

# Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20002-4239 (202) 962-3360 Fax: (202) 962-3203  
<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the  
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

Meeting Minutes (Approved 3/13/06)

Monday, February 13, 2006

Room 3

5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

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## In Attendance:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology

Bill Butler, Mirant

Jim Clarke, Washington Regional Network of Livable Communities

Julie Crenshaw, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation

Charlie Grymes, Virginia Rural

Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association

Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Com. Environmental Equity (DICEE)

Lee Schoenecker, American Planning Association

## COG Staff

Joan Rohlfs, Air Quality COG staff

### 1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Jill Engel-Cox called the meeting to order. After the addition of an item on a letter to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and decision to postpone Standards of Conduct item until Larry Zaragoza is present, the Agenda was adopted.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

The January 23, 2006 minutes were approved after one revision (end sentence after "after due process"). Future draft minutes will be circulated to the AQPAC mailing list as a link to a PDF file, but committee members may request a copy in Word format when desired. All members of mailing list will be notified when final minutes are posted.

### 3. Staff Report on MWAQC and TAC

February 10 TAC meeting discussed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulates and mobile emissions inventory. Conformity proposal has been released and ozone seasonal/annual inventories must be developed.

State Implementation Plan (SIP) requires identification of how attainment could be accelerated prior to 2009, so control measures workgroup going through Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) list. Requirement for measures to be adopted by government agencies will limit ability to accelerate. Survey of non-road construction equipment will be completed in 2006, for potential diesel retrofits.

Virginia Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) regulations will be issued for public comment in next several months. Julie has provided a mercury report to TAC. MWAQC will meet February 22

to discuss air quality initiatives in Virginia/Maryland, including update of Potomac River Generating Plant, Clean Power Rule, and Healthy Air Act.

Recent State of the Union address included statements of the environment. AQPAC could draft letters for MWAC to send in support of initiatives. Lee will take lead in preparing draft material for discussion at future AQPAC meeting.

#### **4. Letter to MWAQC**

Julie provided a draft letter for MWAQC suggesting change in bylaws so ACPAC is a “welcome attendee” at TAC meetings, without being subject to the public selection process. This would formalize role of AQPAC. Vote on motion to send letter with a few edits for clarification that were read aloud (Julie motion, Jim second) failed on tie vote, with 2 abstentions. Second motion (by Brian, with second by Lee) to send letter to AQPAC members with edits inviting additional changes, then approve via e-mail vote, passed unanimously.

#### **5. Staff report on compliance with new proposed PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards**

Comments will be due in April on new EPA particulate standard, lowering the 24-hour standard from 65 to 35 micrograms per cubic meter. Annual standard of 15 micrograms per cubic meter would not be revised, though consideration was given to drop to 14 or 13 micrograms per cubic meter. New 2.5-10 particulate level would be 70 micrograms per cubic meter.

Reduction would put DC area into non-attainment for 24-hour standard. There is no monitoring system in DC to measure new 2.5-10 particulate standard; it could take 3 years (2009) until monitors would be in place, then there is a need to measure before designation (perhaps 2012). Diesel retrofit may be early compliance measure for particulates, but states need results of photochemical modeling before preparing action plans.

A comment was made on how micrograms per cubic meter is not a value that the average citizen can understand. The committee also discussed long-term planning to deal with “coarse” and “fine” fractions, defining limits on types of particulates (sulfur, ammonia) and sources, and the potential to send letter to MWAQC. The committee decided to keep topic on AQPAC agenda for future meetings.

#### **6. Discussion of Clean Power Rule and Healthy Air Act**

States required by EPA to adopt CAIR with capped emissions, but emission credits can be traded. Clean Power Rule proposed in Maryland would set emission caps lower than CAIR on NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and mercury. Healthy Air Act caps regional emissions on NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and mercury, and requires Maryland to join Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) or set limits on CO<sub>2</sub>.

Both actions are focused on Maryland coal-fired power plants. Clean Power Rule would affect 6 plants, with company-wide limits rather than limits on individual plants (so power company could build a new plant and still comply). Clean Power Rule sets emission rates (lbs/Btu), while Healthy Air Act imposes emissions cap - so hard to compare the two. It's appropriate to ask for additional clarification at MWAQC meetings. COG has representative on Maryland air quality control advisory committee, and AQPAC could ask her to comment re: difficulty to compare Clean Power Rule rate with Healthy Air Act emission cap, when failure to comply may result in plants being closed. It may be too late to comment effectively on Healthy Air Act, but Jill will send comments directly to COG representative.

Virginia is considering dropping requirement for new cars to have emission inspections.

## **7. New Business**

A short discussion was held on the role of AQPAC members at MWAQC and TAC meetings. AQPAC representatives can engage in discussion and make motions, but cannot vote.

## **8. Next Meeting - March 13**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting is March 13. Jill will attend MWAQC (February 22) and Julie will attend TAC (March 10).