

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
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DRAFT MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2009 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health
Del. Adam Ebbin, Virginia General Assembly
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of Environment
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment

Staff:

Dan Bisutti, COG/DEP Intern
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Anne Mariani, COG/DEP Intern
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Amy Sanders, COG/DEP Intern

1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Announcements

Chair Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:10. The meeting minutes of May 27, 2009 were approved with one changes: JoAnne Sorenson should be listed as in attendance.

2. Committee Reports

Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Tom Ballou reported on the recent meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee. An interagency task force is being formed to address the transition to EPA's new MOVES (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator) model, which once final will be required for use in developing on-

road and non-road emissions estimates. COG DEP and DTP staff are coordinating to identify issues with any of the new model inputs that may be required.

Virginia DEQ presented results of air quality modeling performed by Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO) states. The modeling is not SIP quality and there may be some overestimation of local power plant emissions. However, the results suggest that it is important to control local sources of NOx, particularly from the mobile sector. LADCO also suggests that local air pollution is mainly caused by emissions from in-state and neighboring states. OTC is currently reviewing the modeling study.

TPB has released for public comment its draft conformity analysis for the 2009 CLRP and 2010-2015 TIP and a draft MWAQC comment letter was approved.

Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Joan Rohlf reported on the recent meeting of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC). Members heard a report on TPB's "What Would It Take?" scenario study. Staff also provided a summary of activities related to formation of the Climate, Energy, and Environment. There is an effort underway to identify and appoint stakeholders to the committee, applications can be found on the COG website.

Report of the Clean Air Partners

Leta Mach provided the Clean Air Partners report. The number of new registrations for AirAlerts is lower than usual for this time of year. This is most likely due to the mild weather conditions we have experienced so far this summer, which has resulted in fewer than normal poor air quality days. The annual radio campaign is underway and will run over a five-week period (6/20/09 – 7/27/09) on nine top stations in the Baltimore and Washington regions. The radio buy also includes numerous on-line and live promotions to be conducted by the participating stations on behalf of Clean Air Partners. The curriculum and outreach materials have been presented to nearly 1,800 students including 655 in the District of Columbia, 625 in Maryland, and 480 in Virginia. A part-time summer intern has been hired to assist the Education Program Manager with the summer outreach program. One new application for the aqueous parts washer rebate program was received from Prince George's County Fleet Management Division. Clean Air Partners has approved nine rebates since October 2007 (five auto maintenance facilities, three print shops, and one bike shop). Due to the limited response, this program will be phased out in FY 2010. The Managing Director will be participating in the COG Climate and Energy Outreach Coordination Meeting in July 2009. The next Clean Air Partners Board meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2009 at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Clean Air Partners is working with several organizations in Maryland and Virginia on piloting the Clean Air Teleworking initiative which encourages teleworking on forecasted poor air quality days (Code Orange and Code Red). Potential participants include the Maryland Department of the Environment, Prince George's County Government, the National Wildlife Federation, and George Mason University.

3. Federal Initiatives: Renewable Fuel Standards, Fuel Efficiency, Cash for Clunkers

Jeff King discussed recent federal climate change actions. Topics included recent announcements on federal action on CAFE and greenhouse gas emission standards, and EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standards. EPA has proposed a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) that will

increase the amount of biofuels that must be produced over time. The second phase of the RFS mandates an increase in biofuels production from 10 to 36 billion gallons per year. It also specifies an eligibility requirement such that manufacturers must demonstrate that a biofuel results in a net reduction in greenhouse gases compared to conventional petroleum fuels on a lifecycle basis. The White House announced that there will be a joint EPA/DOT rulemaking to impose more stringent corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards as well as establish new tailpipe emission standards for greenhouse gases. The purpose of the joint rulemaking is to harmonize the emission standards and the fuel economy standards. EPA envisions setting the emission standard at 250 grams CO₂/mile. The fuel economy standard is expected to be 35.5 mpg by 2016. The public comment period for the EPA RFS proposal ends in September. The schedule for the joint rulemaking is not yet known. Mr. Snyder asked that staff draft a comment letter on EPA's RFS proposal for potential action in September.

