

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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MWAQC TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: September 13, 2011

Time: 10:00 am to 11:30

TELECONFERENCE

Call In Number (209) 647-1000

Passcode 789498#

Agenda

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- 10:00 1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (July 12, 2011)**
Chairman Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment
- 10:10 2. Ozone Season Summary**
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP will provide an overview of the ozone season to date.
- 10:20 3. PM2.5 Redesignation and Maintenance Plan: Update**
COG staff will provide an update on the status of inventory development for the PM2.5 redesignation request and maintenance plan. Staff will also present draft sections of the redesignation request and maintenance plan, and will discuss potential triggers for contingency actions.
- 10:40 4. Ozone Transport Commission: Update**
COG staff will present information from the recent OTC Stakeholder meeting held on September 8.
- 10:55 5. Conformity Update**
COG staff will provide an update on the conformity analysis, as well as the receipt and analysis of vehicle registration data.
- 10:55 6. Agreement on the Potomac River Generating Station**
Staff from the City of Alexandria will discuss the recent agreement reached with GenOn to close the Potomac River Generating Station in Alexandria.
- 11:10 7. EERE in SIPs**
Jeff King, COG/DEP, will discuss the EERE allowance set-aside approach in the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR).
- 11:20 8. State and Local Updates**
- 11:25 9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn**
Next TAC Meeting: October 11, 2011



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**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 12, 2011 10:00 to 11:30
COG Board Room, 3rd Floor**

Present:

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Elizabeth Aiken, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Randall Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Andrew Gayne, Marine Base Quantico
Jennifer Hains, Maryland Department of the Environment
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Mike Lake, Fairfax Department of Transportation
Ana Prados, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Walt Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff:

Jeannine Altavilla, COG/DEP
Kyle Hosley, COG/DEP Intern
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DEP
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP

Others:

Jennifer Hains, Maryland Department of the Environment
Michael Knapp, Fairfax County
Sara Tomlinson, Baltimore Metropolitan Council*
Jen Tabor, US DoD REC Region III*

* attended by teleconference

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (June 13, 2011)

Chairman Diane Franks called the meeting to order at 10:05. There were no changes to the June 13, 2011 meeting summary.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP will provide an overview of the ozone season to date. The region has had 2 Code Red Days and 10 Code Orange Days since April 15. The first episode was May 30-31, and the second episode was June 7-10. The last Code Red Day was on June 10 when very high levels of ozone were recorded. Members discussed challenges in presenting the air quality data, given the standards have changed over time. Howard Simons said he finds the comparison of exceedance days to > 90 degree days useful. Ana Prados asked if COG could evaluate health statistics in the context of exceedance days or episodes. Tad Aburn said that developing a method to show the reduction in spatial extent of exceedances is important; he also suggested that staff need to go back even farther in time to really demonstrate the remarkable progress that has been made. Jon Kinsman said that as the NAAQS is made more stringent, it will be a challenge to have the public understand that air quality is not really getting worse, it's just that the standards change.

3. PM2.5 Redesignation and Maintenance Plan: Update

Sunil Kumar provided an update on the status of inventory development for the PM2.5 redesignation request and maintenance plan. A number of inventories are still draft or in the process of being developed. Point Sources: Overall, SO₂ emissions increased between 2002 and 2007. Area Sources: NO_x and PM_{2.5} emissions increased between 2007 and 2025. Nonroad Source (NMIM): minor increase in SO₂ emissions between 2017 and 2025 for DC and MD. VA emissions need to be developed. Nonroad Source (MAR): increase in NO_x, SO₂, and PM_{2.5} emissions for DC, MD, and VA between 2017 and 2025. Onroad mobile sources: minor increase in SO₂ emissions between 2007 and 2025 for DC and MD. VA emissions need to be developed. States and MARAMA continue to make efforts to address the transport fraction issue as part of the inventory development work.

