

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**  
**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**  
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**DRAFT MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2008 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Monica Backmon, Prince William County  
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Environment  
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville  
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County  
Mike Dowd, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula, City of Gaithersburg  
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC  
Lyn Erikson, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hon. Jay Fisette, Arlington County  
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County, MWAQC Chair  
Pat Haddon, Calvert County  
Hon. Patrick Herrity, Fairfax County  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Hon. Alan Imhoff, City of Frederick  
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation  
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County  
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia  
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church  
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County  
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation

**Others Present:**

Misty Allen, Mirant  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Steven Bruckner, Citizen of Fairfax County  
Linda Burchfield, Citizen of Fairfax County  
Paul Burman, Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)  
Bill Butler, Mirant  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health  
Roger Diedrich, Citizen of Fairfax County  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Bill Murray, Dominion  
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of the Environment  
Debra Raggio, Mirant

Nathan Rushing, Competitive Power Ventures  
Sharon Segner, Competitive Power Ventures  
Lalit Sharma, City of Alexandria  
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria  
Kayti Wingfield, Sierra Club

**Staff:**

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP  
Naomi Friedman, COG Executive Office  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP  
George Nichols, COG/DEP  
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP  
Lee Ruck, COG Legal Department  
Jeanne Saddler, COG Public Affairs  
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

**1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Announcements**

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

There were six public comments. Mr. Murray, Dominion, commented on the proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County Virginia. Dominion is the applicant for the project. Dominion staff will meet with COG staff on Monday to discuss the proposed project. In the context of a potential MWAQC resolution on the proposed plant, Mr. Murray provided detailed information about the project plans. He said that the new baseload capacity from the Wise County facility will allow Dominion to convert the older Dominion Bremo plant, in Fluvanna County Virginia, 120 miles from Washington DC, to natural gas, which will offset most of the priority pollutants from the new Wise County plant and will serve to improve air quality in the Washington region. Further example of Dominion's commitment to improving air quality in the Washington region is their recent action to convert the Possum Point plant to natural gas.

Five commenters spoke in support of an MWAQC action in opposition to the proposed new coal-fired power plant in Wise County Virginia.

Mr. Burman, CCAN, said the facility would become one of the top ten polluters in Virginia. He expressed disappointment that Dominion has not already offered to retrofit the Bremo facility to natural gas. He said the region needs to be proactive with air quality issues to protect the health of the residents and the long-term sustainability of the planet.

Mr. Diedrich said coal is a dirty fuel and there are no known methods to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. Governor Kaine has released a plan to reduce emissions by CO<sub>2</sub> 30 percent by 2025, so it is time to stop building new coal-fired plants that will remain in operation for 50 years or more. Wall Street has signaled its lack of support for projects such as the Wise County plant. The new carbon emissions from the Wise County plant will offset all of the actions

being taken in the Washington region to reduce emissions. Other options are available, including increased conservation, to meet future needs for electricity.

Mr. Bruckner questioned Dominion's stated intention to make the power plant ready for carbon capture and sequestration (CCS). In order to be CCS ready, Dominion would have had to take other explicit actions, such as oversizing the plant to account for the increased parasitic load associated with operating the CCS technology. In this context, the SCC recently denied the extra 2% operating margin for Dominion to operate CCS. The pricing advantage of coal is lost if CCS is implemented or under a cap and trade program. Renewable technologies such as wind become cost competitive under these scenarios, offering the additional advantage of clean energy and avoided technology uncertainty associated with CCS. He recommended a moratorium on all new coal-fired power plants.

Ms. Wingfield said that there are already alternatives to new coal-fired plants. With many jurisdictions in the region signing onto the Cool Counties initiative, it is time for the region to take a stand and oppose construction of new coal-fired capacity. She also said that the Bremono facility should be converted to natural gas.

Ms. Burchfield urged investment in demand side management. Construction of a new coal-fired plant is counter to the local initiatives to reduce emissions. The new plant in Wise County may also pose new risks from increased emissions of fine particulate matter. She recommended air quality modeling be conducted to determine how the new plant will impact air quality in the region.

