

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 10, 2012 10:00 to 11:30
Teleconference

Present:

Elizabeth Aiken, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Jon Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Walt Seedlock, MWAA
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation

Others Present:

Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council

Staff:

Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Anant Choudhary, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (June 12, 2012)

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10:05. The June 12, 2012 Meeting Summary was approved with no changes.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil Kumar presented the ozone season summary. There have been 3 code red days this year. Conditions have been favorable for exceedances. The record heat wave has involved 18 days so far with temperatures greater than 90 degrees. The Design Value for the region is now increasing since the data from 2009 (which was a cool year with very few air quality problems) are no longer factored into the DV calculations.

In response to questions, Sunil said that ozone formation involves complicated chemistry and that the relationship between temperature and ozone concentrations is nonlinear. Diane Franks and Doris McLeod noted that episodes have involved a significant number of exceedances, but Diane noted that the Edgewood monitor hasn't been that bad this year. Tom Ballou noted that the Washington Post weather blog has pointed out that this is possibly the most significant heat wave since 1930. Sunil said that this historic heat wave may be near worst on record in the last 141 years.

3. Air Quality Alerts Comment Letter

Sunil Kumar presented a draft comment letter regarding issuance of air quality alerts by the National Weather Service. Ram Tangirala said he supports the letter and that MARAMA has sent a detailed letter to the NWS. The NWS response however was not encouraging. The main reason that NWS Sterling has decided to stop issuing the air quality alerts is that since there have been so many code orange alerts, the NWS is concerned that the air quality alerts are detracting from the NWS's main mission - weather alerts, including heat warnings. Tom Ballou said that Virginia is considering sending a letter as well. The draft comment letter was approved for recommendation to MWAQC.

4. EPA Regulatory Update - PM_{2.5} NAAQS Proposal

Sunil Kumar discussed the recent EPA PM_{2.5} NAAQS proposal, including a possible MWAQC comment letter. EPA is proposing the PM_{2.5} annual NAAQS be strengthened to a level of between 12 and 13 ug/m³, to as low as 11 ug/m³. There would be no change to the daily standard. Members discussed possible changes to the monitoring network that may be required in response to the rule if finalized. Since there would likely be no new funds, the States would need to re-align the existing network. There was no support for preparation of an MWAQC comment letter at this time. AASHTO and NACAA may be preparing comment letters. The DOTs may be concerned about the secondary standard and impacts of near road monitoring.

5. Air Quality Conformity

Members discussed a draft MWAQC comment letter on the draft TPB Conformity determination for the 2012 CLRP and 2013-2018 TIP. The letter was approved for recommendation to the MWAQC Executive Committee for action. The deadline for comment is July 14th. Members did not support a recommended addition to the letter proposed by MDE prior to the call.

6. PM_{2.5} Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan - Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets and Safety Margins

Members briefly discussed the status of work on Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets (MVEBs) for the PM_{2.5} Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. Progress is being made, but there is no agreement yet. The next call is scheduled for July 16th at 10am.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. State and Local Updates

Tom Ballou and Doris McLeod reported for Virginia. The VA sewage sludge incineration rule is in the Virginia Register for public comment. Final changes to the Conformity regulation are completed.

Diane Franks reported for Maryland. There will be a July 20th stakeholder meeting for MDE's proposed long range transportation planning regulation.

Ram Tangirala said that there is no update from the District.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30. The next meeting will be held Tuesday September 11, 2012.