

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
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DRAFT MINUTES OF October 25, 2006 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Ricardo Canizales, Prince William County
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Alan Imhoff, City of Frederick
Hon. Leta Mach, Greenbelt City Council
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia City Council, MWAQC Chair
Mark Rawlings, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, VDOT
Hon. Mick Stanton, Loudoun County
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Stanley Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Environment

Others Present:

Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Erica Bannerman, City of Alexandria
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC
Pam Parker, Montgomery County
Deirdre Elvis-Peterson, District Department of the Environment
Mary Harris, Citizen of Alexandria
Carl Winstead, Fairfax County

Staff:

Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP	Jeff King, COG/DEP
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP	Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP	Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP	Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period

Chair Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. There were two speakers for the public comment period. Julie Crenshaw van Fleet asked MWAQC to consider implementing the current set of episodic programs to improve air quality during air quality action days in all of the COG jurisdictions. Mary Harris said that as a citizen of Alexandria, she has been directly impacted by the air emissions from the Mirant Potomac River Power Plant. She said she has been to the emergency room twice for pulmonary issues related to air pollution. She said that old power plants should be required to meet Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and that it is important to do more than just the minimum required to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

2. Approval of Minutes, Announcements

Mr. Mendelson called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the September 27, 2006 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Mendelson made several announcements. The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) held an Air Quality Town Meeting on October 19 at COG. The meeting was well-attended. Jill Engel-Cox, Chair of AQPAC, will provide a report about the meeting later in the agenda. After October, the MWAQC meeting schedule calls for one more meeting before the end of the year, in either November or December. The MWAQC Executive Committee proposes to hold the final MWAQC meeting of the year on December 13, at the National Press Club. Like last year's meeting, the meeting will be held in the morning (9:30 am – 11:30 am) before the COG Board Annual Lunch, to which MWAQC members will be invited. At the last meeting of the year MWAQC votes on officers for the coming year. Mr. Mendelson appointed a Nominating Committee of Leta Mach for Maryland; Linda Smyth for Virginia; and he will represent the District of Columbia. The Nominating Committee will make its report at the December meeting. There will be no MWAQC meeting in November.

3. Committee Reports

A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Sydnor reported on the activities of the TAC. He referred members to the one page summary of relevant policy issues and said that most of the items are on the agenda today for discussion. Members are working to develop a contingency plan which needs to be included in the SIP. Contingency reductions of 10-14 tons per day are required. Attainment modeling has also been delayed due to the need to incorporate updated regional emission inventories. This ongoing work will have implications for the SIP schedule. These items will be discussed in more detail today.

B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Ms. Engel-Cox, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported on a recent meeting. AQPAC has been focused on development of outreach materials, which are available to members today. She will report on the recent Town Hall meeting under Item 8.

C. Report of the Clean Air Partners

Ms. Linda Smyth reported. The air quality curriculum committee met by conference call on October 24th to review the next two units of the curriculum (“Air Quality Index” and “Our Lungs, Our Air, Our Health – The Health Effects of Air Pollution”). The final two units will be completed in November with piloting in Northern Virginia schools scheduled to begin in Nov-Dec

2006. The first meeting of the Business Roundtable planning group was held on October 20th. Clean Air Partners may partner with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection on an aqueous parts washer rebate program for vehicle repair facilities. Clean Air Partners will assist with developing a survey and conducting meetings with shop owners to further evaluate the feasibility of this project. The Managing Director is working with COG staff on distributing the printer survey to nearly 1,000 printers in Northern Virginia. The results will be used to determine the future direction of this initiative.

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee approved reprogramming \$141,368 in carry over funds from FY 06 for the following FY 07 initiatives: Air Quality Curriculum (\$20,220); 10-Year Anniversary Planning (\$18,548); Marketing and Outreach (\$32,600); Web Site/Database Enhancement (\$61,000); and Business Roundtable/Voluntary Emissions Program (\$9,000).

Nancy Floreen asked about whether the Government Printing Office will be included in the printer survey. Joan Rohlfs said that staff will investigate whether the survey will include the GPO. EPA has also proposed a new regulation that will require emission reductions from large printers, including the GPO.

