

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**July 13, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:10 AM**

**Present:**

Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Dan Goldberg, George Washington University  
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon,  
Demetra McBride, Arlington County  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County  
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Mark Rawlings, District Department of Transportation  
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation  
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Scott Fincham, Loudoun County  
Susan Annenberg, George Washington University  
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  
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Mark Moran, COG/DTP  
Tim Masters, COG/DEP

**1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary**

Kelly Crawford chaired and called the meeting to order at 10 am. The June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved without any changes.

**2. Ozone Season Summary**

Sunil briefed members on the current ozone season air quality data. There were four exceedances of the 2015 ozone standard and two exceedance of the 24-hour PM2.5 standard observed as of that date. Ozone and PM2.5 levels were overall higher in March May of 2021 compared to same months in 2020. Warmer and drier than normal weather might have contributed towards higher pollutant levels this year. Increased emissions from different sources this year might also have played a role.

Tad talked about the contribution of the transport of ozone and its precursors from upwind areas toward ozone levels in the Washington region. He suggested a need to comment on the

Good Neighbor SIPs submitted by upwind states in this regard. Kelly asked COG staff to include this topic for discussion in the September TAC meeting. Sunil said that depending on the meteorology, both local and long distance transport become important for high ozone levels in the region on different days.

Tad also talked about the staff shortage at MDE and challenges that may pose to complying with the SIP development schedule.

### **3. 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP Planning**

Sunil briefed members on the updated schedule for the 2015 ozone NAAQS SIPs. He also briefed on the planned meetings for the photochemical modeling work-group, emissions inventory sub-committee, control measures sub-committee, and transportation conformity sub-committee and expected topics for discussion in those meetings.

Tad suggested that there was no need to establish a work-group for photochemical modeling as MDE is already undertaking that effort. Joseph said that MDE is performing scientific modeling whereas for SIP purposes, we need SIP quality modeling. Tad said that MDE is doing both. While scientific modeling can be used in the Weight-of-Evidence, SIP quality modeling can be used for attainment demonstration. Jeff said that Sunil could coordinate with MDE on their periodic photochemical modeling calls to learn about the progress being made on that effort.

### **4. Update on Photochemical Modeling (2015 Ozone NAAQS)**

Sunil briefed members on the photochemical modeling meeting that was held on June 25, 2021 to discuss various issues related to the planned photochemical modeling analysis for the 2015 ozone attainment plan. He discussed ongoing and planned modeling efforts at OTC, MDE, and VDEQ and provided details of milestone years, inventory, and modeling resolution being employed for that purpose by these entities. He mentioned that the group thought that either the DEQ modeling analysis could be used as the primary modeling analysis for the SIP submittal purposes for the Washington region along with the MDE modeling analysis serving as the Weight of Evidence analysis (to support attainment demonstration performed by the DEQ analysis) or vice versa. The group also thought that it was important to complete the modeling analysis by the required SIP submittal deadline (late 2022/early 2023) using the best available information at the time of submittal. The group decided to provide regular updates to MWAQC-TAC in the committee's monthly meetings. Important modeling issues could also be discussed on the monthly State Air Agency Coordination meetings.

### **5. State & Local Updates**

The District is holding public comments for implementing CAL-LEV program. Tad said that the anti-tampering bill was approved by the Advisory Council. Kelly pointed out that there is an overlap with OTC's effort on the same issue. Tad said that the OTC process is slow and therefore the MWAQC process should be faster. He also suggested an involvement of local governments in this regard. Tom said that Virginia's I/M program is much more decentralized and electronic (OBD) now and a small number of staff is available for the anti-tampering effort.

The conference call ended at 11:10 am.