

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 12, 2023, 10 AM to 11:40 AM**

Present:

Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chuck Turner, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Dan Goldberg, George Washington University
Dan Salkovitz, Dan Goldberg, George Washington University
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Emily Bull, Maryland Department of the Environment
Felipe Ip, City of Alexandria
Hannah Ashenafi, District Department of Energy & Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Lisa Nissley, Maryland Department of the Environment
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Melissa Atwood, City of Alexandria
Richard Dooley, Arlington County
Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland Department of Transportation
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment
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
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, 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

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The July 11th meeting summary was approved without changes.

2. Update: Equity In Air Quality, Energy, and Climate Work Activities

Jeff King briefed members on staff efforts to advance the development of an approach and resources for handling equity in air quality, energy, and climate program activities in response to MWAQC's adoption in its FY24 work program of an objective to include a racial equity lens in work activities. COG staff recommends a multi-pronged approach that includes partnering with COG regarding the development of an EJ Toolkit, CPRG grant program, and a new Resource Guide document. The resource guide will:
Contain potential outline for EJ resource,
will look for best practices in different sectors,

Identify and quantify inequities in all sectors that are attributable to environmental policies, programs, and projects (drivers causing inequities, opportunities to address inequities), Ways to factor them into programs and policies to help address criteria or GHGs or other environmental issues.

Next steps will include:

Surveying and holding focus group discussions with COG member staff and experts to identify resource and assistance needs,
Plan and hold community engagement,
Hiring consultant to assist in updating EJ Toolkit, developing EJ Resource Guide document, and engagement with members, experts, and communities (emphasis on low-income disadvantaged communities). Input from state air agencies and local governments will also be sought.

3. Ozone Season Update

Sunil Kumar briefed members on the latest data of the 2023 ozone season. There were 20 ozone and fine particle exceedances this year as of September 7th out of which three were code red. The draft ozone design value for the period 2021-2023 was 71 ppb.

4. Exceptional Events Exemption Request

Sunil Kumar summarized EPA's Exceptional Events guidance. He presented a list of candidate dates that could be analyzed and possibly considered for states' exemption requests to EPA. This list was developed based on analyses of prevalent wildfires and meteorological conditions on those days. Exemptions granted by EPA for data on one or more of those days could bring the region's design value below the 2015 ozone standard and keep PM2.5 design values low. Jim Ponticello asked Sunil if he looked at high PM 2.5 days as well or just high ozone days when PM2.5 levels were high. Sunil said that this particular analysis focused on the latter. However, since most high PM 2.5 days also coincided with high ozone days, this analysis could also be used for the PM2.5 exemption request analysis. Jim said that he was worried about the future tougher PM2.5 standard and that high PM2.5 values this year could impact the attainment designation. Joseph said that PM2.5 exceptional event request may not be entertained by EPA as of now in anticipation of a tougher PM2.5 standard. Sunil added that the PM2.5 exceptional event request is important for background PM2.5 levels as they are used for modeling for permitting purposes.

5. 2008 Ozone NAAQS Maintenance Plan Update

Sunil Kumar provided update on the status of the development of proposed responses to public comments received by state air agencies for the plan. He informed members that MWAQC staff is coordinating with states and TPB staff regarding the development of those responses and will share them with the committee for members' feedback before sending them to MWAQC for their review and approval in MWAQC's September 27th meeting.

6. Proposed NHTSA Fuel Efficiency Rule & Joint MWAQC/CEEPC/TPB Comment Letter

Tim Masters provided update to members on the proposed NHTSA rule and the related draft joint MWAQC/CEEPC/TPB comment letter. NHTSA proposed to establish CAFE standards for model year 2027-2032 passenger cars and light trucks and model year 2030-2035 HDPUVs. The letter supported proposed standards.

7. State/Local Updates

Virginia- Tom said that Virginia is working on exceptional events request. Virginia is involved in Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and planning process.

Maryland- Emily said that Maryland is working on exceptional events request. Maryland has a number of high ozone and PM2.5 days this year as there are three nonattainment areas in the state.

District- Joseph said that the District finalized two rulemakings. One requires certain sources to

submit odor control plan for approval from the district. There are six types of sources (e.g., marijuana dispensaries, waste transfer stations, odor treatment plants, etc) that are required to submit such a plan. Other sources that are found to be emitting odors following inspection can also be required. The District also finalized another rulemaking that was required under a finding of failure to submit by EPA on startup shutdown malfunction SIP call so the District updated its visible emissions regulations to more strictly regulate the opacity standards during startup and other conditions.

The meeting ended at 11:40 am.