4. Importance of Low Level NO_x Reductions in Meeting the Ozone NAAQS

MDE staff will present information on the importance of low-level NO_x reductions for attaining the ozone standard. Additional programs will be needed to reduce ambient levels of pollution in the region. Ozone along the I-95 Corridor comes from both regional sources and local sources: Regional is 50-70% of the problem, Local is 30-50% of the problem. Modeling using NY City as a surrogate for all East Coast cities shows that most significant contribution comes from mobile sources in neighboring states (PA, DE, NJ). It's the same for other areas along the I-95 corridor. Mobile emissions along I-95 corridor affect Baltimore monitors. Preliminary modeling shows that even with a 40% reduction in NO_x across all sources, it may still be a challenge to demonstrate attainment. Certainly, there is a need to pursue more stringent tailpipe and fuel standards to reduce mobile emissions further. It may also be a prudent strategy for the region to begin to seriously consider setting aspirational goals to reduce emissions from on-road vehicles below what currently emission modeling establishes as the regional emission level. Leaders in the region may support an effort to try to achieve lower emissions as early as possible. It could even be possible to establish a cap and trade approach for the transportation sector, where lower conformity budgets are established and transportation planners develop approaches to achieve the target. In response to a question from Howard about the relevance of the NY City study to our region, Tad said that the states may invest in a new screening tool to assist with such

sensitivity analyses. Kanti Srikanth said it is good timing to have policy discussions and that the region has been doing travel demand management for some time. It may not be possible to establish mandatory mobile emission budget where the region does not have the controls in-place or the ability to achieve them. Doris said that we can't set lower budgets unless the region knows it has the measures in place to meet them. Tad said that if all of the modeling work demonstrates that lower emission levels are needed from the mobile sector, it will be critical to address this issue to have an approvable SIP, and that there may be support from elected officials to start implementing this approach right away.

5. NASA Air Quality Monitoring Project

Jennifer Hains provided information on a new air quality monitoring project called "Deriving Information on Surface Conditions from Column and Vertically Resolved Observations Relevant to Air Quality (DISCOVER-AQ)." The project involves use of aircraft to measure airborne pollutant concentrations in the Baltimore/Washington region. NASA is collaborating with UMD and MDE to collect satellite data for air pollution along the I-95 corridor in Maryland. The project involves conducting spiral flights from 1000 to 10,000 feet above air quality monitors in Maryland. The goal is to better calibrate satellite information with ground information and to improve the understanding of the boundary layer chemistry, ozone precursor transport, and the extent of ozone and aerosol pollution.

6. SO2 Designations

States in the region recently submitted their SO2 designation recommendations as unclassifiable.

7. Regional Tree Canopy Management Plan

Jeff King and Michael Knapp discussed a new regional task force charged with developing a regional tree canopy management plan. A Regional Tree Canopy Management Plan is being proposed to meet a commitment in the 8-hour ozone SIP and to respond to a goal in the Climate and Energy Action Plan and National Capital Region Climate Change Report to increase tree canopy in the region. Mike Knapp, Fairfax County Forester, will work with COG staff to create a Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup which will develop a regional plan framework and recommendations. A final report is anticipated in October 2012. One goal will be to determine the feasibility of a 5 percent canopy expansion in the region. It will be important to establish a baseline using satellite data. Collaborating at the regional level will make it more cost effective to gather and analyze data. It will also be important to take a long term 30 year view of land use changes. Bill Skrabak expressed the importance of achieving a no-net loss first. We shouldn't take credit for planting trees if we are losing vast acreage annually. Howard said that we do take credit for travel demand management initiatives even though there is growth in VMT. It helps to reduce the rate of growth.

8. State and Local Updates

Bill Skrabak reported for the City of Alexandria. The Sierra Club met with the Mayor and GenOn on SO2 impacts. Work is still underway on the settlement agreement. Installation of the baghouse is anticipated in the Fall.

Tom Ballou reported for Virginia. DEQ will begin the process to evaluate all sources in the state to comply with the SO2 NAAQS. Fredericksburg is in the process of finalizing a SIP revision to revise the NOx budget to address issues related to the MOVES model. Rules for the Distributed Generation and Emergency Generators have been finalized. Honeywell has received a permit in Richmond involves 6000 tons of NOx between now and 2018.

Maryland had nothing to report.

Ram Tangirala reported for the District. He said he supported MDE's concept of a voluntary effort to set lower mobile sector budgets or aspirational goals for lowering emissions from on-road sources. The DC OTC VOC regulations have been repropose. He asked that transportation staff consider work by ERG that converts DMV data directly into MOVES format.

9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn. The next TAC meeting will be held on September 13, 2011.