

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**June 11, 2024, 10 AM to 11:10 AM**

**Present:**

Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Danielle Simms, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Felip Ip, City of Alexandria  
Hannah Ashenafi, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Jeny Roelke, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Susan Annenberg, George Washington University  
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Alissa Boggs, COG/DEP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP  
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP  
Mark Moran, COG/DTP  
Tim Masters, COGDEP  
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

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

Roger Thunell called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting summary was approved without any changes.

**2. Ozone Season Summary**

Sunil discussed the 2023 ozone season data as of June 4<sup>th</sup>. There was only one exceedance day (code orange) for the 2015 ozone standard. There was no accident for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. The ozone design value was above the standard (71 ppb), but this is expected to come down below the standard once EPA approves the District's request to grant waiver for the 2023 data affected by wildfires. PM 2.5 best code yellow days are higher compared to last year as the standard was tightened recently. He informed members that the Washington DC forecast region has now been divided into four separate subregions to provide more accurate forecasts that reflect local conditions.

**3. 2015 Ozone NAAQS Redesignation Request/Maintenance Plan Preliminary Schedule**

Sunil Kumar discussed the preliminary schedule for the 2015 ozone NAAQS redesignation request and maintenance plan. Based on this schedule, the plan is expected to be completed by January 2027 if the development work starts in July in 2024. Joseph Jakuta said that EPA needs additional data analysis for the Tacoma monitor. The request doesn't seem to be very clear.

Therefore, he advised members to wait until EPA grants the exceptional events waiver. Members agreed with this suggestion.

#### **4. Environmental Justice Subcommittee Report**

Jeff King brief members on the proceedings of the environmental Justice Subcommittee. He said that the EJ Subcommittee meetings have not been finalized yet. AECOM has been hired to support the subcommittee, which is currently working on a draft proposal to engage stakeholders. He suggested a master list of things to work on. He also mentioned that a memo developed by COG staff on air quality monitoring will be sent to state air agencies for their feedback.

#### **5. EPS's Waiver for Exceptional Events in 2023**

Sunil Kumar said that there is nothing to report on this matter. Roger said that EPA is asking for more data analysis for the exceptional events demonstration. Joseph informed members that the Takoma monitor did not operate for a long time in 2022 and 2023. DOEE performed a substitute data analysis for this monitor to show that had data existed for those missing monitoring days, the design value would not have changed. EPA is asking for subsequent data analysis probably for clean data determination purposes.

#### **6. 2023 American Lung Association Report**

Sunil Kumar brief members on the 2023 American Lung Association report for the Washington DC region. ALA rankings for Washington, DC-Baltimore-Arlington CSA for both ozone and PM2.5 has improved significantly compared to prior years. None of the jurisdictions in Washington, DC region is listed in top 25 most ozone or PM2.5 polluted counties in ALA report. All jurisdictions show improvement in weighted scores/grades for ozone compared to prior years. All jurisdictions show remarkable improvement in weighted scores and all have passing grades for PM2.5.

#### **7. State/Local Updates**

Roger said that MDE was working on EPA's on request to provide further analysis before granting the EE waiver. Joseph said that the District has no updates. Tom said that Virginia's Governor is planning to take action on the ACC 2 rule.