

# Air Quality Town Meeting

October 19, 2006, 5 pm – 7 pm  
COG 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room

## Summary

### Welcome, Introductions

Jill Engel-Cox, Chair, Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) welcomed everyone, reviewed the Town Meeting agenda, and invited those in attendance to introduce themselves. She invited people to apply for positions on the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee. She introduced the first speaker, Hon. Phil Mendelson, Chair, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (AQPAC).

### I. Overview of Regional Air Quality Planning

Mr. Mendelson described the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the history of MWAQC and the regional air quality planning process. The region's air quality is improving as evidenced by fewer Code Red days and the smaller area of monitors exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard. The region's air is getting cleaner due to controls on power plants, reduced pollution from the Midwest, cleaner cars and trucks, cleaner low-sulfur fuel, and measures such as wind-energy purchases. The Washington region does not meet two new EPA standards, the 8-hour ozone standard and the fine particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard. The challenge will be to meet these standards while the region's household population and vehicle miles traveled are growing. MWAQC will be proposing a control strategy in the new air quality plan that includes programs adopted in coordination with the 13 states in the Ozone Transport Commission and those adopted locally. The larger regional measures include reformulation of consumer products, portable fuel containers, and reformulated adhesives and sealants. Many of the programs adopted by local governments are included in a "Gold Book" of innovative measures that have the potential to reduce pollution in the future. Some local measures proposed for the plan (SIP) include wind energy purchases, retrofit of diesel buses, and use of less polluting paints.

### II. Panel Discussion: What can the Washington region do to clean the air?

#### A. Terry Hargrove, American Lung Association of Virginia

Ms. Hargrove discussed the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report 2006. She said the DC metro area ranked 12<sup>th</sup> worst for ozone exposure and 12<sup>th</sup> worst for short-term particle pollution. She presented the health effects of ozone pollution and particle pollution. The Clean Interstate Rule (CAIR) will reduce emissions from power plants, but ALA supports further reductions beyond CAIR. ALA also supports more protective limits on particle pollution and urges EPA to promulgate protective emissions standards for locomotive and marine diesel engines. ALA is working to make diesel school buses cleaner through retrofits and reduced idling.

#### B. Debra Jacobson, GWU Law School: Energy Efficiency

Ms. Jacobson gave an overview of the nexus between energy and clean air. Two near-term opportunities in the energy arena are the state Clean Air Interstate rules and Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) measures in the ozone SIP. Longer term opportunities are to include EERE measures in the fine particle SIP and to adopt EERE measures to reduce global warming. Most emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO come from fossil fuel use in the U.S.; about half of the VOC emissions come from fossil fuels. The solution is to increase energy efficiency and substitute cleaner sources of energy in electric generation, buildings, transportation and industrial uses. In the next six months there will be a "window of opportunity" as states develop Clean Air Interstate Rules to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy and as the air quality plans (SIPs) are developed to address the 8-hour ozone standard. Ms. Jacobsen urged that CAIR rules be

developed that allocate nitrogen oxide allowances to encourage EERE projects. She supported EERE measures for the SIP that include increased wind energy purchases, retrofit of traffic signals with LED lights; DC and MD Renewable Portfolio Standards; energy performance contraction, and building energy codes and green building standards.

**C. Michael Powell, Gordon Feinblatt: Energy Industry**

Mr. Powell is a lawyer representing the energy industry in Maryland and he is a former legal counsel to the Maryland Dept. of the Environment. Mr. Powell said the region is already doing 90% of what it needs to be doing vis a vis the power plants in the region. The next steps will be more difficult, to “wring the last drops” out of the power industry. The North American Electric Reliability Council issued a report recently predicting that electric usage in the Mid-Atlantic region will increase 19% by 2015, while growth in electric supply will grow 6% in the same period. There are possible brownouts and blackouts in the future if the energy capacity doesn't meet growing demand.

**D. Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

Mr. Kirby said the National Capitol Region Transportation Planning Board adopted a new regional transportation plan yesterday that has many problems. The outlook for the region's transportation network is more congestion, flat transit use and the need for more revenues. The one piece of good news is that mobile emissions are declining dramatically due to technological improvements. New vehicle technology and cleaner fuels have been introduced recently. As a result, emissions from the mobile sector are expected to drop by over 50% in the next 25-30 years. Purchases of alternative fuel vehicles are growing, as are purchases of cleaner buses. The COG Transportation Planning Department is looking to new areas for improving emissions, such as retrofitting diesel construction equipment in the future.

