

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
April 14, 2020, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Present:

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Chatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Kelly, Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment,
Ram Tangirala District Department of Energy & Environment,
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alexandra Catena, District Department of Energy & Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County
Trevor Manning, Navy Region 3

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10 am. The February 11th meeting summary was approved without any changes. Sunil asked members permission to add a new item on the COG staff memo to MWAQC, TPB, and CEEPC on the final SAFE vehicle rule. Members agreed to it.

2. Draft Base Year 2017 Emissions Inventory

Sunil Kumar discussed the status of the public hearing and comment processes for the District, Maryland, and Virginia. Maryland and Virginia already posted notices, but have not received any comments yet. The District is yet to schedule it.

3. Draft MWAQC FY2021 Work Program & Budget

Jen Desimone discussed the draft FY2021 MWAQC work program and budget. The following tasks will be covered part of the work program:

- Track designation and data for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- Prepare groundwork to develop a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 Ozone

NAAQS. This is needed in the event the Washington region does not meet the ozone NAAQS by 2021.

- Work with members to identify and implement initiatives to reduce air pollution
- Review & comment on transportation conformity assessments for ozone
- Communicate to regional and local leaders and the public on the need for actions to reduce emissions and improve air quality
- Develop and publish updated Trends report.

4. Briefing on Diesel Engine Idle Reduction Outreach Program

Jen Desimone briefed on the diesel engine idle reduction outreach program. She talked about the survey undertaken with truck drivers in this regard, which focused on the engine idling reduction effort.

5. COVID-19 and Air Quality

Sunil briefed members on the preliminary impact of COVID-19 on air quality. Traffic and electricity consumption have decreased. Emissions from non-point and nonroad sources were expected to have decreased. There have been decline in NO₂, ozone, and PM_{2.5} levels since the time COVID-19 restrictions were announced by states. However, not all of these declines could be attributed to lower emissions. Weather also might have played a role, which needs to be investigated. Ram suggested to look at EIA's CNG and oil data. He also suggested looking at Black carbon data from Maryland's near-road monitor. Tom mentioned that ICI fuel use data is available. Steve mentioned that PJM data shows a drop of 6% to 14% in electricity consumption in the same time period last year. Jane mentioned that Washington Gas data shows only half of the normal consumption during the COVID-19 period as the weather was warmer than usual. Steve said that staff will look at the heating degree days.

6. Updates on Air Monitoring Programs and I/M Programs

State air agency staff provided updates on their respective air monitoring and I/M programs. Ram said that I/M programs were partially suspended starting March 16th. While a few I/M program offices were open between March 16-25, all offices will be closed after March 25th. Regarding air monitoring, he said that it is ongoing as EPA designated this to be essential. While PAMS and criteria pollutant monitoring is undergoing normally, CSN data is lying in laboratory and not being analyzed. Brian said that the main I/M program office is closed, but the self-service kiosk is operating though with significantly reduced traffic. Air monitoring is going on normally as they are deemed essential, but laboratories are operating at a reduced scale. Tom said that air monitoring is going on normally. I/M program is also operating normally. A 60-day extension has been granted for vehicle registration and emission inspection.

7. COG Staff Memo on SAFE Vehicle Rule for MWAQC/TPB/CEEPC

Sunil discussed the draft COG staff memo on the final SAFE vehicle rule for MWAQC/TPB/CEEPC. This memo provides a preliminary staff assessment of the final rule and notes that this federal action will negatively affect the region's work towards meeting the region's greenhouse gas emissions targets and could impact efforts to meet federal air quality standards. The SAFE Vehicles Rule replaces the "2017 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards" that were issued in October 2012. The new standards require a 1.5% annual improvement for fuel economy and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions standards from MY 2021 through MY 2026. This is lower than the standards promulgated in 2012, which required improvements of

approximately 5% per year. Given the impact of this ruling on its Clean Car Program and efforts to reduce GHG and potential impact on attaining ozone NAAQS, Maryland has been approved to join other states in a legal challenge. The District of Columbia and Virginia also may join, which would be similar to their actions with the first part of the proposed SAFE Vehicles Rule in 2018.

8. State & Local Updates

Virginia – Tom said that the Clean Energy Act of Virginia aims to achieve carbon free electricity sector by 2040. There were also a couple amendments made to RGGI.

Maryland – Brian said he already provided his updates on the call.

District – Ram said he also provided his updates above.

The conference call ended at 11:30 am.