

# Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Date: May 12, 2009**

**Time: 10 am to 12 pm**

## TELECONFERENCE

**Call In Number: 1-888-898-8635**

**Passcode: 774715**

## DRAFT Agenda

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- 10:00 1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (April 14, 2009)**  
*Chairman Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*
- 10:10 2. National Initiatives to Address Greenhouse Gases**  
*Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP, will discuss national initiatives to address greenhouse gases, including the Waxman/Markey Bill and EPA's recent proposed endangerment finding. A proposed MWAQC comment letter on EPA's proposal will be discussed.*
- 10:20 3. Transition to MOVES Model**  
*Eulalie Lucas, COG DTP, and Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, will discuss technical issues with the transition to EPA's MOVES model. Formation of an interagency task force will be discussed.*
- 10:40 4. Report on the Recent OTC/LADCO Meeting**  
*State air agency representatives will discuss a recent meeting of OTC/LADCO addressing the need for broader regional controls to reduce pollution transport.*
- 10:50 5. Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Funding**  
*Jeff King, COG DEP, will discuss a recent MWCOG proposal for diesel projects using ARRA funding through DERA.*
- 11:00 6. Energy Efficiency Outreach Coordination Meeting**  
*Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP, will discuss a recent meeting to coordinate energy efficiency outreach in the region.*
- 11:20 7. Other Business**
- **ALA State of the Air Report**
  - **Member appointments for the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**
  - **Clean Cities ARRA Proposals**
- 11:45 8. State and Local Air Agency Report**
- **Status of Opacity Petition in Virginia**
- 11:55 9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn**  
**Next TAC Meeting: June 9, 2009**



Reasonable accommodations are provided for persons with disabilities. Please allow 7 business days to process requests. Phone: 202.962.3300 or 202-962.3213 (TDD). Email: [accommodations@mwkog.org](mailto:accommodations@mwkog.org). For details: [www.mwkog.org](http://www.mwkog.org).

**DRAFT**

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary  
April 14, 2009 10am to 12pm  
Teleconference**

**Present:**

Casey Austina, District Department of Transportation  
Monica Backmon, Prince William County  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality  
Cecily Beall, District Department of Environment  
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment  
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Environment  
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health  
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of Environment  
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation  
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute  
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality  
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of Environment  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Ana Prados, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations (by teleconference)  
Walt Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority  
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria Office of Environmental Quality  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria Office of Environmental Quality  
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County Dept. of Environmental Services  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation

**Staff:**

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP  
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP  
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

**Observers/Participants:**

Charley Baummer, MWAA  
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC  
Sally Kane, AQPAC

**1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (March 10, 2009).** Mr. Ballou called the meeting to order at 10:05. The minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes.

## **2. Status of PM2.5 and Ozone SIP Submittals**

State air agency representatives discussed the status of the PM2.5 and ozone SIP submittals. EPA Region III recently returned the PM2.5 SIPs to the Maryland, the District, and Virginia. Their rationale was the recent Clean Data Determination for the Washington region. The states contacted EPA to express concerns stating the SIPs should not have been returned. EPA agreed and the states are in the process of sending the SIPs back to EPA. With the exception of a possible action on the proposed motor vehicle emission budgets, it is possible that the EPA may not take any action on the SIPs unless pushed. It is not clear why EPA has not taken any action on the PM or ozone SIPs. It is possible it is due to issues related to the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) or the change in administration.

## **3. EPA Review of Ozone NAAQS**

Joan Rohlf's said that on March 12, EPA announced that it will review the recently promulgated 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Within 180 days, EPA will notify the court of its plan of action. All current SIP planning efforts are focused on the 75 ppb NAAQS. EPA's action could affect this planning process.

## **4. EPA Endangerment and Cause/Contribute Finding for Greenhouse Gases**

Jeff King discussed a possible EPA Clean Air Act endangerment finding for greenhouse gases. The New York Times recently reported that EPA may intend to propose that emissions of greenhouse gases pose a risk to public health and welfare (Clean Air Act endangerment finding) and that emissions from mobile sources cause and contribute to climate change (cause or contribute finding). The endangerment finding would be the first step if EPA decides to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. Once the endangerment finding is finalized, EPA may also take action on the California waiver request (CAL LEV II). John Kinsman said that an interagency review of the proposal was just completed and that there will be a comment period once it is published in the federal register. Brian Hug said that he attended a recent TRB meeting where the transportation sector was reviewing policy options for addressing greenhouse gases, including conformity. The sense at the meeting was the conformity was not the right approach to use to deal with greenhouse gases. There will be a follow-up meeting in August. The EPA contact is Meg Patulski.

