

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: March 10, 2009

Time: 10 am to 12 pm

COG Board Room, 3rd Floor

Lunch will be served to members at noon

DRAFT Agenda

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- 10:00 1. **Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (February 17, 2009)**
Chairman Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- 10:10 2. **Court Decision on 2006 Annual PM2.5 NAAQS**
Joan Rohlf, COG DEP, will discuss the recent court decision on the 2006 annual PM2.5 NAAQS.
- 10:20 3. **Status of SIP Commitments for May 1, 2009**
State air agencies will discuss the current status of SIP commitments for the May 1, 2009 deadline.
- 10:40 4. **Results of Local Government Initiatives Annual Reporting**
Jeff King, COG DEP, will discuss the results of annual reporting on the local voluntary bundle commitments.
- 10:50 5. **Updated Estimates of Mobile Emissions**
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG DTP, will discuss revised estimates of CO2 emissions for the region.
- 11:10 6. **Status of Funding for Fairfax County Air Quality Monitoring Sites**
Tom Ballou, Virginia DEQ, will discuss issues related to funding and operation of air quality monitoring sites in Fairfax County.
- 11:25 7. **Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Funding**
Joan Rohlf, COG DEP, will discuss funding opportunities for diesel emission reduction projects.
- 11:35 8. **Other Business**
-- Work Program and Budget
-- Virginia Exceptional Events Submission
- 11:45 9. **State and Local Air Agency Report**
- 11:55 10. **Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn**
Next TAC Meeting: April 14, 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. For details: www.mwkog.org.

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**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 17, 2009 10am to 12pm
Teleconference**

Present:

Elizabeth Aiken, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Cecily Beall, District Department of Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Environment
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment
Candice Hall, U.S. Navy, DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators Office Region III
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of Environment
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
Ana Prados, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations
Molla Sarros, Maryland Department of Environment
Walt Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff:

Monica Bansal, COG/DTP
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

Observers/Participants:

Charley Baummer, MWAA
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (January 12, 2009). Mr. Ballou called

the meeting to order at 10:05. The minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes.

2. EPA Guidance on Area Designations for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS

Jeff King and Sunil Kumar discussed recent EPA guidance on area designations for the 2008 ozone NAAQS of 75 ppb. State recommendations for nonattainment areas are due to EPA by March 12, 2009. EPA will propose area designations no later than March 2010. Analysis of recent monitoring data indicates a significant number of monitors along the eastern seaboard are recording pollution levels above the new standard. All of the existing counties in the current DC/MD/VA nonattainment area would be in nonattainment based on the recent monitoring data.

Brian Hug said that Maryland is considering two options. First, Maryland may recommend that the existing ozone nonattainment areas be designated as nonattainment for the new standard. The second option being considered is to designate the entire state as nonattainment. The second option is more in-line with the science that suggests reductions are needed across a larger area to bring the existing nonattainment areas into compliance.

Cecily Beall said that the District is still discussing potential recommendations. Monitoring data indicate that the District is currently in nonattainment with the new standard.

Tom Ballou said that Virginia will use 2008 monitoring data to support the recommendations. Caroline County is one possible area in Virginia that may be a new nonattainment area based on monitored data.

Diane Franks said that if St Mary's County is designated as nonattainment, the Southern Maryland planning area (Charles/Calvert/St Mary's Counties) will need to decide if it wants to be its own SIP planning area or be included in MWAQC.

MWAQC will hear a report on area designations in February.

3. Initiatives to Reduce Emissions from Motor Vehicles

Sunil Kumar discussed the low-carbon fuel standard proposed in Massachusetts and other New England and MidAtlantic States. New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island signed a letter of intent on December 31, 2008 to develop a regional low-carbon standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. Low carbon fuel standards require reductions in the average greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy. It can apply to fuel used for transportation, but also for home heating fuel. This standard would apply to the entire region creating a larger market for cleaner fuels and the development of clean energy technologies. While California's low-carbon standard is limited to motor vehicles, the Northeast states' standard would cover "fuels for vehicles and other uses." The letter also noted that a low-carbon fuel standard would be market-based, and would not pick favorites among the various sources of low-carbon energy available, such as electricity and advanced biofuels. The eleven states will draft a joint Memorandum of Understanding on the new low-carbon fuel program and send it to be signed by their respective governors by the end of 2009. The letter also said the states will collaborate with the nonprofit Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), a group that represents regional air-quality agencies. NESCAUM is already conducting a study of how a regional low-

carbon fuel standard would work. The states also agreed to work with other states and the federal government, and to seek to influence the design of any federal low-carbon fuel standard or other related policy that is proposed.

Monica Bansal discussed analyses of the greenhouse gas benefits of various transportation measures. The project involves developing baseline greenhouse gas projections for transportation through 2030; analyzing a "What Would It Take?" scenario for greenhouse gas reduction, including fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, travel efficiency; and seeking greenhouse gas reduction strategies that could be included in the region's transportation plans and programs.

She presented an estimate of CO₂ emissions from motor vehicles in 2010. Total emissions are estimate to be approximately 27.6 million tons annually. Passenger cars and light duty trucks account for 93 percent of VMT and 80 percent of carbon emissions. Heavy duty trucks account for 7 percent of VMT and 20 percent of carbon emissions. CAFE standards do not apply to heavy duty trucks.