4. Conformity Results for 2009 CLRP and 2010-2015 TIP And Draft Comment Letter (ACTION)

Joan Rohlfs discussed draft results of this year's conformity analysis. New inputs to the analysis include Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts, 2008 Vehicle Registration Data, and new inputs from BMC and FAMPO. The Cooperative Forecast growth projections for 2010 were lowered, as a result 2010 VMT is projected to be 2 percent lower than estimated in the previous analysis. However, because the 2008 vehicle registration data showed that the age of the vehicle fleet in the region is aging, average emission rates have increased. The overall result is that 2010 emissions are higher than were estimated last year, such that 2010 emissions are now much closer to the proposed 2010 mobile budget. However, overall projected emissions are below the approved and proposed mobile budget for all analysis years for all pollutants. The public comment period for the draft analysis ends on July 11.

Mr. Britton asked about how conformity addresses change in land use. Mike Clifford said that each time conformity is demonstrated the region must use the latest planning assumptions that are developed by the Planning Directors and the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee (MDPC).

Members unanimously approved a comment letter which expressed concern about the 2010 mobile emissions being very close to the proposed mobile budget and urging the transportation agencies to maintain commitments to emission reduction measures in light of the new lower ozone standard.

5. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects, Inclusion in the SIP

Jeff King discussed recent developments in plans to purchase renewable energy in the region. Due to recent price increases for local Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the Montgomery County Purchasing Group in its most recent contract renewal will involve purchase of RECs from out of the region. The price differential between local and out-of-region RECs has grown significantly. Local RECs are now selling for more than \$25/MWh. Out-of-Region RECs are as low as \$2. Under EPA's policy for crediting renewable energy programs in SIPs, the purchase would have to be for an area that impacts air quality in our region. The move away from local purchases will lower the amount of wind energy credits eligible for inclusion in the SIP.

In the case of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) commitment to retire RECs in the 8-hour ozone SIP, WSSC is now moving towards sale of a portion of its RECs to raise revenue. In Virginia, it is not yet known whether the next purchase contract will include local or out-of region RECs.

One of the main reasons that the price for local RECs has grown is that mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are requiring that utilities provide a certain percentage of electricity from renewable energy. As the RPS mandates increase, there should be continued pressure to develop new renewable resources and to purchase local RECs.

In terms of current wind purchase commitments in the SIP, the next evaluation report to EPA is due in 2010, and the region should be able to report satisfactory progress through 2009. The main outstanding item is for the states to retire NOx Allowances commensurate with the purchased quantity.

6. Ozone SIP Timeline and Processes

Joan Rohlfis discussed the ozone SIP timeline and processes. The SIP for the new lower ozone NAAQS (2008 75 ppb) will be due in 2013. The region will be designated in 2010. States want to expedite the SIP planning process so that measures can be in place at the beginning of the 3-year compliance period. New measures will be needed beyond boiler reductions. Mr. Aburn said that a larger regional effort will be needed given the role of transport and the more stringent NAAQS. One new regulatory effort being considered is controlling emissions from international ocean-going ships.

7. State and Local Air Reports

Ram Tangirala said the District has nothing to report.

Tom Ballou reported for Virginia. Governor Kaine announced a new 5-year initiative to look at the largest existing sources to determine compliance. The Court of Appeals reversed a decision on the no-trading provisions in the Virginia CAIR rule. The rule was remanded to the State Air Pollution Control Board.

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. NOx controls are now operational on plants in Maryland in response to the Maryland Healthy Air Act. SO2 controls will be installed later this year. A Distributed Generation rule was finalized. Staff are starting to work on the Maryland greenhouse gas reduction plans mandated by law. A draft is anticipated by 2011.

8. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn: The next meeting will be held on September 23, from 12:30 - 2:30pm. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.