supports the EPA’s proposal to approve the plan. Maryland is asking EPA to extend the comment period. Tad said EPA is not looking at the 2010-2012 ozone design value, which does not indicate attainment for the 1997 ozone standard. He also said that based on the trend in ozone design values for the past few years, air quality data is getting worse. District has not taken any decision on submitting the comment letter yet. Tom said that since the Washington region attained the standard by the attainment date, EPA is taking the required action. He further said that by doing so EPA is approving a stricter budget and preserving the contingency measures. Tom did not agree with Tad on the issue of air quality getting worse. He thought 2009 was an abnormal year in terms of meteorology and its effect was visible until 2011. However, the region not making progress is not true. Diane had a different view on EPA’s rationale for approving the ozone SIP based on the preservation of contingency measures. She thought unless the air quality gets worse, contingency measures would not kick in. So she thought EPA is preventing these measures to kick in. Tad said he agrees with Tom on the stricter mobile budget issue, but not on the improvement in air quality issue. He suggested MWAQC-TAC submitting a comment letter to EPA.

Tad said the controls in Maryland’s power plants are not always operating. The Distributed Generation program was also running at worst possible time. MDE is working to fix these issues. Doris said that Virginia was putting controls on these equipments. VDEQ has created a better temporal profile for these equipments for use by OTC. OTC can run sensitivity run based on the 2007 Distributed Generation emission data. Tad requested Doris to forward this information to him. He suggested VDEQ to work with PJM on this.

Sunil also discussed the recently proposed EPA Tier 3 rule to reduced exhaust and evaporative emissions from motor vehicles and to reduce sulfur content in gasoline. Howard enquired about any sensitivity runs involving Tier 3 rule using MOVES. Eulalie responded that the model does not this rule in-built, but can try to do some off-line calculation for emissions benefits evaluation. Elena said that this will be done using MOVES2013 and therefore the group needs to wait for the results. Tad said TPB’s Tier 3 benefits analysis would help EPA in finalizing the rule.

4. EPA Interstate Air Transport Meeting, North Carolina

Staff briefed the committee on the EPA’s Interstate Air Transport Meeting held in North Carolina on April 8, 2013. EPA has initiated the process of developing a replacement rule for Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which was vacated by the Supreme Court. EPA is trying to define its obligations for each state for emissions reductions. There will be two meetings one each for the east and west coasts. Initial findings from EPA for these two meetings will be published after the meetings are held. Key questions being addressed are the selection of the base year, inventory year to be used for

modeling, ERTAC projections for EGU emissions, and the impact of MATS rule. OTC is also discussing a parallel process for addressing the transport issue. The District of Columbia and Maryland are filing a petition to the Supreme Court supporting a large nonattainment area to address this issue instead of a transport rule.

5. PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan: Regional Response to Public Comments

Sunil discussed the responses to public comments received from EPA, Dominion, and Sierra Club on the PM2.5 Maintenance Plan, which were revised after the last TAC meeting in March 2013. While most of the revisions were editorial in nature, Maryland added a sentence in its response to the Sierra Club's comment on the impact of the proposed redesignation request for the 1997 annual fine particle standard on other PM2.5 standards and regional haze in Maryland.

Staff made changes to the redesignation request and maintenance plan documents to include a new appendix containing the public notices issued by the state air agencies, public comments received on the plan, and the regional responses to those comments.

Maryland informed the committee that it is still working with the Sierra Club to address their concerns regarding the plan. Therefore, Maryland's responses to the Sierra Club comments are not considered final yet. Maryland also stressed the need to engage the Sierra Club in the proposed technical workshop to be held on May 14, 2013 to address the 2008 ozone standard and SO₂ issues. DDOE and VDEQ were not supporting of engaging the Sierra Club in the technical workshop. Joan also thought it was premature to invite them at this time when the workshop is not going to deal with the "What Would It Take" scenario discussions. Tom said the Sierra Club can also come to MWAQC and MWAQC-TAC meetings. He further said the VDEQ would go ahead and submit the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan on its own if it is not approved for submission to EPA within this month.

States were asked about their decisions to recommend the plan for approval to MWAQC. DDOE and VDEQ were in favor of recommendation. MDE wanted to engage with the Sierra Club before recommending it to MWAQC. Ram suggested Tad recommending the plan to MWAQC and then inviting the Sierra Club to the technical workshop in June 2013 to discuss ozone and SO₂ issues. Tina Casey supported Ram's idea. Tom said there are no big sources for SO₂ in the region. Kanti said we are in the last phase of submission of the plan. The plan should not be contingent on SO₂ and any future ozone standard as it was a plan for fine particles and therefore not connected with SO₂ and ozone issues. Cecily asked the status of recommendation of the plan. Tad suggested waiting for two more weeks before recommending the plan. He further said he does not the idea of voting in MWAQC for the plan submission. He just wants to discuss this with the Sierra Club.

Joan said she would discuss the idea of putting the redesignation request and maintenance plan on the MWAQC agenda in the upcoming MWAQC-Executive Committee call. Kanti supported the idea of putting it on the agenda. Ram was in favor of discussing this in the MWAQC-Executive Committee call.

Joan informed the group that a call is needed next week to discuss the technical workshop agenda. Tad requested to add the voluntary bump-up on the agenda for this workshop.

The committee could not discuss the items # 6, 7, and 8 due to lack of time.

The meeting ended on 12 PM.