#### **Approval of Minutes and Announcements**

Mr. Snyder called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the December 12, 2007 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Linda Smyth called for a motion to add the Wise County power plant to the agenda as Item #6. There were no objections.

There were several announcements. Mr. Snyder expressed appreciation to Nancy Floreen who served as MWAQC chair last year. He presented her with a plaque reading: "With deep appreciation for her Leadership to improve air quality in the Washington Region."

He welcomed newly appointed members of MWAQC, including Cathy Drzyzgula, Gaithersburg; Jay Fisette, Arlington County Board of Supervisors; Patrick Herrity, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors; Bob Hoyt, Montgomery County; and John Stirrup, Prince William County.

A new member orientation was held this morning at 10:30. He referred members to the updated MWAQC member handbook.

This week the Federal Register published EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson's official denial of the California clean car waiver. California requested a waiver of federal preemption under the Clean Air Act to enforce the state's motor vehicle greenhouse gas standards. Maryland with 14 other states joined California's lawsuit against EPA for the waiver denial.

In December, Congress passed an Omnibus spending bill that gave EPA \$3.5 million to create a mandatory federal GHG registry to support cap and trade. EPA is expected to coordinate with The Climate Registry to create a consistent reporting standard and mechanism.

In February, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit vacated CAMR, EPA's Clean Air Mercury Rule. The rule would have regulated mercury emissions through a cap and trade program. At the same time, EPA delisted power plants as mercury sources requiring Maximum Achievable Control Technology or MACT. The court determined that the delisting was illegal. The case was brought by a coalition of 20 states and environmental groups. EPA must now rewrite its mercury regulations.

On February 20 Mr. Snyder represented MWAQC at a meeting hosted by the VA Dept. of Environmental Quality to discuss issues concerning the Potomac River Generating Station. The meeting was technical in nature, focusing on monitoring and modeling issues. The parties represented included EPA's Office of Air Quality Policy and Standards, EPA Region III, the City of Alexandria, Mirant, invited stakeholders, and COG observers. A summary of the meeting was provided.

On today's agenda there are at least three action items, two are Matters of Major Concern and, according to MWAQC's bylaws, require the majority approval of the representatives in attendance from each state's membership. For questions, he referred members to the bylaws in the Member Handbooks, Section 5.

## **2. Committee Reports**

### **A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee**

Mr. Hug said that the main focus of the TAC at its February 21 meeting was to complete the draft SIP, including response to public comments. The TAC also discussed the scope of work for conformity and was updated on the activities of the Climate Change Steering Committee.

### **B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee**

Ms. Engel-Cox commented on three items. First, she asked that MWAQC take action to approve a new member to MWAQC, Sally Kane. Second, she requested that MWAQC follow up with DC officials to obtain data that was requested on the Benning Road power plant. Finally, she said that AQPAC sent in comments on the PM2.5 SIP. She summarized the main points of the comment letter. A motion was made and seconded to approve Sally Kane appointment to AQPAC. There were no objections.

### **C. Report of the Clean Air Partners**

Ms. Smyth reported on recent activities of Clean Air Partners. The marketing consultant is preparing the marketing plan for the 2008 season which will include radio and transit ads in the Baltimore-Washington region. Preliminary discussions are ongoing with a local television station (WUSA) on the production of a new TV PSA. A direct mail membership campaign targeting employers with 100+ employees, health care organizations, day care providers, and large NOx and VOC generators is underway. The air quality curriculum has been printed and Rebecca Davis, the new curriculum/outreach coordinator, is actively marketing the program. COG staff is working with the website contractor on developing the curriculum/outreach content for the Clean Air

Partners' web site. Marketing efforts for the parts washer rebate program are underway. Rebate materials have been provided to the Maryland Department of the Environment, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and local equipment vendors. Clean Air Partners is working with EPA and the District Department of the Environment on conducting an auto body workshop at COG in April as part of EPA's Design for the Environment initiative. The Prince Georges County Air Quality Strategic Outreach Plan Survey was completed by 1,565 employees for a response rate of 26%. The survey results have been compiled and will be presented to Prince George's County County's in March. The Managing Director is developing the on-line Telework Tool Kit and recruiting employers for the 2008 Clean Air Teleworking pilot.

