

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**  
**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**  
**(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2010 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County  
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment  
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation  
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment  
Hon. Jay Fisette, Arlington County  
Pat Haddon, Calvert County  
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Pam Parker, Montgomery County  
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Caroline Petti, Air Quality Public Advisory Committee  
Hon. Fred Schultz, City of Takoma Park  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County  
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church  
JoAnne Sorensen, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Hon. Beverly Warfield, Prince George's County  
Dr. Larry Zaragoza, Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

**Staff:**

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP  
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP  
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP  
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

**Others:**

Bill Orleans, Prince George's County  
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation

## **1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks**

Chair Mach called the meeting to order at 10:15. The minutes of the December 9, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes. Ms. Mach made several announcements. In December, Governors from eleven states including Maryland signed an MOU committing to continue to work towards final recommendations on program elements and issues leading to a framework for a regional low carbon fuel program that will reduce the average carbon intensity of transportation and potentially heating fuels in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regions. This month EPA's reconsidered ozone standard was published in the Federal Register, starting a 60-day comment period. The MWAQC Executive Committee has drafted a comment letter on the proposed standard for discussion and action. Last September COG began preparing for Continuation of Operation Planning emergency backup plans. MWAQC considered a resolution at its September meeting, and the sense of the group was that the issue should be brought to MWAQC after COG Board action. The resolution is an action item on today's agenda. The 2010 MWAQC meeting schedule was provided and Ms. Mach noted that during certain months MWAQC meetings will begin at 12:30 pm, following the Climate Energy Environment Policy Committee meeting. All other MWAQC meetings will begin at 12 pm.

## **2. Committee Reports**

### ***Technical Advisory Committee***

Cecily Beall reported on the January 12, 2010 teleconference meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee. The topics addressed included the EPA reconsideration of the ozone NAAQS, proposed new NAAQSs for SO<sub>2</sub>, the transition to EPA's new Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES) model, COG's 2012 climate and energy action plan, an annual survey of progress in meeting local voluntary commitments, and new stakeholder appointments for 2010.

### ***Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC)***

Dr. Zaragoza reported on the AQPAC meeting held on January 11. The main area of focus was a review of COG's 2012 climate and energy action plan, including consideration of potential comments, and EPA's reconsideration of the ozone NAAQS.

### ***Clean Air Partners***

Harriet West provided the Clean Air Partners Report. Air Quality and Climate Actions Clean Air Partners is continuing to provide opportunities for the public to improve air quality and reduce climate change through the *Clean Air Pledge* ([www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net)) and *Earth Hour* ([www.myearthhour.org](http://www.myearthhour.org)). The Managing Director and Marketing Consultant have been meeting with potential new partners including Inova Health System, Dominion Power, and WindCurrent. Clean Air Partners is sponsoring air quality awards at science fairs in five jurisdictions (Baltimore City, the District of Columbia, Fairfax City, Loudoun County, and Montgomery County). Clean Air Partners is conducting a poster and video contest for local elementary and high school students in 2010. The purpose is to engage students and educators to study and actively pursue solutions to air pollution and climate change. Applications are due March 25, 2010. Winners will be notified by April 22, 2010 and formally recognized at the Clean Air Partners' Annual Meeting in May. Dr. Ed Maibach, Director of the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication gave an informative presentation at the Board's January meeting. Research finding from the Center's "Global Warming's Six America's" report and subsequent audience segment interviews shows generally broad public support for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

to improve human health and reduce energy consumption. This reinforces and supports Clean Air Partners' approach to engaging the public by focusing on the health-related aspects of air quality.

### ***Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)***

Mr. Ballou reported on a December 10, 2009 meeting of the IAQC. IAQC was established to facilitate coordination of air quality policy between the secretaries of transportation and environment in Maryland, the District, and Maryland. The focus of the call was very similar to the agenda for the Technical Advisory Committee, with particular emphasis on recent attainment designations for the daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard.

