

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 13, 2016
10 AM to 12 PM

Present:

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Energy & Environment
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Angel Deem, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Aaron Waters, COG/DEP
Ron Milone, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The July 27 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil updated members on the ongoing ozone season. There have been eleven code orange days in this season thus far based on the 2015 ozone standard and none for the PM_{2.5} standard. The regional draft design value for 2014-16 is just 71 ppb. This takes the area into the marginal nonattainment category for the above ozone NAAQS. Ram enquired about the August 29 exceedance. Sunil said it was observed at the Franconia monitor. Doris said that the data looked fine. Ram said we need to understand the single monitor exceedance phenomenon better through gradient mapping of concentrations at differ monitors. Steve said we will present that in addition to the wind trajectories that we show. Ram informed the group that DOEE plans to transition from the filter based PM_{2.5} monitors to the TEOM ones. He said the TEOM monitor records higher levels compared to the filer based monitor. Doris said VDEQ is also planning to do the same and is currently comparing the levels recorded from the two types of monitors at the near-road site in Fairfax.

3. Ozone Designations

VDEQ and MDE did not have any recommendations developed at this time. Ram said DOEE is considering recommending the Distract as nonattainment and as part of a larger nonattainment area though they did not specify the area boundary and left the question of handling the conformity process to EPA. Ram said we are considering the long range

transport aspect as part of our recommendation. He said that based on the estimate provided by the EPA's CSAPR modeling for the 2008 ozone standard, about 70% of ozone comes from outside of the region during exceedance days. Sunil enquired about the boundary of the large nonattainment area DOEE is proposing and asked how the conformity will be handled for such a large area. Ram said DOEE left that for EPA to resolve. Steve asked if a particular nonattainment area such, New York gets designated as moderate, then will the Washington region will also get designated at the same level. Ram said that is not our focus in the recommendation. Instead, it is the attainment of the standard, which is more important for us. Jim pointed out the significant impact of that approach on the conformity process.

4. Update on Clean Products Market Study

Amanda updated members on the status of the RFP. Nobody applied thus far. She talked to couple companies about it. Based on the feedback from those companies, the RFP invitation will be revised and opened again.

5. Status of the 2008 Ozone NAAQS Redesignation Request

Sunil briefed members on the status of the 2008 ozone NAAQS redesignation request and maintenance plan. He also presented a revised draft timeline for the plan. Ram informed the group that unless we submit RACT to EPA, then will not approve the plan fully.

6. Revocation of the 1997 Annual Primary PM2.5 NAAQS

Sunil briefed members on the implications of the revocation of the 1997 annual primary PM2.5 NAAQS. Following are the implications:

The Washington region has an approved maintenance plan for the 1997 PM2.5 primary annual standard. The region will not be required to submit a second maintenance plan now that the standard has been revoked. However, it will be required to implement the approved plan and the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program.

Since the region was redesignated to attainment for the 1997 PM2.5 annual standard and is also an attainment area for the 2012 primary annual standard, it will no longer be required to make metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or transportation conformity determinations for any PM2.5 annual standard starting October 24, 2016. The CAA does not require an attainment area for the secondary standard to make transportation conformity determinations. Therefore, the region would no longer be required to demonstrate transportation conformity for PM2.5.

Since the Washington region is no longer required to demonstrate transportation conformity for the PM2.5 standard, the current planned update for the previously approved 1997 PM2.5 maintenance plan will no longer be necessary for submission as the main reason for the plan update was to develop revised motor vehicle emissions budgets for PM2.5 using the latest MOVES2014a model.

Jane informed the group that TPB will not be including PM2.5 conformity demonstration in the 2016 CLRP analysis.

7. Ammonia & Nitrogen Deposition to the Chesapeake Bay

Sunil briefed members on an article published in the Bay Journal about the ammonia & nitrogen deposition to the Chesapeake Bay. He said while the NOx emission declined during 1990-2010 by 41%, ammonia emission increased by 11% during this period. NOx once accounted for 75% of total nitrogen deposition and ammonia just 25%. However, in recent years, the contribution of both are now equal. While NOx emission is being reduced through controls at industries and power plants, ammonia emission has grown in absence of any controls in the agriculture sector. Steve said this issue can be left as of now, but would have to

be looked at again if COG water staff brings it up.

8. Status of Multi-Sector Working Group

Steve briefed members on the status of the MSWG. He said a date is being finalized for the Policy Committee to discuss various MSWG recommendations. Once the Policy committee has reviewed it, it will go through the COG Board of Directors in its October 26th meeting. There are a total of 23 recommendations. Some can be implemented at the regional level and some at few jurisdictions.

9. State & Local Updates

Virginia did not have any updates. Ram said DOEE is considering recommending a large nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone standard due to concerns regarding the impact of ozone transport. He said DOEE has not identified the boundary of this large nonattainment area. Also, the issue of transportation conformity for such a large nonattainment area has been left to EPA to address.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12 pm.