

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcoq.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 19, 2004
Room 3
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

In Attendance:

Julie Crenshaw, Stewardship of Creation, Chair
Tom Mann, WANADA
Brian Holmes, MD Highway Contractors Assn.
Charlie Grymes, Rural Virginia
Jill Engel-Cox, District of Columbia
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Com. Environmental Equity (DICEE)
Sam Black, Board of Trade
Bill Butler, Mirant

Staff:

Joan Rohlfs, MWCOG
Jen Desimone, MWCOG

1. Call To Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

Julie Crenshaw, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Crenshaw asked for comments on the minutes of March 15, 2004. Jill Engel-Cox and Bill Butler requested changes be made to the minutes. Bill said the sentences on page 3, second paragraphs should read, "The Department of Energy projects that 90% reduction aren't there 100% of the time. Even if you run them 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, the 90% mercury reductions won't be reached." Also, on page 3, third paragraph, the sentence should read, "Bill Butler said the comment period for cap and trade for mercury may have been extended.

Jill Engel-Cox said the spellings of her last name should be corrected. Bill Butler noted that his last name was misspelled on page 2, paragraph 7. The minutes were approved as corrected.

3. Report on Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and MWAQC Activities

Ms. Rohlfs gave an update on the TAC meeting held on Friday, April 9th. The TAC discussed changes to the forecast program, MWAQC budget, EPA 8-hour designations.

8-Hour Ozone Non-attainment Designations:

EPA designated Washington, DC and Baltimore as moderate non-attainment for 8-hour ozone.

This was a surprise because we expected to be designated as serious or severe. Information regarding these designations can be found at mwcog.org/environment/air/overview.

8-hour implementation rule will be done in two parts. The first part has been released. Second part will be released in August, 2004. The first part includes information on the 1-hour revocation (the 1-hour standard will be revoked 1 year from 4/15/04). Other measures for implementation requirements include anti-backsliding and conformity.

Section 185:

Section 185 the fee penalty legislation was passed by the Virginia legislature, DC DOH adopted the fee penalty as a regulation. It was introduced in the Maryland legislature, last Monday they voted it down by 1 vote. Since the 1-hour ozone standard will be revoked in 2005 and the area has been designated as moderate non-attainment for the 8-hour, there is no longer a Section 185, fee penalty requirement for new ozone attainment planning.

Sam Black had a question regarding no backsliding and the fact that the 1-hour standard is still in effect. Ms. Rohlf's responded that EPA stated that no backsliding applies to control measures.

Maryland didn't meet obligations under the SIP. Sanctions clock will start in MD as soon as EPA issues a notice of failure to submit. The sanction clock will last for 1 year. State is required to submit it's SIP during the time the sanctions clock is running. The sanctions clock will not affect Virginia and the District.

Brian Holmes stated that the sanctions clock contradicts the issue with the 1-hour revocation. If the sanctions clock starts and the 1-hour standard is revoked doesn't it make the issue a wash?

Bill Butler asked if EPA could give MD a conditional approval. Ms. Rohlf's said EPA already tried this; they were sued, and lost in court.

Forecast and Action Day Changes:

Ms. Desimone gave a presentation on the changes to the Forecasting and how those changes will affect Ozone Action Days.

The main points to presentation were:

- Forecasts will be based on the 8-hour standard instead of the 1-hour standard.
- Forecasts for multi-pollutants will begin this year...for ozone and particles.
- There is a potential to see a Code Purple day under the 8 hour ozone standard.
- The name Ozone Action Day will need to be changed.

Do we have a particle problem? Not a major one in this area. We are not yet designated for particles. Principle sources are the same for ozone.

Tom Mann asked if there will be an education effort on 8-hour vs. 1-hour ozone standard? Ms. Rohlf's stated that we would not be doing a big public education effort. PR people believe that people only want to know the AQ and not the actual standard information. Julie questioned that fact that there would be no outreach on the actual standards. Education makes a difference

depending on the group you are talking to. Rodney stated that most people do not want to know or care about the actual standard.

Jill asked why we are moving to an 8-hour based forecast this year. Ms Rohlfs stated that we are required to report the 8-hour standard. Moving to the 8-hour will be a big change to the Ride Free on Code Red Days and want to start the transition this year.

Brian Holmes had a question relating to the variation in the number of exceedance days from year to year. Ms. Desimone responded that main cause for the variation is weather.

A major topic of discussion was the issue of dealing with multi-pollutants and how much information should be given to the public. Should we give the AQI, actual concentration, and the pollutant of concern. Jill prefers giving the lead pollutant. Brian agreed and suggested to even give information for both pollutants. Rodney stated that he would like to see more information rather than less. Julie suggested the possibility of using both AQI and number in parts per billion. Ms. Rohlfs stated that information for both pollutants will be available on the website. There was a consensus that AQI, number, and color code will be helpful for the public to see when air quality is reported during the ozone season.

Meeting between the States and MWAQC Leadership:

Ms. Rohlfs updated the committee on a meeting between the states and MWAQC leadership. The reason behind this meeting is the states want more control over the SIP process and less involvement from local officials.

Julie asked if there are any implications for AQPAC. Ms. Rohlfs does not believe there will be any but is not completely sure. Sam Black expressed concern that the states would prevent local areas from addressing problems and using cost effective measures.

4. Discussion of Updating the Bylaws

As agreed at the March meeting, the committee discussed revision of Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the AQPAC bylaws. Section 4 will be discussed at the May meeting. We will look at the bylaws in their entirety once all sections have been discussed before finalizing them for approval.

5. Comments on the Mercury Rule

The TAC reviewed a draft letter and has agreed that they would like to comment on EPA's proposed mercury rule. The letter will address the health effects of mercury, better controls, and states support for OTC position.

The TAC asked that the draft letter be put into a context similar to the Interstate Air Quality Rule comment letter. Julie stated that AQPAC is the reason the mercury issue was brought to the forefront.

6. Report on the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG)

Julie asked members if they wish to continue receiving JTWG materials. It was agreed that AQPAC will continue to receive JTWG meeting materials by email.

Julie reported on the last JTWG meeting. She said there was clarification to 2030 modeling: metro bus lines won't change, but the timing will change. Maps estimate the change in time between commuting using cars or the Metro.

TPB will review the scenarios in June or July, then the modeling will begin. They are waiting to use the cooperative forecast 6.4 with the travel demand model.

7. New Business

None

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Monday, May 17th. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.