## **5. Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Funding**

Joan Rohlf's discussed potential projects for funding under DERA. Under the federal stimulus program, EPA has released a Request for Applications (RFA) for diesel emission reduction projects. Funds can be used for retrofits, repowers, or equipment replacement. Funding levels for proposals must be more than \$1 million. Project proposals are due on April 28. All work under the awarded contracts will need to be completed by September 2010. MARAMA is working to bundle projects in the region. Organizations that missed the deadline to include their equipment in the MARAMA bundle approached COG as an eligible entity to pursue another regional bundle. COG has agreed and is currently working with interested organizations to prepare a project proposal. In response to a question from Howard Simons, Joan Rohlf's said that

COG staff will be working with MDE to document the environmental benefits of the project should it be awarded.

## **6. Benefits of Energy Efficiency Programs in the National Capital Region**

Jeff King presented preliminary results of efforts to document the environmental benefits of energy efficiency projects in the region. COG staff collected energy efficiency savings data from local governments in the region as well as utility plans to meet the EmPower Maryland goals. NO<sub>x</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction benefits were estimated using a new emission benefit calculator developed by a COG consultant under a grant from the Department of Energy. Staff are working to collect additional energy efficiency savings data from other jurisdictions in the region. One of the next steps is to convene a meeting of the state emission inventory specialists to discuss a straw proposal to include the benefits of energy efficiency programs in SIP baselines.

## **7. Ozone Season Forecasting**

Jen Desimone discussed ozone season forecasting. The first forecast call will be held on April 30. Officials forecasts will begin May 1. Ozone forecasting will be made using the new 2008 ozone standard with code orange levels beginning at 76 ppb. PM forecasting will be based on the 2006 24-hour standard with code orange levels beginning at 35.5 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Individuals can sign up for the regional air alert system on the Clean Air Partners website. This year Clean Air Partners is partnering with the EPA Energy Star Change the World Campaign. There are two steps on the website for the campaign. First individuals sign up for air alerts. Then they make a pledge to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, contributing to the Clean Air Partners goal of a 10 million pound reduction by Earth Day 2010. Clean Air Partners is now also investigating options for new outreach approaches using social media such as Twitter or Facebook. Ana Prados said that Clean Air Partners should try to get out more action tips, not only on a daily basis when there is poor air forecasted, but also at the beginning of the ozone season.

## **8. Other Business**

Joan Rohlfs said that Eulalie Lucas and Sunil Kumar are attending training on the new EPA MOVES Model. There will be more to report next month. Mike Clifford said that EPA is seeking comments on the new model. The final version won't be released until the end of the year. It may be important to form an interagency task force to help guide the transition to the new model.

Brian Hug said that the Ozone Transport Commission Multipollutant Framework was developed in an effort to push EPA to promulgate new tougher regulations to reduce emissions from EGUs across a larger domain. This is important because air entering the region is already showing pollution concentrations at the levels of the new standard.

Joan Rohlfs said that in response to a USA Today article about air toxics at schools, EPA has recently announced a new program to monitor air toxics at schools in the United States. None of the schools chosen or announced so far are in the metropolitan Washington region.

## **9. State and Local Air Agency Report**

Tom Ballou reported for Virginia. The State Air Pollution Control Board will meet on April 24. The main agenda items are the petition to lower the opacity standard and action on extending the OTC regulations into the Richmond area as maintenance plan commitments.

Brian Hug reported for Maryland. The Climate Bill recently passed the Maryland General Assembly. The bill calls for a 25 percent reduction in emissions by 2020. No regulatory meetings are currently planned. Main work focuses on the Distributed Generation and CTG regulations.

Cecily Beall reported for the District. The District is working to respond to comments from EPA on its OTC VOC rules. Other major initiatives include the DC Green Agenda, including a Sustainability Plan. A new greenhouse gas inventory has been prepared and ICLEI is working on a Climate Action Plan for the District.

There were no local reports.

**10. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn.** The next TAC meeting will be held on May 12, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.