Ms. Bansal reviewed the results of several "what would it take" scenarios. For example, achieving the CAFE standard of 35 mpg by 2020 will result in a 10.5 percent drop in cumulative emissions, an additional 18.2 percent would still be needed for the region to meet its reduction goals. Accounting for a potential increase in alternative fuel vehicles would result in an additional 5.5 percent reduction above CAFE alone. Travel demand management and traffic signal optimization would result in an additional 1.4 percent reduction above CAFE and additional alternative fuel vehicles. A second set of scenarios was presented that assumed a higher federal role. For example, if the CAFE standard was raised to 45 mpg by 2030, there would be a 13.1 percent decrease in cumulative emissions, an additional 15.6 percent would still be needed for the region to meet its reduction goals.

Staff are also analyzing cost effectiveness of various measures, including telecommute initiatives, signal optimization, park and ride lots, and transit service improvements.

4. Initiatives to Reduce Emissions from Distributed Generation

Brian Hug discussed Maryland's proposed Distributed Generation Rule. The purpose of the rule is to address emissions from small electricity generators during high electric demand days. New load shaving units must meet New Source Performance Standards. Operation of any unit is limited to less than 10 hours during the ozone season, unless the source obtains a permit and meets performance standards. There is an alternate compliance method which involves purchase and retirement of NO_x allowances.

5. Revised AQI for Particulate Matter

Sunil Kumar discussed EPA's revised AQI for fine particles. EPA has proposed a new AQI for fine particles that now sets code orange at 35.5 ug/m³, or an exceedance of the daily standard. The proposal may be held up because of White House review of all proposed federal regulations.

6. Local Government Voluntary Initiatives Annual Reporting

Jeff King reviewed local government SIP commitments and discussed the annual reporting of accomplishments for the Voluntary Bundle. One of the commitments made in the ozone and fine

particle SIPs is to track progress in meeting bundle commitments annually and to prepare a true-up evaluation report every three years. The next evaluation report is due in March 2010. Annual survey forms are being circulated and results are anticipated within the next month.

One outstanding item is for states to establish an EERE NOx allowance set aside program so that allowances can be retired commensurate with NOx reduction credits taken in the voluntary bundle for EERE projects. Virginia and Maryland have a set-aside program. The District is working to finalize its CAIR rule which will have a set-aside component.

7. Conformity Scope of Work

Jane Posey discussed the conformity scope of work. The scope includes use of Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts, use of Version 2.2 of the Travel Demand Model, use of 2008 vehicle registration data, and emission factors from EPA's MOBILE6.2 model. Conformity will be demonstrated for daily ozone, daily carbon monoxide, and annual PM_{2.5}. At the request of WMATA, the 2010 transit constraint will be removed and the constraint will be applied in 2020. A previously used input that all HOV facilities would be HOV-3 starting in 2010 was adjusted to 2020 at the request of transportation agencies. TPB is expected to act on the final conformity demonstration in July.

In response to questions, Mike Clifford said he does not know the impact of changing the HOV-3 assumption. The change will affect both transit and highway trips but the magnitude of the impact is unknown.

8. Other Business

Daivamani Sivasailam discussed recently analyzed vehicle registration data for Maryland and Virginia. The District is currently reviewing the database so results were not yet available. Observations based on an initial review of the data include fewer new cars in the fleet, an increase in the number of vehicles more than 7+ years old, and an overall increase in the number of light duty trucks, including SUVs. Staff are still analyzing the data for transit and school buses.

9. State and Local Air Agency Report

Tom Ballou Reported for Virginia. He addressed the opacity issue that was tabled at the last TAC meeting. The State Air Pollution Board considered MWAQC's request to lower the opacity limit at its December 2008 meeting, but was unable to reach a decision. The issue will be on the Air Board agenda in April. MWAQC has sent a follow-up letter to Governor Kaine requesting timely action on the request. In response to a question from Bill Skrabak, Tom Ballou said that the staff recommendation to the Air Board was to not proceed with a regulatory proposal to lower the limit. It is not a required action, there is no method to analyze benefits, and there are other regulatory initiatives that should take precedent. Mr. Skrabak asked for an electronic copy of the MWAQC letter sent to Governor Kaine.

Tom Ballou said that Virginia DEQ has prepared an exceptional events package to EPA for the 2008 ozone season because of fires in eastern North Carolina and the Great Dismal Swamp. The request is currently out for public review and comment. There is a new proposal being advanced to construct a new 600 MW natural gas fired power plant in Prince William County. Local

permits have not yet been received and if the project advances, emission offsets and nonattainment area permitting will be required.

Diane Franks reported for Maryland. Based on a review of 2008 monitoring data, Baltimore has attained the 2006 daily PM_{2.5} standard. If EPA is in agreement, this development could result in the region being designated as attainment and would therefore avoid the situation where Prince George's and Montgomery Counties are added to the Baltimore nonattainment area. EPA has withdrawn its intent to disapprove the Baltimore ozone SIP. Staff are responding to comments on the Distributed Generation Rule. Changes to Maryland's opacity regulation are still pending. Required CTG guideline regulations will not be submitted as a SIP revision until other states catch up. Staff are active dealing with issues for the current legislative session. Climate legislation was introduced and may stand a better chance of being adopted this year given significant stakeholder involvement from environmental groups and labor/manufacturing sector.

Cecily Beall reported for the District. Active regulatory initiatives include the OTC VOC rules, CTG regulations, Conformity SIP regulations, and CAIR. The District is also considering a distributed generation regulation and increases to its permit fees. The District is holding meetings with Pepco to deal with BART issues for the Regional Haze SIP. The District is preparing a Sustainability Plan that will also include a Climate Action Plan, which should be completed by Earth Day.

10. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn. The next TAC Meeting will be held on March 10, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at noon.