

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 9, 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
Julie Crenshaw VanFleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Com. Environmental Equity
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association

COG Staff

Joan Rohlfs, Air Quality COG staff

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

Chair Jill Engel-Cox called the meeting to order at 5:06PM and the Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

The September 18, 2006 minutes were distributed in draft form and will be reviewed for approval next month.

3. Staff report on MWAQC and TAC

The MWAQC will meet on 25 October and the TAC will be meeting on 10 October. Joan went over the agenda for the TAC. They will be considering a draft letter on conformity that will update current emission estimates for the future, the SIP schedule, the survey of potential local control measures and estimated credit available, RFP contingency measures, and the non-road equipment survey. There was discussion among the group on potential contingency measures and how local economics could affect their implementation. The MWAQC will be considering all of this plus possibly a report on attainment modeling in the region that should show them what emission cuts are required to get to attainment by 2009. Local government initiatives will be an important discussion at the next meeting.

4. Air Quality Town Meeting Planning

The committee reviewed the agenda and handouts for the town hall meeting on air quality, co-hosted by AQPAC. Phil Mendelson will chair the meeting, Jill will do the introductions, and Joan will be the facilitator/moderator. At this point Joan is not sure who will be there because

they did not require pre-registration. COG will have refreshments and it will be held in the COG Board Room on the October 19. There was some discussion of the lay out of the room and it was thought that having the panel face the audience in the pit area from the speaker's area with the overhead screens was the best way to go, but it all depended on how many people showed up.

The committee discussed possible publicity for the event and Joan said she would check with COG Public Affairs. Invitations were sent to MDE stakeholders, Fairfax City, Montgomery County, Prince George County, Arlington County, the DC air agency, and the various neighborhood advisory boards around the region. The committee recommended that the meeting include an introduction of why public input to the SIP process is important, an emphasis on the need for both short term and long term emission control measures, the need for a follow up report of the results of the meeting be given to MWAQC, and a question and answer period that included both a formal questions before the audience and informal discussions after the meeting was over, for full stakeholder input.

AQPAC members should plan to arrive around 4:30 to help out the registration process. The committee recommended name tags for everyone. It was thought that the 5-7 PM period would be ample time for the meeting. A flip chart would be used to record the public inputs. We also discussed how the panel should be run and it was thought that all panelists should speak first and then open the meeting up to questions/comments from the audience. Joan was going to pass the format information on to the panelists and finalize the agenda. Any further comments on the agenda were requested ASAP to Joan.

5. Draft Letter to the MWAQC on Control Measures

Larry and Brian provided comments to Jill's latest draft letter and Julie wanted further time to review the document. Jill was going update the latest draft for possible final review before the MWAQC meeting, depending on the comments received.

6. New Business

Nominating Committee - Jill provided the background on what was needed for the nominating committee for AQPAC next year (Chair and Vice-chair). She also wanted the committee to consider the possibility of a Secretary to take notes, but may take a by-law change and approval of the MWAQC. Normally the committee just needs to exchange a couple of emails or conference calls to finish. The committee recommended that Deron Lovaas, Lee Schoenecker, and Ann Brown be asked to be on the nominating committee. If not, others will be contacted.

Mirant Potomac River Update – Julie provided the following update to the Potomac River Power Plant status: VADEQ will require a complete application for construction for the planned combined stack construction at the plant. At the last meeting of the VA Air Pollution Control Board (APCB) in September, there was testimony given by a State Congressional Representative, a State Legislative Representative, and the City of Alexandria on problems they see with the plant and concerns they had with the need for a construction permit at the plant. The Alexandria City Attorney discussed the Department of Energy (DOE) reliability decree and the fact that it would expire in 2007 after PEPCO completed their transmission line expansion into Washington, DC (currently scheduled for Spring 2007). The APCB was briefed by DEQ on how the plant could be closed down, but the rules cannot supersede the DOE reliability decree.

Sixteen individuals spoke about the problems they were having with the plant's operation including a resident from the top floor of a nearby condo who said he could not open his window because of the metal particles that are landing on premises, another resident who brought his air filter that was completely black, and others who were having health problems they believe are caused by the plant. The APCB ruled that they must approve any permit for the plant. The City of Alexandria also gave the Board suggestions they had concerning the plant including a special air quality district be established in Alexandria, where the employees report directly to the APCB, and anything done with the plant should go through this special district.

Julie also shared with the committee a copy of the City of Alexandria's air quality modeling of PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, SO₂, etc., conducted by their modeler, AERO, which showed exceedance bulls eyes coming from the plant. She voiced concerns about no PM_{2.5} monitors existing around the plant that would show these exceedances. Bill stated that Mirant had been monitoring SO₂ at various locations around the plant since June and that a PM_{2.5} monitor was planned for the roof of Marina Towers in the near future. Brian asked about the possibility of installing some portable monitors around the site that might detect potential "hot spots." Larry mentioned that EPA designated monitoring methods/equipment should be used for such monitoring.

7. Next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m. The next meeting is November 13. Jill will attend MWAQC (October 25) and Julie will attend TAC (October 10 and November 7).