#### **D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)**

Ms. Beall reported on the IAQC. The IAQC met on March 4 and approved the PM2.5 SIP.

#### **E. Report of the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)**

Ms. Floreen reported on the CCSC. The current schedule calls for the COG Board to receive the recommendations of the CCSC this spring. The committee is currently considering regional CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets. At the recent meeting, CCSC also received a briefing on the Wise County power plant but didn't take action because it is a COG Board issue. Mr. Freudberg clarified that the MWAQC agenda item today would be to approve a comment letter to be sent to VDEQ on the Wise County proposal. The Board resolution on the proposed Wise County plant was provided as background information only.

### **3. PM2.5 SIP: Overview, Public Comments, Response to Comments, VOTE to Approve**

Ms. Rohlf provided an overview of the PM2.5 SIP, referring members to the Executive Summary (including the Table of Contents) as well as the public comments response summary document. The complete SIP volume and all supporting documentation can be provided on CD upon request. She provided an overview of fine particulate pollution, PM SIP requirements, the attainment demonstration, and the motor vehicle emissions budgets. The SIP deadline is April 5, 2008. The monitors in the region are already showing that air quality in the region meets both the 24-hour and annual 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. To be conservative and further protect public health, and in anticipation of the need to meet the new 2006 24-hour standard, MWAQC decided in July 2007 to prepare an attainment SIP instead of submitting a redesignation request. The base year of the plan is 2002 and the attainment year is 2009. Significance findings were made for the various PM precursors. Precursors deemed significant for SIP control purposes include direct PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub>. It was determined that motor vehicle emissions budgets are not required for SO<sub>2</sub>. The base year inventory includes all potential PM2.5 precursors, including two not deemed significant for SIP control purposes -- VOC and ammonia. Measures reducing PM2.5 emissions in the region include federal and state controls on power plants, motor vehicles, and fuels, as well as a variety of local voluntary measures such as wind power purchasing, tree canopy enhancement, and telecommuting. Attainment modeling shows that the region is expected to remain in compliance with the NAAQS through 2009. The SIP includes a contingency plan for further reductions in emissions in 2010 in the event that the region does not attain the standard by 2009.

Mr. King provided an overview of the public comments and proposed response to comments. There were 39 comments from 14 distinct commenters. Categories of comments include general SIP comments, and comments on the attainment results, control measures, local hotspots, and

technical corrections. He provided a document that contains the response to each of the comments received during the public comment period.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the SIP, including the response to comments. A substitute motion was then made and seconded to approve an alternative course of action, in the form of a resolution approving the SIP, which would also address other related issues. Ms. Pepper read the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Dowd of VDEQ. To address the concerns expressed by the City of Alexandria, in addition to approving the SIP, the resolution calls for VDEQ to install a Federal Reference Monitor (FRM) PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitor in Alexandria; for VDEQ to convene a PM<sub>2.5</sub> Implementation Workgroup of stakeholders in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> process to develop a methodology to perform microscale analysis for review and approval by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board; that within eight months of SIP submission VDEQ will complete a review and develop a quantitative process for microscale analysis of PM<sub>2.5</sub>; and that once VDEQ finalizes a quantitative process for microscale analysis, Mirant must complete an analysis for the PRGS within a period of six months and make results of this analysis public. Further, a letter will be drafted and sent by MWAQC to the Commonwealth of Virginia Air Pollution Control Board asking that action be initiated to tighten Virginia's standards from the existing 20% for opacity to 10%. Upon adoption of such a standard, the Commonwealth of Virginia would submit the revised regulation to EPA as a revision to its SIP.

