

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
November 9, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM

Present:

Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alexander Paulos, District Department of Energy & Environment
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Courtney Grimes, District Department of Energy & Environment
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Kary Snyder, Virginia Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation
Nicole Hebert, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Norman Whitaker, Virginia Department of Transportation
Pieter Sheehan, Fairfax County
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Samuel Gaber, Fairfax County
Scott Fincham, Loudoun County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Kelly Crawford chaired and called the meeting to order at 10 am. The October 12th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Analysis of 2021 Ozone NAAQS Exceedances in Washington Region

Sunil presented an analysis of the 2021 ozone season exceedances in the Washington region. Exceedances in the Washington region are caused by emissions of ozone precursors such as,

VOCs and NO_x that are produced locally as well that come from outside. Several research studies have shown that ozone and its precursors (VOCs & NO_x) coming from outside the region can contribute significantly to ozone levels in the region, more so on high ozone days. Recirculation caused exceedances even on days when upwind ozone levels were low and raised ozone levels further on high ozone days. More smoke in 2021 compared to 2020 helped increase ozone and PM_{2.5} levels in 2021. July 27-28 exceedances were particularly influenced by heavy smoke. Exceedances can occur due to several factors (low wind, high temp, recirculation, high ozone transport, smoke, high emissions, etc.). 3 or less monitors exceeded on 6 out of 8 exceedance days. High ozone exceedances have been more localized in recent years. Beltsville (MD) and McMilan (DC) monitors are often the lead monitors in the region.

3. 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP Planning

Jeff briefed members on the 2015 ozone NAAQS SIP planning. He talked about the region's draft 2019-2021 ozone design value and attainment status and the uncertainties associated with how the District's request to invalidate the entire 2020 ozone season data would impact that status. He also talked about the need to have a new set of MVEBs based on the latest approved MOVES3 model for conformity purposes. Doris asked about any sensitivity analysis for onroad emissions for MOVES3 and MOVES2014b. Kanti said that analysis would not be available until next year as TPB staff will be working on conformity and SIP analyses. Sunil informed the group that a request to states for MOVES3 inputs will be sent in January 2022. There was also a brief discussion on possible milestone years for the maintenance plan and changes in MOVES3 inputs. Jeff mentioned that MDE will not have a separate process for the Washington regions' SIP as they are working on Baltimore and Philadelphia SIPs.

4. Potential MWAQC Comment Letter – Upwind States' Good Neighbor SIPs

Tim Masters discussed the draft MWAQC comment letter on upwind states' Good Neighbor SIPs. Tad said that members can take one of the two approaches – either support comments made by MDE or send general comments on the issue. Kelly supported sending one generic letter on the issue to cover all ozone transport issues as they affect the Washington region to avoid sending different versions of the letter at different times. Tom said that he also favors submitting one generic letter. Doris said that the RACT permit process is resource intensive and any comments involving that process should be meaningful. For this reason, she also supported submitting a generic letter instead of doing so multiple times. Members decided to discuss this issue further in the MWAQC Executive Committee meeting.

5. State & Local Updates

The District and Virginia didn't have any updates. Tad said that he can present results of a study in Cheverly, which points to the role the Washington, DC plume plays in contributing to fine particle levels there.

The conference call ended at 11:15 am.