**III. Audience Participation**

**Jim Davis, Mt. Vernon Council of CA**

Why is no one speaking about the importance of sustainable development to improving air quality? Sustainable development, sustainable land use and transportation should be considered as a long term approach.

**Rodney Livingston, DICEE/AQPAC**

Teleworking can improve air quality as people don't need to come to DC to work. Also, the traffic controls should be computerized and automated.

**Bill Orleans, Greenbelt, MD**

Jurisdictions should be purchasing new vehicles that meet the latest Heavy Duty Diesel standards. Can't MWAQC shame its members into buying cleaner fleets for their jurisdictions? City/regional administrators need to be held accountable for air quality when making local purchasing decisions.

**Andrea Grimald, Potomac Shores Condo Assn.**

What is being done about outdated coal-fired power plants? The region needs to address and reduce emissions from old power plants (example: in Alexandria, Potomac River Power Plant).

**Edward Nantanum, Fairfax County resident**

Tree cover should be increased in the region. There should be a way to quantify reductions from increased trees in urban areas. This needs to be in the air quality plan.

**Mary Harris, NOTICE, Alexandria, VA**

- What is the vision for the future of air quality in the region? The region should aim to do more than comply with the standards.

- The region should retire the dirtiest sources, because they emit 2-3 times the pollution of new plants.
- Include health costs when looking at the economics of clean air.

**Mike Knapp, Fairfax County resident**

Urged adoption of the tree cover measure. MWAQC should strongly consider recent research and studies to quantify the benefits of urban forests and increased tree cover.

**Barry Skulnik, Clean Energy Partnership**

- Urged the DC-MD-VA region to consider a plan to address CO2 and climate change. The District and Virginia should join RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
- Make large-scale purchases of renewable energy
- Set regional standard for renewable energy portfolio standards. Include an energy efficiency component
- Promote bus travel through “free bus ride” campaigns

**James Bradbury, Congressman Jay Inslee’s Office, resident**

Consider long-term initiatives such as sustainable development, smart growth, urban planning

**IV. Wrap-Up: Joan Rohlf, MWCOG/Dept. of Environmental Programs, Air Quality Planning**

Ms. Rohlf thanked the panelists and the audience for their participation. She offered to send copies of the presentations to those interested. The presentations will be posted on the COG web site. She asked the panelists if they would be willing to stay a few minutes longer to talk to individuals in the audience.

The next opportunity for public input into the SIP will be in March-April 2007 when the states hold public hearings on the draft plan (SIP).The meeting ended at 7:05 pm.

List of Attendees and Participants

Attendees, 10/19/06

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Allen, Misty	Mirant Mid-Atlantic
Austin-Lane	City of Takoma Park
Berkins, Nick	SCSS student
Bowling, Ashley	SCSS student
Bradbury, James	resident
Butler, Bill	Mirant/AQPAC
Castro, Heather	SCSS student
Craven, Courtenay	SCSS student
Davis, Jim	Mt. Vernon Council
Engel-Cox, Jill	JDE/AQPAC
Gomon, Janet	VA resident
Greer, Sally Ann	NOTICE, Alexandria
Grimald, Andrea	Potomac Shores Condo
Harris, Mary	NOTICE, Alexandria
Holmes, Brian	MHCA/AQPAC
Hug, Brian	MDE
Keys, Maurice	DDOT
Knapp, Michael	Fairfax County resident
Livingston, Rodney	DICEE/AQPAC
Nantanum, Edward	Fairfax County resident
Orleans, Bill	P.G. ACT
Rawlings, Mark	DDOT
Skulnik, Gary	Clean Energy Partnership
Ulrich, Russ	BMC
Van Fleet, Julie	AQPAC/Episcopal Stewardship of Creation
Crenshaw	
Wenk, Amanda	SCSS student
Zaragoza, Larry	AQPAC

**Speakers:**

Hargrove, Terry	American Lung Assn, Virginia
Jacobson, Debra	GW University Law School
Kirby, Ron	Director, MWCOG/DTP
Powell, Michael	Gordon Feinblatt Law Chair, MWAQC; Member, DC Council
Mendelson, Phil	

**Staff:**

Stuart Freudberg	Director, MWCOG/DEP
Jeffrey King	MWCOG/DEP
Sunil Kumar	MWCOG/DEP
Joan Rohlfs	MWCOG/DEP