

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 11, 2023, 10 AM to 11:50 AM**

**Present:**

Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Anna Marshall, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute  
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
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  
Greg Becoat, EPA R3

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP  
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

**1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary**

Doris McLeod chaired the meeting initially in the absence of Tom Ballou. Later on, Tom Ballou took over chairing the meeting. The March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved without changes.

**2. 2008 Ozone NAAQS Maintenance Plan Update**

A. EPA's response to revised proposal to update the plan

Sunil Kumar informed members that COG staff didn't receive a response from EPA on the revised proposal to EPA to update plan inventories. Greg Becoat informed members that EPA is fine with the revised proposal and will soon send a written confirmation to COG staff.

B. Preliminary draft plan document, Safety margins & MVEBs

Sunil Kumar presented a summary of the plan, safety margins, and MEVBs for 2025 and 2030. No changes were made to the 2014 inventory in the initial maintenance plan. No changes were made to point, nonpoint, quasi-point, marine, airport, and railroad inventories for 2025 and 2030. Only onroad and nonroad inventories for 2025 and 2030 were updated in the revised plan. Emissions in 2025 and 2030 were lower than 2014 emissions even after 20% safety margins were added to emissions for those two years. Jane Posey wanted to know if the plan should contain emissions up to 1 decimal digit or 2 decimal digits. Greg Becoat said he would send his response once he receives the question.

C. Plan schedule

Sunil Kumar said that the schedule got delayed a little but due to the extended QA/QC timeframe. However, efforts will be made to stay on the schedule as much as possible.

### **3. Draft MWAQC FY2024 Work Program & Budget**

Jen Desimone briefed members on the draft MWAQC FY2024 Work Program & Budget. She talked about various MWAQC priorities and work areas for 2023-24. The WP&B would be presented to MWAQC in May.

### **4. Draft Contingency Measures Guidance**

Tim Masters briefed members on the draft contingency measures guidance EPA recently published. He also briefed on the draft MWAQC comment letter on the guidance. Roger said that MDE will send a separate comment letter to EPA. He said that Maryland can only come up with an amount of emission reduction for contingency measures for the portion of VOC and NOx emissions it is responsible for emitting. He said that EPA should allow the recalculation for contingency measure reduction. Doris said that the amount of emission reduction required for contingency measure is unreasonably high and very difficult to come up with. She also said that the analysis required to justify the inability to come up with required contingency measure emission reduction is very difficult. EPA should describe the analysis structure. The comment letter would be presented to the MWAQC Executive Committee in April.

### **5. Final Good Neighbor Plan for 2015 Ozone NAAQS**

Tim Masters briefed members on EPA's finally good neighbor plan for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The plan ensures that 23 states meet the Clean Air Act's "Good Neighbor" requirements by reducing pollution that significantly contributes to problems attaining and maintaining EPA's health-based air quality standard for ground-level ozone (2015 Ozone NAAQS) in downwind states.

The plan ensures that emissions reductions will happen as quickly as possible and be aligned with Clean Air Act deadlines for states to achieve the 2015 ozone NAAQS – which vary according to the severity of nonattainment.

The initial phase of NOx emissions reductions takes effect as soon as possible prior to August 3, 2024 attainment date for areas classified as Moderate nonattainment. Further emissions reductions phase in at the beginning of the 2026 ozone season to coincide with the August 3, 2027, attainment date for Serious nonattainment areas.

### **6. 2023 Air Quality Forecast Protocol Document**

Sunil Kumar briefed members on the 2023 air quality forecast protocol document. In general, air quality forecasts will be developed for the next three days during Monday through Thursday and for 5 days on Friday to cover through weekends based on the 8-hour averaged ozone and the 24-hour averaged fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations. Forecasts will be issued for more number of days in case of holidays. While COG, DOEE, and VDEQ will provide forecast for the Washington region, MDE will do so for Suburban DC region, a part of the Washington region. COG staff will submit forecasts to EPA's Airnowtech website and COG, VDEQ, and Clean Air Partners websites will display forecast for the Washington region.

Air Quality forecasts will be sent through Enviroflash to participants that request forecast notifications. Participants can receive notifications for one or both regions (Metropolitan Washington, Winchester) and for a specific forecast threshold (Code Green, Code Yellow, Code Orange, etc). Real-time notifications will be sent to participants who request them. Participants can receive these notifications for one or both regions and for a specific air quality threshold (Code Orange and above only).

The National Weather Service (NWS) will automatically issue Air Quality Alerts (AQA) and Air Quality Index Statements for forecast areas in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. based upon the forecasts submitted through AIRNowTech. Air Quality Index Statements are issued daily with a description of the next-day forecast. AQAs are only issued when the next-day forecast is Code Orange or greater and are displayed on the NWS Hazards Map.

Previous day's peak AQI value and AQI color code will be automatically posted on the COG ([www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org)) and Clean Air Partners ([www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net)) web sites for ozone and PM2.5.

#### **7. State/Local Updates**

Virginia- Tom said that Virginia will provide funding for Clean Air Partners this year along with the District and Maryland.

Maryland- Roger said that the comment period for Cecil County SIP should start soon.

District- None.

The meeting ended at 11:50 am.