D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)

Ms. Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment, reported on the IAQC. At the recent conference call of the Staff Coordinating Committee (SCC), members agreed to postpone the scheduled meeting of the Secretaries due to delays in attainment modeling. Staff also discussed the use of future year mobile budgets as a contingency measure and recommended that TPB be asked to develop new mobile inventories for 2010 or 2012.

4. SIP Status Report

Ms. Rohlfs provided an update on the status of the 8-hour ozone SIP. The deadline to submit the plan is June 15, 2007. The current anticipated schedule is to provide a draft SIP to MWAQC in January. Public hearings would be held in February/March, and the MWAQC would approve the plan in April. In terms of outstanding work tasks, the main pending items are identification of contingency measures and the attainment modeling results. Efforts are underway to model a variety of new measures to determine if the region can demonstrate attainment by the end of the 2009 ozone season. Updated modeling results are expected in December. Measures being evaluated include controls on power plants, a number of Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) model rules, and reductions from local voluntary measures. Several modeling centers, including one at Virginia DEQ, are handling different modeling runs and results are expected to be complimentary. The Contingency Plan will require significant level of NO_x and VOC reductions. One proposal being considered is to set a new mobile budget for 2010 as a contingency measure. Reductions from the new mobile budget would result from the Tier 2 standards or Heavy Duty Diesel rule. A number of other possible measures are also being evaluated, including a variety of pending OTC initiatives. In addition to the contingency plan and attainment modeling results, local government commitments, including commitment letters, are also needed for the voluntary bundle. Commitment letters need to be sent to the states by the end of the year.

Dave Snyder asked about Tier 2 motor vehicle standards and whether the region needs to take any actions to achieve the reductions from these standards. Joan Rohlfs explained that these are EPA

standards that limit emissions across each manufacturer's vehicle fleet. The benefit of Tier 2 standards result from fleet turnover. Dave Snyder asked that additional information on the CAL LEV II program be provided at a future meeting.

To achieve further reductions from local government initiatives, Dave Snyder asked whether a letter should be sent to the CAOs. Joan Rohlf said that the CAOs were briefed in September, and additional communication with the CAOs may be useful.

Phil Mendelson asked for clarification on the use of a mobile budget as contingency. Joan Rohlf said that this is a new approach to contingency measures but could be allowed under a couple of conditions. According to EPA, the budget must be established with implementation on a date certain, and must be mandatory. Potential use of a mobile budget as contingency may also be addressed by the IAQC.

Nancy Floreen asked whether local voluntary measures can be used as contingency measures. In particular, she asked about whether adopting new International Green Building codes could be used. Joan Rohlf said that it is possible, but certain requirements must be met, in particular the emission reductions must be quantifiable. Staff are working with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to develop protocols to calculate the air quality benefits of EERE measures.

JoAnne Sorensen asked that other measures in addition to the potential 2010 mobile budget be evaluated quantitatively.

5. Proposed Local Voluntary Bundle

Jeff King provided an overview of the proposed local voluntary bundle. The Local Government Initiatives Subcommittee has been working to identify potential local measures to include in the SIP. EPA guidance does allow local measures to be included in the SIP as a voluntary bundle. Local county environmental staff have been working to identify potential measures. A survey was circulated in August and September to gather additional data on those local programs identified as potential priorities. Staff are now working to evaluate the results of the survey to document the emission reduction benefits. For any local measures to be included in the SIP, local governments should send commitment letters to the state by the end of the year. Mr. King provided a list of measures being developed for the bundle, including information on survey responses for each jurisdiction.

Mr. King said that there is interagency consultation underway to determine how to handle potential emission reduction credits for local mobile-sector measures, such as diesel retrofits and low-emission vehicle purchases.

The benefits of certain measures, such as urban heat island mitigation and Green Buildings, may not be readily quantifiable so could be included as weight of evidence.

JoAnne Sorensen asked for information on how air quality benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures would be handled. Jeff King said that the states will need to include in their CAIR regulations a NOx allowance set aside for energy efficiency and renewable measures.

Mr. Mendelson asked why the District Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is not included. Stan Tracey said that DC wind energy purchase has recently been included in a survey response and could be included. Jeff King said that staff are evaluating the potential benefits of the RPS.

