

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 5, 2017, 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM

Present:

Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alexandra Catena, District Department of Energy & Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mike Lake, Fairfax County
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
JinChul Park, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COG/DEP
Brandon Fox, COG/DEP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Ram Tangirala, the Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 10 am. The July 20 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Summary/Timeline for 2015 Ozone NAAQS Implementation

Brandon Fox presented a summary of the ozone season data for this year. There have been eight (8) code orange days for ozone and zero (0) such day for fine particles thus far in the season. The ozone design value of the Washington region is 72 ppb, which is higher compared to the current 2015 ozone standard (70 ppb). Sunil presented the detailed timeline for the implementation of the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

3. EPA Comments on Draft 2008 Ozone NAAQS Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan

Sunil discussed comments received from EPA on the draft 2008 ozone NAAQS redesignation request and maintenance plan along with suggested responses.

4. Reconsideration of Midterm Evaluation of LDV GHG Standards

Jeff King and Tim Masters discussed a recent EPA proposal to reconsider the midterm evaluation of GHG standards for the model year 2022-2025 light-duty vehicles. Tim discussed a joint draft comment letter for MWAQC and CEEPC in this regard. Members, in general, supported the idea of sending to EPA this joint letter. However, a few members informed the group that they would need to discuss this letter first with their management. Jeff informed members that they would need to send their comments on the letter by September

8th. He also said that the TPB would discuss the letter on September 20th and MWAQC and CEEPC would discuss the letter on September 27th.

5. Local Measures

Steve said that MWAQC is interested in learning what we can do to have no unhealthy (code orange and above) air days. This was taken to ACPAC, which is looking at different actions we can take locally and regionally for this purpose. ACPAC is currently in the process of developing a draft scope of work in this regard. He said this issue will be discussed again in the October meeting.

6. Draft Air Quality Trends Report

Jen Desimone presented the final version of the Air Quality trends report. This report provides the status of various criteria pollutants in the Washington region and has been developed keeping the general public in mind. She outlines major changes to the document since it was presented to MWAQC-Tac in July. She informed the group that this report will be presented to MWAQC in the September meeting.

7. Anti-Idling Campaign

Jen discussed the plan for the diesel idle reduction campaign. The campaign will engage with truck and motor coach drivers and encourage them to turn their engines off. Street team outreach will begin in the spring and will continue until October. MDE informed the group that they will start a similar campaign in Fall this year. The two-third of the budget for this project has been confirmed by states and locals. State DOTs are looking at additional funding for this. Jen said that she would be starting the MWAQC budget process early next year for the next financial year to give extra time to states for finding funds for this project.

8. State & Local Updates

There were no updates.

9. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.