



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 15, 2022  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Audrey-Joy Nwaze, James Wang, Elizabeth Spike, Julie Kimmel, Deborah Shprentz, Claire August, Neil Boyer, Tara Failey, Jacqueline Norris, Era Pandya, Peter Mecca, Neil Boyer, Stacey Garfinkle

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:** Takis Karantonis, CEEPC Chair

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Sunil Kumar

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made by members, and COG staff. There were two announcements presented by Elizabeth Spike.

- [Interstate Renewable Energy Council \(IREC\)](#) Vision summit will be on Wednesday, October 19 at the National Housing Center Auditorium in DC. The summit will be a deep dive into clean energy policies and practices. Virtual attendance is an option.
- [Greater Washington Regional Clean Cities Coalition](#) conference and awards luncheon is October 20 at the National Press Club, 11 am – 5 pm.

#### 2. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

*Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

Leah Boggs provided an update on the Climate Awards presentation which will be held at the October 12 COG Board meeting. Vice Chair Era Pandya and CEEPC Chair Koran Saines will make the presentation and announce the winners.

#### 3. OZONE SEASON SUMMARY AND OZONE PLANNING UPDATE

*Sunil Kumar, COG Staff*

Sunil Kumar will provide the Ozone Season Summary and an update on the status of ozone planning for the DC/MD/VA ozone nonattainment area. The ozone zone season is March to October. There were three exceedances of the ozone standard and one exceedance of the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard as of September 16, 2022. The region is performing better related to PM<sub>2.5</sub> than ozone. Ozone precursors like VOC and NO<sub>x</sub> are coming from Ohio and other areas. If winds are low, ozone stays in the area. There are fewer exceedance days due to federal, state, and local emission control programs like renewable energy portfolio standards on the local level and vehicle inspection and maintenance programs on the state level. Between June 15 and June 30 there were seven exceedances of the 8-hour ozone standard, including five occurring on June 30. Fires, high temperatures, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are contributing factors. The Beltsville, MD monitor and McMillian Reservoir monitor in DC tend to have the highest levels.

Reasonable accommodations are provided on request, including alternative meeting material formats. For more information, visit: [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)

777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

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For ozone planning, the Washington region was initially designated as Marginal Nonattainment Area (NAA) for 2015 Ozone NAAQS (70 parts per billion, ppb). The region failed to attain the standard by the deadline to meet the Marginal NAA (August 2021) based on 2018-20 Design Value (71 parts ppb). Therefore, it's expected that EPA will bump up the region to Moderate NAA soon. However, data for 2020 and 2021 show attainment. EPA intends to issue Clean Data Determination (CDD) after the end of the current ozone season (Fall 2022). The CDD suspends the requirement to submit an attainment SIP as long as the region continues to attain the standard. Washington region has been working for some time now on both Attainment Plan and Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan (RR/MP).

#### Discussion

Q: James Wang asked if EPA has monitoring on the neighborhood scale for PM2.5.

A: EPA only requires 2 monitors; however, the region has 14. Each monitor must meet the design value and can only evaluate the air where they are located. There are no federal standards for small areas; however, examples of local air monitoring efforts in Maryland are Cheverly, Baltimore, and St. Mary's County.

Q: James Wang asked if electric passenger and buses are potential measures to help meet the zone standard.

A: 40% of NOx emissions comes from vehicles, so transportation electrification is one viable measure. On September 15 COG's Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Technical Advisory Committee (MWACQ-TAC) met jointly to discuss building energy efficiency measures that could fit into air quality planning for the metropolitan Washington region.

#### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT UPDATE PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION**

*Tara Failey, ACPAC Chair*

*Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

*ACPAC Members*

COG Staff provided briefed members on the 2017 Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit and discussed options for developing an update. Members consented to move forward with developing a proposal for update. A draft proposal will be presented at the next meeting. Members will have December to January to finalize the proposal which will then be presented to MWAQC and CEEPC in January and February 2023.

#### Discussion

There was some discussion from members on elements of the update to include funding sources. Elizabeth Spike expressed interest in working areas related to green workforce development.

Rev. Jacqueline Norris expressed concern that the focus of EJ has changed since 2017 and the need for marginalized communities to control their narrative and be included in development of the update if it is to be effective.

## **5. MEMBER TIME**

There was no member discussion.

## **6. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14 (later rescheduled to November 28). The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the committee page [here](#).