

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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MEETING NOTICE

Date: January 28, 2009

Time: 12:00 pm– 2:00 pm

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol St., NE, 3rd Floor, Board Room
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**TPB will meet from 10:00 am – 11:45 am in the COG Board Room.
Lunch will be available for members of TPB and MWAQC at 11:30 a.m.*

AGENDA

- 12:00 1. Call to Order; Approval of Minutes, Chair’s Remarks**
- 12:15 2. Committee Reports**
 - A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee**
 - B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee**
 - C. Report of the Clean Air Partners**
- 12:40 3. Appointment of Members to AQPAC**
- 12:50 4. Comment Letter to EPA Re Proposed Designation of Montgomery County and Prince George’s County as part of Baltimore Nonattainment Area for 2006 Daily PM2.5 Standard**
- 1:30 5. New 2008 Ozone Standard: Schedule for Designations**
- 1:40 6. CAIR Remand: Implications for Region’s SIPs**
- 1:50 7. State and Local Air Reports**
- 2:00 8. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn**
Next Meeting Date: February 25, 2009

Item: 1. Public Comment, Approval of Minutes, Announcements, Chairman's Report

Presenter: Hon. Phil Mendelson, MWAQC Chair

Description:

After the public comment period, Chair will call for approval of Meeting Summary for December 10, 2008, and for amendments to the agenda.

Recommended Action:

Approve minutes

Item: 2. Committee Reports

- **Report of the Technical Advisory Committee**
Tom Ballou, Chair
- **Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee**
Deron Lovaas, Chair
- **Report of the Clean Air Partners**
Harriet West, Managing Director
- **Report of IAQC**
Cecily Beall, DC DOE

Item 3. Appointment of Members to AQPAC (ACTION)

Presenter: Joan Rohlfs, Chief, Air Quality Planning

Description:

AQPAC is renewing its organization under new bylaws that MWAQC adopted last December. Twenty-six people have applied for membership positions, including eight people who have been members for several years. MWAQC will appoint 17-18 members to the committee.

Recommended Action:

Approve appointment of AQPAC members

Materials:

Member List

Item: 4 Comment Letter to EPA Re: Proposed Designation of Montgomery County and Prince George's County as part of the Baltimore Nonattainment Area for 2006 Daily PM2.5 Standard (ACTION)

Presenter: Joan Rohlfs, Chief, Air Quality Planning

Description:

EPA proposed on Dec. 5 to designate Montgomery County and Prince George's County as part of the Baltimore nonattainment area for the 2006 daily PM2.5 standard. The basis for designation is the two counties' high emissions and their contribution to the Baltimore nonattainment problem. The proposal starts a comment process which should come through MDE by February 3, 2009.

Montgomery County and Prince George's County have been in the Washington DC-MD-VA nonattainment area for ozone and fine particles since the early 90's. The Washington, DC-MD-VA region was designated in attainment of the standard. Transportation conformity—required for nonattainment areas—is modeled for those counties as part of TPB's network analysis. Splitting them off from the Washington region for one pollutant disrupts the conformity assessment process in the Washington region. Splitting them off would create a complicated process of MOU's between MDE and TPB to do the modeling for those two counties, with the conformity outcome determined by mobile budgets in the Baltimore SIP in 2010 or 2011. MWAQC wants to coordinate a MWCOG regional response with input from TPB, MWAQC and the COG Board.

Recommended Action:

Approve Draft Comment Letter to EPA

Materials:

Draft Letter

Dec. 5 EPA letter to Governor O'Malley

Item 5. New 2008 Ozone Standard: Schedule for Designations

Presenter: Jeff King, Senior Environmental Planner

Description:

EPA adopted a new tougher ozone standard in early 2008. The new standard establishes 75 ppb as the limit instead of 85 ppb under the “eight-hour ozone standard.” The process of designating areas of nonattainment begins with the states recommending nonattainment areas to EPA by March 2009. After exchange of data and discussion with the states, EPA will propose final designations by March 2010.

Recommended Action:

Briefing

Materials:

Fact Sheet

Item 6. CAIR Remand: Implications for the Region's SIPs

Presenter: Jeff King, Senior Environmental Planner

Description:

In late December a federal appeals court remanded the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) to EPA. The rule limits emissions from power plants and reduces transported pollution. It is used in the Washington region's air quality plans ("SIPs") to meet the ozone and fine particle standards. Without the CAIR rule, the air quality plans lacked controls to reduce transported pollution from state sources and out of state sources. The court's remand of CAIR is good news because it keeps the region moving forward to reducing emissions of sulfur-dioxide and nitrogen oxides, precursors to fine particle pollution.

Recommended Action:

Receive briefing

Materials:

Ruling, U.S. Court of Appeals, North Carolina vs. EPA, 12/23/08

Wall Street Journal, "Court Reinstates Clean-Air Rule During EPA Fix," 12/23/08