

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20002-4239 (202) 962-3360 Fax: (202) 962-3203
<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).

Minutes for AQPAC meeting of Monday, January 24, 2005, from 5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Present:

Bill Butler, Mirant

Julie Crenshaw, Stewardship of Creation, Chairperson

Jill Engel-Cox, District of Columbia

Brian Holmes, MD Highway Contractors Assn.

Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Com. Environmental Equity (DICEE)

Deron Lovaas, Urban Maryland

Einar Olsen, Urban Virginia

Lee Schoenecker, American Planning Association

Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia Technical Representative

Others in Attendance:

David Cramer, Mirant

Andra Sarzyralin, student

John Barrett Townsend II, AAA Mid-Atlantic

Mary Harris, North Old Town Independent Citizens (NOTICE)

(Others were present who for the PRGS presentation, but did not sign in)

COG Staff

Joan Rohlfs, Chief of Air Quality

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Chairperson Julie Crenshaw called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. The agenda was amended so that NOTICE would go first, and Mirant would go second under the Potomac River Generating Station item.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December 2004 meeting were approved.

3. Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) presentations:

NOTICE provided a PowerPoint presentation and raised the following points:

(1) The Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS) is immediately surrounded by 2,600 residents and about 1,000 commuters. 2,500 people live within 1,000 feet of PRGS, and 300 people live within 300 feet of PRGS.

(2) Adjacent buildings are predominantly apartments (including Marina Towers, which abuts PRGS) and town houses.

(3) PRGS has stacks that are shorter than normal (FAA requirement) because of its proximity to Reagan National Airport.

(4) PRGS is served by 40 trainloads of coal a day.

- (5) PRGS uses no scrubbers and has no best available control technology (BACT).
- (6) The power generated by PRGS is sold to the wholesale electricity market.
- (7) Because PRGS is a 'grandfathered' plant built in 1949, its emissions are higher than those allowed for plants constructed after 1975.
- (8) Analysis of particulate matter adjacent to the plant showed it to contain unburnt coal and fly ash. The plant also exceeded emissions limits for SO₂ by a multiple of 60, for mercury by a multiple of 240, and for NO_x by a multiple of 8.
- (9) Mirant has entered into a consent decree with respect to NO_x emissions from PRGS, under which emissions must be reduced.
- (10) PRGS has an expected useful life of 15 years.
- (11) The City of Alexandria has voted to eliminate the zoning variance for PRGS with the intent of shutting the plant down.

Mirant provided a document and raised the following points:

- (1) Mirant believes it is listening to the community and is being responsive to its concerns.
- (2) The consent decree restricts NO_x emissions from PRGS and contains a plan for emissions reduction at three of their plants including the PRGS. The consent decree also includes seven fugitive dust programs at a cost of \$1 million.
- (3) Mirant is conducting a settled dust study and a study to find out what is in the particulate matter, the accumulation rate, particle size, etc. That data will be combined with meteorological data to find out where PRGS emissions are going.
- (9) On the issue of downwash, the consent decree with the Virginia DEQ includes a study modeling downwash and will address issues raised by the study. Mirant, the City of Alexandria, and citizens groups are each doing a downwash study.
- (10) According to other studies, PRGS is responsible for 1% to 4% of all PM in the DC region, which means that 96% to 99% of it will remain if PRGS shuts down.
- (11) At the Morgantown, Chalk Point, and other plants, Mirant has a new process that will reduce NO_x emissions by 3%.
- (12) PRGS is important to the DC power grid because it feeds some DC stations and provides reliability during periods of hot weather.

Questions raised by AQPAC members:

- (1) What do you want?
NOTICE: A fix for the PRGS hotspot, BACT to be used, especially before any emissions trading occurs and possibly in conjunction with any increase in PGRS's design life. PGRS should shut down in seven years.
Mirant: A win-win for everyone.
- (2) What is the life cycle for PGRS?
Mirant: Plants can be maintained efficiently for long periods of time. PRGS is getting cleaner.
- (3) Since localized releases of even 1% to 4% could be dangerous, what is Mirant doing to help its affected neighbors? Also, what about combinations of pollutants in emissions, i.e., the effect of a shorter expose at a higher dose? What location data did Mirant's dust analysis find?
Mirant: We hope the dust studies will handle these issues. Mirant is using ground level acetate sheet receptors on non-precipitation days.
NOTICE: The consultants from both NOTICE and the City of Alexandria have criticized the modeling used by Mirant's consultant. Virginia is now reviewing the modeling

used by Mirant's consultant.

(4) As a matter of policy, why not build new, clean plants instead of keeping old ones going with paper clips and scotch tape to avoid having to meet new emissions standards? Also, is PRGS a hotspot?

A point of order was raised at this point because the time allotted for this item had passed. Accordingly, Lee Schoenecker moved that the MWACQ and TAC reports be removed from the agenda, a 15 minutes be allocated for discussion of the control measures. This was seconded by (Einar Olson/Deron Lovass?). The committee voted in favor of the motion. It was further moved by (?) to approve the bylaws as revised and seconded by (?). The committee voted in favor of the motion. The discussion on PRGS then continued.

(5) Mirant seems to be staring at a serious, long-range problem: an inventory of aging and embattled plants. Has Mirant given any thought to figuring out a new way to do business?

(?)

(6) Can you move for your neighbors—other than on a legal basis?

Mirant: Yes, but we are awaiting the outcome of the studies.

4. Control Measures

Julie Crenshaw, chairperson turned this item over to Jill Engel-Cox, vice chair. After reviewing the proposed control measures lists, the committee decided to submit comments to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Jill Engle-Cox will draft a letter to the TAC, obtain comments from committee members, and the final will be provided to the TAC for their February 11 meeting.

5. New business

TAC through a memo from Joan Rohlfs - AQPAC may recommend names of people to be appointed to TAC, but they cannot be AQPAC members or from organizations represented on AQPAC. She will be sending a letter to each committee or organization on the memo list that TAC is asking to send recommendations

6. Next meeting

To avoid a conflict with Valentines Day, a February meeting date will be queried to the members and set by email.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.