

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
January 15, 10:30 AM to 12:05 PM

Present:

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Elizabeth Gayne, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Walter Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Jeff Harn, Arlington County
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
Donna Mastro, EPA Region III
Martin Kotsch, EPA Region III
Flint Webb (Substitute for Ana Prados), Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
David Doniger, Natural Resource Defense Council

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (December 11, 2012)

Cecily Beall called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. The December 11, 2012 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

The group agreed to modify the order of the agenda to accommodate the schedule of the speaker for the item #4b. So the agenda item #4 was taken up before the item #2.

4. Brief Updates

Sunil Kumar presented brief updates on the items #4a, 4c, and 4d.

4a. EPA's New PM2.5 standard

Sunil Kumar talked briefly about the new standard for fine particles announced by EPA on December 14, 2012. The annual standard set at 15 ug/m³ published in 1997 was revised and set at 12 ug/m³. Daily

standard was retained at 35 ug.m3. The Washington region's latest annual and daily design values are 10.8 ug/m3 and 26 ug/m3 respectively. Both are below the revised annual and the current daily standards. Sunil also talked about the new near-road monitoring requirements for PM2.5. EPA also requires the Washington region to implement near-road monitoring for NOx. Sunil clarified the near-road monitoring requirements in response to a question from Kanti. States are still reviewing the new near-road monitoring requirements.

4b. Court ruling on EPA's 1997 PM2.5 implementation rule

Donna Mastro, EPA Region III talked about the recent court ruling on EPA's 1997 PM2.5 implementation rule. She talked about the impacts on the attainment deadline and the need to redo mobile emissions analysis for a few states using MOVES in light of the implementation rule being based on the subpart 4 instead of the subpart 1. She advised states to send their questions regarding the impact of this ruling to EPA. Doris asked if the ruling has any impact on the clean data determination for PM2.5 for the Washington region. Donna replied that EPA was in a similar situation related to the ozone implementation rule and it kept implementing the rule. Cecily Beall asked if the Washington region should keep working on the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. Donna said states should keep working while EPA would try to develop a language to address this ruling in the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan process. Kanto asked if the region should go ahead with the public comment and hearing process for the above plan. Donna advised to move forward with that process. Tom Ballou said VDEQ is moving forward with the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan as it does not see any impact from the ruling.

4c. California waiver for more stringent vehicle emission regulation

Sunil briefed on EPA's granting California Air Resources Board (CARB) a waiver of federal preemption under Clean Air Act section 209(b)(1) for the state's Advanced Clean Car (ACC) regulations, adopted in January 2012. The ACC combines the control of ozone and fine particle causing pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions into a single package of requirements for passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles (and limited requirements related to heavy duty vehicles). The ACC program includes revisions to California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEVIII), Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV), and GHG vehicle programs. Jessica informed the group that the District of Columbia was considering a similar rule.

4d. New RICE rule postponed to January 14

Sunil informed the group that EPA postponed finalized changes to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE). The proposal allows an increase in the number of hours the generators can be used for the Emergency Demand Response during emergencies. In addition, Peak shaving is also allowed for the existing RICE at area sources through April 16, 2017. These changes were scheduled to be finalized on December 14, 2012. However, this was postponed to January 14.

2. PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

COG briefly discussed the comments received from state air agencies regarding the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. While quite a few comments were minor edits, some of them referred to including the federal register citation for all federal, state, and local regulations in the two documents. State air agencies discussed their plans for the public hearing and comment process for the above plan.

Following is the schedule for the public hearing for the three jurisdictions:

District of Columbia: February 20, 2013, 5:30 pm

Maryland: February 19, 2013, 10 am

District of Columbia: February 25, 2013, 7 pm

Doris suggested having a back-up meeting for MWAQC in April in case the March MWAQC deadline is missed for any reason. Joan said she will raise this issue in the next MWAQC-Executive call. Kanti said that he will be sending a few comments on the above plan. Joan suggested Kanti sending this through an email to Sunil.

3. Briefing on Draft Scope of Work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2013 CLRP and the FY 2013-2018 TIP

Jane Posey, TPB staff talked about the draft scope of work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2013 CLRP and the FY 2013-2018 TIP. He talked about various MOVES2010a inputs to be used for the above analysis. She also informed the group on the schedule for the above analysis. She said that the 2015 analysis would be done for the 2008 ozone standard, 2017 and 2025 analysis for the mobile budgets in the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan, and 2020, 2030, and 2040 analysis for the conformity milestone years. Doris asked why the latest model version MOVES 2010b was not being used for the above analysis. Jane said there was not much difference between MOVES2010a and MOVES2010b and EPA allows either of them to be used for the current conformity analysis.

5. NRDC's Proposal to Address GHGs from Existing Utilities

David Doniger, Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) discussed a proposal to reduce greenhouse gases from the existing utilities, which will also lead to reduction in criteria pollutant emissions. The proposal recommends states to reduce the emission rate and not total emission from the existing power plants using state-specific fuel mix appropriate for their situations. Reduction in emissions rate can be achieved using four strategies. These are heat rate reduction, use of cleaner power sources, use of more renewables, and an investment in the energy efficiency. States can get together to form multi-state groups to achieve the emissions rate reduction.

Cecily asked if this proposal was sent to EPA. David said it was sent to EPA, white house, congress, power industry, etc. Doris said introduction of the new SO2 NAAQS would require use of more controls for power plants and wanted to know if it would be included in the next round of the NRDC modeling. Davis said it the NRDC plan to do that in the future. Joas asked if it was proposed to NACAA. David said it was sent to their greenhouse gas committee. Flint suggested David to talk about it in the AWMA conference scheduled at the Dulles airport.

6. Other Business

Joan said there will be an update in the February meeting of MWAQC-TAC on the appointment of the fourth stakeholder.

7. State and Local Updates

Brain Hug reported for Maryland. MDE received a notice of finding of failure for not submitting the infrastructure SIP for the 2008 ozone standard to EPA. He also talked about the public comment and hearing process for the PM2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. Cecily Beal reported for the District of Columbia. DDOE also received a notice of finding of failure for not submitting the infrastructure SIP for the 2008 ozone standard to EPA. She also said that a total of 800 comments were received on the issue of the permit for the Capitol Hill power plant. Tom Ballou reported for Virginia. He informed the group about revoking the permit for the Potomac River power plant. Khoa Tran thanked VDEQ for doing this.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.