Mr. Mendelson asked why the District is not included in the diesel retrofit measure. Stan Tracey said that the Department of Environment is in discussions with the school board and the DPW to try to establish such a program.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend this package of local measures as a bundle for inclusion in the 8-hour ozone SIP. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. MWAQC Comment on the Conformity Analysis

Jeff King provided a summary of a recent MWAQC comment letter on TPB's draft Conformity Analysis for the 2006 CLRP and 2007-2012 TIP. This year's analysis included a conformity demonstration for both ozone and PM_{2.5}. Both analyses used the interim test, ozone emissions were compared to the existing 2005 budgets for VOC and NO_x established in the 1-hour ozone SIP, and the PM_{2.5} interim emissions test involves demonstrating that NO_x and direct PM_{2.5} emissions in the milestone year are below 2002 levels. The draft analysis indicates that conformity is demonstrated for both ozone and PM_{2.5} for all milestone years. The Conformity Subcommittee prepared a draft comment letter which was subsequently reviewed and approved by the MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee. Given the timing of the comment period, final review and approval of the comment letter was handled by the MWAQC Executive Committee. The letter recognizes that conformity is demonstrated for both ozone and PM_{2.5}, that new emission budgets are being developed as part of the SIP process, and that implementing agencies should maintain their commitment to emission reduction measures. The letter was sent to the Chair of the TPB.

Ms. Engel-Cox asked why SO₂ was not considered for the PM_{2.5} determination. Jeff King said that the EPA guidance only requires that the precursor NO_x and direct PM_{2.5} emissions be evaluated until such time as EPA or the state air agencies determine that SO₂ or other PM_{2.5} precursors are significant contributors. Mr. Mendelson asked for a briefing at a future meeting on the differences between how the NO_x inventories for ozone and PM_{2.5} are developed.

7. Attainment Modeling and Weight-of-Evidence

Tom Ballou shared information on the latest results of attainment modeling runs handled by Virginia DEQ. Modeling runs performed earlier in the year had indicated that all of the monitors in the Washington region are predicted to be at or near the required attainment level of 85 ppb. Over the past several months, the modeling centers began revisions to the modeling to account for updated emission inventories and updated modeling platforms. The results for the Washington region using the updated modeling indicated two of the monitors in the region will have 2009 predicted Design Values above 87 ppb, which is out of the range where weight of evidence can be used to demonstrate attainment. These results have not been accepted as final. Virginia DEQ is performing a review of the updated model to determine whether the revised results are correct and whether there are any issues that need to be addressed in either the modeling platform or inputs. While the modeling review is being conducted, COG staff and state agencies are developing weight-of-evidence analyses for inclusion in the SIP. Mr. Kumar reviewed a list of weight-of-evidence analyses under development. Nancy Floreen asked for more

information at a later date on the weight-of-evidence map showing the overall area of exceedances getting smaller over time.

8. Air Quality Town Hall

Ms. Engel Cox provided a briefing on the Air Quality Town Hall Meeting held last week on October 19, 2006. The meeting was well attended, including state and county representatives, activists, interested citizens, a Congressional staffer, and a group of high school students. The purpose of the meeting was to seek both short and long-term air quality improvement ideas from the public. The panel included Phil Mendelson, the American Lung Association, Debra Jacobson, Ron Kirby, and a representative of regulated utilities. Jill Engel-Cox provided a summary of the comments received from the public. Major themes included sustainable development, telecommuting, automation of traffic signals, cleaner fleets, and the need to reduce emission from older legacy power plants. Issues such as urban heat island mitigation, tree canopy initiatives, and climate change were also discussed.

9. State Air Agency Report

Jim Sydnor reported for Virginia. He said that Virginia Air Pollution Control Board will adopt the Virginia CAIR rule in December. The rule will include an EERE set aside.

Stan Tracey reported for the District. He said that the District is working to finalize the CAIR rule by February/March 2007.

Diane Franks reported for Maryland. The Health Air Act regulation is being finalized. Maryland is also working on a number of other regulatory initiatives, including the OTC model rules across a range of sectors. University of Maryland is also assisting with weight of evidence analysis, including aircraft measurements to assess pollution transport.

10. Other Business

Joan Rohlfs announced that the COG website now will include an air quality documents page.

11. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting will take place on December 13. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.