

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 9, 2013
10:00 AM to 11:55 AM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Health Department
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Ana Prados, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association
Andrew McClelland, Quantico
Jon Kinsman, Edison electric Institute
Jeff Harn, Arlington County
Mike lake, Fairfax Department of Transportation

Staff:

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

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Cecily Beall called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The June 11, 2013 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Data Summary

Sunil Kumar briefed on the 2013 ozone season data and also discussed trends in ozone and fine particle levels in the Washington region. There was only one ozone exceedance day observed thus far in this season. He also discussed the draft annual and daily 2010-2012 design values (10.8 ug/m³ and 27 ug/m³ respectively) for fine particles, which was requested by the committee in its June meeting.

3. Submission of VOC & NH₃ Emissions Inventories for PM_{2.5} Maintenance Plan to EPA

Sunil Kumar discussed a draft letter to be sent by state air agencies to EPA providing details of VOC and NH₃ emissions inventories and documentation for the attainment year 2007 as a supplement to the PM_{2.5} Maintenance Plan. Doris wanted to know if SCC level onroad mobile emissions were provided to EPA earlier along with the main plan documents. Sunil said since EPA gave a choice, these emissions were submitted by vehicle class. Doris offered to provide a few editorial comments on the letter after the call. Kanti wanted to know the purpose of the letter. Joan explained the reasons.

4. Draft Air Quality Assessment of the 2013 CLRP & FY 2013-2018 TIP

Jane Posey presented a summary of the various scenarios included in the draft 2013 CLRP & FY 2013-2018 TIP report. She further said a “No Build” scenario will be added. Kanti informed the group that a total of three scenarios were included in the report. A public hearing was held in addition to a meeting with the stakeholders. VDOT was still in the process of evaluating them. Jane informed the group that the last date to submit comments on the report was July 13.

Sunil discussed a draft MWAQC comment letter for the 2013 CLRP for submission to TPB. This letter was discussed earlier and approved by the Transportation Sub-Committee committee for MWAQC-TAC to review. He said that the letter needs to be approved and sent by the MWAQC-Executive committee to TPB as the next MWAQC meeting is not scheduled before the final comment date.

5. EPA Briefing on TERM Analysis

Elena Constantine briefed the group on the analysis of various Transportation Emissions Reduction Measures (TERMs). She said the Travel Demand Model includes all such measures implemented until 2010. Howard asked the process to take credit for TEM-like projects. Elena said the methodology is described in slide 15. Joan asked how did the calculations performed by the consultant for evaluating benefits for the commuter connections program compare to this analysis. Elena said the two are not comparable. The commuter connection benefits calculations looked at past year for benefits evaluation. Diane asked if VMT shown in slide 11 were actual data or assessments. Elena said they were actual data from HPMS dataset (HPMS report, 2005-2011). Howard observed that the average trip length seemed too short for the Washington area. Elena said these data were taken from the 2011 household survey and one other source. She said she was open to making any changes in the methodology for calculating trip length. Sunil asked if the Tier3 benefits in the analysis are based on the national data or are they specific to the Washington area. Elena said these are based on the national percentage. Kanti asked why the Tier3 benefits are being compared to the TERMS benefits. Elena said this was to show a comparison between of benefits from the two programs.

6. Base Year Emissions Inventory Submission for 2008 Ozone NAAQS

Sunil discussed the requirements to submit base year emission inventory to EPA as part of the 2008 ozone standard. Since the Washington region is a “Marginal” ozone nonattainment area for the above standard, it needs to submit a base year inventory. Doris added that the last date to submit this inventory is after two years from the date of designation, which is June/July 2014. Joan asked Diane about the efforts at MDE in this regard. Diane said MDE is having lot of discussion in this regard and was considering 2007 as an option. She said a lot of resource is needed for development of the base year. Cecily agreed with Diane on the issue of resource. Sunil briefly discussed the status of 2011 and 2007 emissions inventories available from National Emissions Inventory (NEI) efforts and MARAMA respectively. Doris suggested having a call for the Emissions Inventory Sub-Committee to start the discussion for the selection of a base year. Joan suggested developing a list of pros and cons for the two years for discussion in the EI Sub-Committee call.

7. Reasonable Further Progress Plan – Outline & Initial Discussions

Sunil discussed a document providing an outline of the Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) requirements. He discussed in detail the need, components, submission deadline, and various other alternative approaches for meeting the RFP requirements for the 2008 ozone standard as outlined in EPA’s proposed 2008 ozone standard implementation rule. He stressed the need to start working on the process of selecting a base year for meeting RFP as well as base year emissions inventory submission requirements for the 2008 ozone standard. He further said EPA seems to be leaning towards 2011 as the base year in their draft implementation rule. Kanti asked if any post 2011 year could be chosen as a base year. Diane said 2012 would not be acceptable to many states. Since these states need to provide emissions inventories for the photochemical modeling, it would not be possible to select 2012 as the base year.

The group asked COG staff to organize a call for the Emissions Inventory Sub-Committee to start the discussion for the selection of a base year.

8. State & Local Updates

Diane Franks (MDE) said that a stakeholder meeting for the Distributed Generator rule was being held. MDE plans to make the Distributed Generator rule more stringent.

Virginia did not have any updates.

Cecily Beall (DDOE) said a public hearing will be held on July 8 for the Lead Infrastructure SIP.

The meeting ended on 11:55 AM.