

# Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, September 17, 2007  
Room 3  
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

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Members Present:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology  
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity  
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation  
George Gurley, Urban Protectors  
Bill Butler, Mirant  
Lee Schoenecker, APA  
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association

COG Staff

Joan Rolfs, COG DEP

Visitors/Observers:

A. Bernard Jones, advisor to Urban Protectors League  
Justin Vick, Pepco

## **1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Jill Engel-Cox called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. The Agenda was adopted, with the addition of a presentation on the Pepco plant issues in the District of Columbia by Mr. A. Bernard Jones.

## **2. Approval of Minutes (August)**

The August minutes were approved.

## **3. Pepco Plant Update: Air Quality, Policy, and Business Practices of the District of Columbia**

Mr. A. Bernard Jones introduced himself as an advisor to the Urban Protectors League. He provided an update on the status of the Pepco power plant in the District of Columbia, which George Gurley had briefed AQPAC on in past meetings. In April, they met with Mayor Fenty on air quality business practices, requesting an independent study on the Pepco power plant, and a review of the District's government agencies relevant to the plant. In June, they met with the River Terrace community to update them on the meeting. In July, met with Councilmember Cheh who oversees the Office of People's Council. A Federal bill was introduced on climate change that included mention of energy efficiency of the Capital Hill power plant, but nothing

about the Pepco plant. In September, they met with the Mayor, Chair of the Public Services Commission, General Council, Office of People's Council, Department of Health, and others. At that meeting, they addressed the need for further study of the plant and its emissions. Mr. Jones concluded his presentation with a request that AQPAC use its influence with COG to get them involved.

There followed questions and discussion. A question was asked about the level of activism of the Ward 7 community. The response was that the demographics do not inspire a response from public officials. The Ward is isolated from the rest of the city and has received more than its fair share of polluting industries. It has become an issue of environmental justice. Another question related to how often the plant ran per year and when was it slated to close. The plant runs about 11 days per year but is highly polluting when it runs. A large plume of smoke was seen recently and reported, but there was no response from city officials. The best scenario for closure is in 3 years but it could be up to 7 years. It was asked if a nuisance lawsuit could be brought. The response was that the plant had a history of litigation with little results. They are seeking cooperation of COG to pull resources of all three jurisdictions to this issue. It relates closely to PJM and its management of the electrical grid. Mayor Fenty has asked the People's Council to document information about the plant, but the deadline is open-ended. A question was asked about the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) health study using data from the River Terrace school. The response is that George had sent a letter to ATSDR that his group did not concur with the report and that it was poorly done. They are waiting for the results of a study of the Mirant Plant in Alexandria, VA to compare methodologies.

Julie made a motion that the AQPAC write a letter to MWAQC to ask them to consider the issue and take action. A short discussion followed. The letter should address the permit transfer, discuss the plant as part of PJM as a regional issue, and link it to the upcoming fine particle state implementation plan (SIP). The motion to prepare a letter was unanimously approved. Julie with work with Larry and George to prepare a draft letter, then send it to Jill. It will be finalized at the next meeting.

#### **4. Staff report on MWAQC, TAC, CCSC**

The MWAQC did not meet in August. The TAC is preparing a very general letter to EPA on the new ozone standard. This past summer, there were 14 exceedences of the ozone standard with the highest reading being 100 ppb. There were 3 days over the new 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. For the new PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP, a master list of control measures is being prepared. The AQPAC requested seeing a copy to discuss at the next meeting.

#### **5. Updated on the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory**

A subcommittee of the CCSC met in August and could not agree on GHG reduction goals, since both VA and MD are in the process of setting their own. They did agree to set target dates with base year of 2005, out year goal at 2050, and interim goals at 2020 and 2030. Some counties have signed up for Cool Counties with similar target years, but with an added goal to stop growth in emissions in 2012. An inventory for the region was prepared for 2005, 2020, and 2030. Joan will have it sent to the committee via email.

## **6. Planning for Public Meeting in the Fall**

The public meeting was moved to November 1. The AQPAC reviewed the draft agenda and provided some ideas on other potential speakers. Joan shared a copy of a brochure on fine particles that will be handed out at the meeting. She asked for comments by the end of the week. She will also be preparing a flyer announcing the meeting that we can share. Next month we'll finalize the agenda and make final plans.

## **7. New Business**

Julie reported that Virginia ruled that Mirant must have a permit to proceed with stack merge construction at its Alexandria power plant. Mirant was told to stop construction until the permit was received.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 15.