### **3. EPA's Reconsidered Ozone Standard**

Ms. Rohlfs gave a presentation on EPA's proposal to revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Ozone. On January 6, 2010 EPA proposed to revise the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard. The existing 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard is 0.075 parts per million (ppm). The proposed revised 8-Hour Ozone Standard is between 0.060 - 0.070 ppm. EPA is also proposing to update the Air Quality Index (AQI) for ozone. She provided information on the scientific basis for the proposal, including clinical studies showing adverse respiratory effects in healthy adults at 0.060 ppm; clinical and epidemiological studies indicating that people with asthma are likely to experience larger and more serious effects than healthy people; associations for a wide range of serious health effects and hospital admissions and premature mortality, that extend below the current standard level of 0.075 ppm; and estimates from the risk and exposure assessment indicating that important improvements in public health could be achieved by a standard more stringent than 0.075 ppm. The proposed revised ozone standard was published in the Federal Register on January 19, 2010. The comment period ends March 22, 2010. There will be public hearings on February 2 and 4 in Houston, Arlington, and Sacramento. Ms. Rohlfs provided detailed information on the proposed schedule for attainment designations, SIP due dates, compliance periods, and attainment deadlines, and provided maps showing recent data on observed air quality concentrations compared to the range of proposed new concentrations.

A motion was made and seconded to approve an MWAQC comment letter on the EPA proposal. Discussion items focused on the challenge of meeting the new standard without new national measures, as well as the complexity of also addressing new standards for other pollutants such as NO<sub>2</sub>. Mr. Aburn said that one of the main areas of focus for the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) is the need for new national measures to address the issue of transported pollution. Many of the proposed measures for ozone will also be beneficial for attaining the new standard for NO<sub>2</sub>. In addition to stressing the importance of addressing transported pollution from outside the region, several editorial amendments were accepted by members to strengthen the letter. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **4. Mobile Model (MOVES) Changes**

Mr. King provided an update on upcoming changes to the method used to estimate emissions from motor vehicles in the region. EPA has released its final version of MOVES2010 (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator model). Over the next 2 years, the regional process to estimate mobile emissions and handle transportation conformity must transition away from the use of MOBILE6.2 to MOVES2010. There will be a 2-year grace period for transportation conformity. The next round of State Implementation Plans (SIPs) must use emission inventory estimates using MOVES2010. There is an interagency workgroup meeting monthly to develop the process,

approach, and data inputs that will be needed to ensure a successful transition. One of the more urgent tasks will be to compare the emissions estimates developed using MOVES2010 for conformity to the existing motor vehicle emission budgets established in the on-the-books SIPs that were developed using MOBILE6.2. Since the two models tend to provide different outputs for the same set of input conditions, it will be important to determine if any special actions will be required to develop new MOVES2010-based mobile budgets through the SIP process to prevent problems with demonstrating conformity in the region.

#### **5. Resolution Authorizing Electronic Meeting in Event of Emergency**

Stuart Freudberg provided a brief description of the background for the resolution. The key driver is COG's continuity of operations plans that are establishing methods to conduct business via electronic/teleconference meetings in the event of emergencies that prevent face-to-face meetings at COG. A motion was made and seconded to approve a resolution authorizing amendments to the bylaws to enable MWAQC members to convene electronically/teleconference. Mr. Snyder requested that COG confirm with General Counsel that nothing in the resolution violates state laws. Other friendly editorial amendments were accepted. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **6. Appointments to Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC)**

Ms. Rohlf's presented information on proposed new members to AQPAC. A motion was made and seconded to appoint two new members. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **7. State and Local Air Reports**

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. \$3 billion in new controls have been installed and are now operational at large electric power plants in Maryland as a result of the requirements of the Healthy Air Act. A coal-combustion by-product regulation is being developed. Maryland is a signatory to the low carbon fuel standard initiative launched in December. Maryland is also actively involved in the OTC process to promote new national and regional measures. He suggested that the topic be added as a future agenda item.

Mr. Ballou reported for Virginia. The Virginia Air Pollution Control Board approved the OTC VOC measures included in the 2007 SIPs. The regulations will become effective in March 2010. Virginia is responding to a recent court decision affecting emission reduction commitments in the 2007 ozone SIP. The intention is to issue a new state operating permit for the Mirant Potomac River Power Plant to preserve the reductions included in the SIP.

Ms. Beall reported for the District. The District is working towards final approval of the OTC VOC measures included in the 2007 SIPs. The regulations will become effective in 2010. In addition to other regulatory initiatives addressing CTG and MACT requirements, the District is planning to hold stakeholder meetings for its Climate Action Plan.

#### **8. New Business**

Mr. King said that an annual survey of progress in meeting local voluntary measures commitments will be initiated by the end of the month. Results will be included in a true-up evaluation report due to EPA in March 2010.

EPA has issued its final regulation establishing new NAAQS requirements for NO<sub>2</sub>. Additional information will be provided at future meetings.

**9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn:** The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 2 pm.