

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 9, 2014
10:00 AM to 12:05 PM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Mike Kiss, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Molly Berger, Maryland Department of the Environment
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP
Kanti Srikanth, COG/DTP
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Chair Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. The July 17 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Update

Sunil Kumar presented the 2014 ozone season summary. There have been only two code orange days so far in this season. Based on the current draft data thus far, the Washington region's design value for the current ozone standard (75 ppb) is 76 ppb, which indicates the region is slightly above the current standard. The region needs to attain the current ozone standard by December 31, 2015. While the region has made good progress towards this goal, it still needs to keep doing so in order to make sure that it attains the standard by the deadline.

Tad suggested including the new tougher ozone standard expected to be proposed by December this year in the presentation.

3. Briefing on 2014 CLRP Report & Vehicle Population Projection Methodology

Jane Posey presented a summary of the 2014 conformity report. Tad suggested including a note in the above report that there will be a new ozone standard soon and the NOx budget will change. Kanti said this report is meant for EPA and FHWA, but there are other documents where Tad's suggestion could be accommodated. Diane wanted to know how VMT is projected in the future. Kanti said it is projected based on the land use information provided by the Planning Directors, which is fed to the Travel Demand Model for VMT projection outputs. The 2014 performance report shows that while the population, household, and employment is projected to grow in the future, VMT is growing at a lesser rate in comparison. Also, while VMT per capita is decreasing by 3.5% between 2015 and 2040, population, household, and employment are projected to grow by 30% during the same period.

Kanti presented a detailed memorandum providing details of a new methodology that will be used beginning the 2014 CLRP analysis to project vehicle population for the future years. This new methodology uses regression analysis based on the 2005, 2008, and 2011 vehicle registration data and replaces a twenty year old methodology, which was based on very old datasets.

Sunil discussed a draft letter for MWAQC commenting on the 2014 CLRP analysis. He asked the members to send their comments by September 15th. State said there will be a conformity sub-committee call to discuss and finalize this letter.

4. Appendix D (PM2.5 Maintenance Plan) Control Measures

State air agencies provided status of various regulations currently being discussed in their respective jurisdictions. Brian and Jessica presented summaries of various regulations being considered in different emission sectors in Maryland and the District of Columbia respectively. Tom talked about various renewable energy and energy efficiency measures that have are being implemented or are planned to be implemented in Virginia, which would provide emissions co-benefits. Tad suggested expanding the current version of Gold Book by including above state measures there. Tom supported the idea of state Gold Book, but suggested the need to discuss this in the Emissions Inventory Sub-Committee.

Howard said that since a number of control measures in the MDE list related to transportation, the group needs to decide how many of them would be used for taking credits in SIP and how many of them would be used for taking credits for conformity.

5. EPA's New MOVES2014 Model & Revised Schedule to Update PM2.5 RR/MP Mobile Budgets

Sunil Kumar briefed on the new MOVES2014 model. He also presented a draft revised schedule for updating mobile budgets in the PM2.5 maintenance plan. Elena said it would take time to perform sensitivity runs and reformat MOVES2010a inputs for MOVES2014. The group decided that MWAQC staff will work together with TPB staff to develop a schedule to accommodate issues raised by TPB staff.

6. Special Project

Steve said that MDE's July 17 TAC presentation will be the basis for developing Special Project presentation for the joint MWAQC/CEEPC meeting on October 2nd. Based on the comments received during the above TAC call, MDE presentation will be modified and presented in the joint meeting. He requested the members to volunteer for the Special Project Task Force.

7. State & Local Updates

Cecily said the District is working on the measures discussed above by Jessica. Tom did not have any updates for Virginia. Tad said Maryland is working on power plant NOx regulations and will have a meeting of the Advisory Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.