

# Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20002-4239 (202) 962-3360 Fax: (202) 962-3203  
<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the  
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 11, 2006  
Room 3  
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

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## Members Present:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology  
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity  
Bill Butler, Mirant  
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association  
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation  
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia (via phone)  
Jessica Butts, District of Columbia  
Ann Brown, Washington Academy of Sciences  
Fred Metz

## COG Staff

Joan Rohlf, COG AQ

### 1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Chair Jill Engel-Cox called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM and the agenda was adopted.

### 2. Approval of Minutes; Old Business

A set of comments from Julie were incorporated into the October minutes. There was discussion about the PEPCO's transmission line extension being through Maryland, not under the river. The phrase in question ("under the river") was removed and the October minutes were approved. Julie requested one editorial change to the November minutes, and they were approved.

The final version of the AQPAC letter to MWAQC will be posted online and presented at the next MWAQC meeting.

Jessica Butts, secretary, said she does not need a laptop at this time for taking minutes.

### 3. Staff report on MWAQC and TAC

Julie Crenshaw attended and reported on the TAC meeting. TAC discussed attainment modeling for the draft ozone SIP, specifically an error in the mobile emissions projections for May and June 2009, which used 2002 mobile emissions instead of projected data. This explains why the numbers for 2009 seemed high. Data revisions over the summer contributed to the issue. All modeling is being redone.

This provoked concern by Rodney about quality control and accountability. He questioned the entire model, and asked about third party validation and peer-review of the process and content. Jill suggested the error was in the process, not in the data. Joan explained that there was a lot of quality control, but an incorrect data set was used. Larry said there are independent audits on air quality data by independent scientists; models are not tied to administrations. New modeling results should be completed by mid-January.

DC is withholding SIP credits for control measures conducted in the District. The committee discussed potential reasons why DC may be doing this; likely, DC is pushing equity issues. The committee questioned how is it possible for DC to withhold credit. If the SIP is not submitted, highway funds may be denied, which would have greater impact on VA and MD than DC. It was noted that there are not many credits being withheld; the approach being taken by DC is unique.

The draft SIP will be released in February. TAC is anticipating public hearings in March of 2007. The document will be available for public review for 30 days until the end of April or the beginning of May. Staff will respond to public comments and the final SIP will be submitted to MWAQC in May.

On another note, TAC plans to have details on the contingency strategy finalized by January. Control measures in the SIP do include the use of CALLEV low emissions vehicles by government agencies. Commitment letters from local governments are now due by January 3

The Sierra Club sent a notice of intent to commit civil action to TPB, MDOT and FHWA because PM2.5 hot spot modeling was not done for the InterCounty Connector (ICC) when it was approved as part of the Transportation Improvement Program in 2004.

State air agencies talked about CAIR (Clean Air Interstate Rule) implementation. Virginia passed CAIR regulations, but did not allow emissions trading by power plants in the Northern Virginia nonattainment area.

Julie reported that plans for increasing production at an asphalt paving plant in Alexandria (to support the Wilson Bridge project) are moving forward. It is the largest asphalt paving plant on the East Coast. Two people voted against the expansion, including Del Pepper. She asked that a PM2.5 monitor be installed at a neighboring school to replace an existing PM10 monitor, but the plant did not want to do that. The plant is not expected to not meet new EPA regulations. Lane Construction (the plant operator) has already had 22 violations in the past two years for illegal plant operations without a Special Use Permit and has never been fined or shut down. According to Brian, VDOT is requiring Lane to pave at night to avoid being considered a "nuisance."

Joan reported on MWAQC activities. MWAQC is meeting this Wednesday at the National Press Club before the COG annual lunch. They will likely write a letter to the Ozone Transportation Committee (OTC) to pressure them to complete modeling for the Washington Region SIP sooner.

At the MWAQC meeting, Dave Snyder brought up the use of CALLEV vehicles. Although regulations are being adopted by many states in the Northeast, there may not be a lot of benefit of such a program in this area beyond what Federal Tier II already does.

Joan mentioned that the Tad Aburn (MDE) has asked the University of Maryland to model the potential effect of treating Code Orange days like snow days – would it be effective to encourage telecommuting and/or to encourage the use of Metro on Code Orange days? Jill suggested that getting the Federal government to approve such a measure would make a significant impact on air quality. Tad's model is based on unrealistic assumptions, but it was agreed that thinking episodically is a good move.

Finally, MWAQC is in the process of electing officers for next year. It looks like Nancy Floreen of Montgomery, MD, will be the new chair.

#### **4. Election of 2007 Officers**

Ann made a motion to cast a nomination ballot. The following slate of officers was approved for 2007:

Chair:	Jill Engel-Cox
Vice Chair:	Deron Lovaas
Secretary:	Jessica Butts

#### **5. New Business; Annual Report**

Ann introduced Fred Metz, who will be a back-up for her when she cannot attend meetings. Fred is a retired chemist from the EPA and USDA. He is also involved in the Washington Academy of Sciences. Fred worked for 20 years for an exploratory research company that produced toxics. He helped phase out CFCs with the EPA in 1980, was one of the chemists who worked on the Bhopal incident, and helped start the Green Chemistry Program.

Julie sent information on a Bus Advisory Committee to Ann after last month's meeting. Ann expressed an interest in participating.

Rodney mentioned that AQPAC has never been mentioned in COG's Annual Report, and MWAQC has only been mentioned in a footnote. Joan will see about including more discussion on air quality in this year's Annual Report; even one paragraph in the COG report would be an improvement. Rodney dispersed marketing samples at the beginning of today's meeting to demonstrate how COG could add some pizzazz to its Annual Report that is currently on plain paper. Rodney also brought up the question of making maps of air quality as a better means of visualizing data and communication.

DOE extended an order to keep Mirant's power plant open until February. Two lawsuits have been filed.

#### **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on January 22. A schedule of all meeting dates in 2007 will be emailed to the group. Jill will attend MWAQC (December 13) and Julie will attend TAC (January 9).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.