

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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[http://www mwcog.org/environment/committee/](http://www.mwcog.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, September 18, 2006
Room 3
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology
Bill Butler, Mirant
Jim Clark, Washington Regional Network
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association
Lee Schoenecker, American Planning Association
Julie Crenshaw VanFleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia
Jessica Butts, District of Columbia

COG Staff

Joan Rohlfs, COG AQ

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

The chair called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm and the agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes

The July 17 minutes were approved.

3. Staff Report on MWAQC and TAC

Joan Rohlfs reported modeling results should be available around mid-October. The TAC is planning a stakeholder input meeting on conformity for ozone and fine particles. The 2007 constrained long-range plan will not be an issue when EPA approves the 2008 emissions budget. Transportation conformity is still based on the 1-hour ozone standard until next year when they receive a budget for the 8-hour standard.

The SIP schedule is slipped due to a delay in final inventories. The draft SIP will be sent to the TAC in November and to the MWAQC in the spring.

Local government measures will be developed based upon discussions with local officials. A survey of non-road construction equipment should provide information about potential diesel retrofit projects in the future. Brian indicated that survey letter responses would be going out by the end of the week.

During discussion, it was noted that there will be a new generation of diesel engines that use ultra low sulfur. These new engines are much cleaner than existing diesels, however, there are costs in upgrading to engines that discourage the purchase of new engines, especially for large equipment such as cranes.

In a discussion on the 2006 ozone season, it was noted that the highest 8-hour event was near Mount Vernon. One member asked whether the asphalt paving would have impacted the ozone levels near Mt Vernon. Discussion concluded that it was likely a variety of factors but these high levels would not be associated with emissions of hydrocarbons or NO_x that had been emitted in the immediate area.

Lee noted that low long range transport was reported for this year. Joan responded that it is believed that the NO_x /SIP call has been effective and one of the results is the reduction in long-range transport.

4. Public outreach materials and stakeholder meeting planning

Air quality brochures have been prepared for the public and the committee was given a last chance to provide comment before they finally go to the printers. Several comments were made, such as, include captions for pictures so that the relevance of the pictures would be clear. Several people suggested that the photographs be local, not generic. Lee also noted that the language was a bit technical. Julie suggested that programs be placed on the Weather Channel that would provide information on things that the everyday person could do to reduce pollution. The conversation evolved to note that it could also be useful to provide information on topics that may not be well understood by the general public such as solar panels and hybrid vehicles. While the public certainly is aware of these, they may not have a good appreciation of the feasibility of installing and maintaining solar panels. Also, the potential for saving on energy bills should be a part of this information.

Turning to the public meeting on October 19, Julie suggested that speaker panels could be assembled to present information that would be useful to the public. Another member suggested inviting a panelist that has been involved in Clean Air Act litigation, such as, Earth Justice. Brian suggested that the meeting be facilitated and that the meeting have focus, such as preparation of the SIP. Lee stressed the need to include the long term vision. Rodney noted that what is needed will be fundamental changes in lifestyle. Joan will take the AQPAC input into account and incorporate as appropriate.

5. Green building tour

The committee discussed a potential tour of a local green building. Joan mentioned an upcoming COG event on green buildings. The committee decided that those interested in green buildings could attend that event.

6. Draft letter on control/contingency measures

Several members of the committee prepared a draft letter on control/contingency measures. Comments should be sent to Jill who will revise the letter.

7. Air quality in the news

The committee discussed several examples of air quality mentioned in the local news media. It was also noted that the Green Festival will occur in October.

8. New Business

Julie noted that the Mirant Potomac Generator site is looking at a change for the 5 large stacks to 2 small stacks. It is unclear if this change will trigger new source review. The Alexandria City's suit has been postponed. The other suit may go to the Virginia Supreme Court.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the AQPAC will be October 9. The public meeting to discuss air quality will be on October 19. All AQPAC members are encouraged to get others to attend this meeting.