There were several friendly amendments offered and accepted by all members. Mr. Mendelson asked that numbering be added to the resolved section. Mr. Hug asked that the resolution state that only the current opacity standards are being addressed (Maryland may lower its opacity standards in the future) and that Virginia would submit the revised regulation to EPA as a revision to its SIP. He suggested that the language be specific about asking that the Virginia standards be tightened from the existing 20% for opacity to 10%. Mr. Fisette asked that the words "for the Northern Virginia nonattainment area" be removed. In the context of understanding the impact of the resolution, Mr. Fisette also asked COG staff to prepare a memorandum addressing the scope and import of MWAQC authority. He also suggested that MWAQC should ask for regular updates on progress in meeting the terms of the resolution. To clarify the record, Ms. Beall said that the opacity standard in the District is 0%; although some facilities have permit levels of 10%. Mr. Britton disclosed that he represents the City of Alexandria on the issue of the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station. He recommended that members support the resolution. Mr. Dowd said that given the complexity of the issues, the dates in the resolution should be considered targets, not deadlines, but that VDEQ is committed to move the process as expeditiously as possible. The resolution was then approved with no objections.

#### **4. Proposed MWAQC FY09 Work Program and Budget (ACTION)**

Ms. Rohlfs presented the proposed work program and budget. She reviewed funding contributions for the MWAQC core budget and the local government initiatives program. The core budget was not changed from last year. Funding for the core program is split 1/3 each from COG, the state air agencies, and the state transportation agencies. The second part of the budget is for local government initiatives, funding for which is from COG local governments. The local government initiatives budget was increased by \$12,000 bringing the total MWAQC budget to \$574,280, a total increase of about 2 percent. The work program will involve more work on evaluating multi-pollutant approaches to reduce ozone and fine particles. She said that the Budget Committee approved the work program and budget in February. A motion was made and

seconded to approve the FY06 MWAQC work program and budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **5. Nominating Committee Report and Election of VA Vice Chair**

Ms. Smyth presented the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Mr. Jay Fisetto to Virginia Vice Chair. The motion passed with no objections.

#### **6. Comment Letter on Proposed Coal-Fired Power Plant in Wise County Virginia**

Ms. Smyth presented a draft comment letter prepared by COG staff. The primary MWAQC concern expressed in the letter is the role of pollutant transport and the impact that a new coal-fired plant in southwest Virginia will have on air quality in the region. The letter requests that modeling be done to specifically address this pollutant transport concern. The letter also addresses the concern about increases in emissions of greenhouse gases, and requests that the state consider other options such as conservation and renewable energy before the permit for the plant is approved. Members reviewed and accepted several changes to the letter suggested by members. It was agreed to delay sending the letter until the COG Board has a chance to review the letter and is given the opportunity to co-sign. Mr. Herrity asked staff to confirm that the plant, if built, will become a top-10 polluting source in the state. A motion was made and seconded to send the comment letter as amended. The motion was approved with no objections.

#### **7. State and Local Air Agency Reports**

Mr. Hug reported for Maryland. PM2.5 SIPs are being prepared for Baltimore and Washington County. The Maryland Climate Change Commission continues to hold meetings to discuss policy options to address climate change. The RGGI regulation was adopted, including the allowance auction system. Legislative initiatives under consideration include the Global Warming Solutions Act and a bill authorizing an increase in MDE permit fees.

Ms. Beall reported for the District. The main work activities include the PM2.5 infrastructure SIP, the regional haze SIP and the OTC VOC model rules. The District is also considering a Clean Cars/CAL LEV bill and new Green Building regulations.

Mr. Dowd reported for Virginia. Handling permitting of large coal-fired power plants has been a top priority, including the PRGS as well as the Wise County facility. A MACT/112g permit for the Wise County plant was recently proposed that will call for installation of Activated Carbon Injection (ACI) to control mercury emissions. The Virginia Climate Change Committee has held its first meeting. The OTC VOC regulations are also being finalized.

Mr. Snyder recognized Jim Sydnor for his longstanding contribution to MWAQC and recognized him as a true gentleman. He presented a plaque to VDEQ representatives for Mr. Sydnor and asked that the MWAQC expression of appreciation be shared.

#### **8. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held on May 28, 12 - 2 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.