

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203

MINUTES OF December 14, 2005 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Rick Canizales, Prince William County
Julie Crenshaw, Chair, AQPAC
Hon. Thomas Dernoga, Prince George's County
Hon. Redella S. Del Pepper, Alexandria
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC
Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County
Hon. Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County; MWAQC Chair
Fariba Kassiri, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Michelle Pourciau, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Hon. David Snyder, Falls Church
Joanne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Stan Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Health
Don Wambsgans, District of Columbia Department of Health
Hon. Patrice Winter, City of Fairfax

Others Present:

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Dierdre Elvis-Peterson, District of Columbia Department of Health
Tracye Finn, Washington Gas
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County
Alex Hekimian, Montgomery County M-NCPPC
Kanathur Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Health
Barbara West, Clean Air Partners Consultant
Lawrence Nwankwo, District of Columbia

Staff:

Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP

Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Mike Clifford, COG/TPB

Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Rich Denbow, COG/DEP Consultant

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 10:17 p.m. No speakers were present for the public comment period.

2. Approval of Minutes, Announcements

Mr. Kauffman called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the September 28, 2005 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Aburn reported on the activities of the TAC. TAC discussed a revised SIP planning schedule, a comment letter on the PM_{2.5} conformity, had an update from the Emissions Inventory Committee and the Attainment Modeling Subcommittee, and discussed a policy for rotating chairs of subcommittees. The TAC is taking applications for its four stakeholder positions for 2006. Applications are due to staff by January 6, 2006.

B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Ms. Crenshaw, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported. She reported that AQPAC has been working with MWAQC staff on the control measures workshop and ideas for control measures. AQPAC also discussed Governor Ehrlich's plan for power plant controls and decided to table the discussion until a rule is developed for the proposal. Ms. Crenshaw also talked about an article in the Washington Post on the subject of particulate matter that implied that the problem was solved, which is not the case. She stated that AQPAC is aware that the public may have gotten the message that PM pollution is no longer a problem. Lastly, Ms. Crenshaw said that she has been AQPAC chair for five years and there will soon be new nominations for chair. The next chair is likely to be Jill Engel-Cox. Mr. Kaufmann asked that appropriate recognition be given at the next meeting for Ms. Crenshaw's service to AQPAC and MWAQC.

C. Report of the Clean Air Partners

Ms. West, Clean Air Partners (CAP) managing director, reported. CAP is working on a voluntary business initiative with several area businesses; CAP will focus next on printers. She reported that CAP has changed its fiscal year from July 1 to June 30 to coordinate with COG's fiscal year. She then acknowledged the 2005 Air Quality Action Day Sponsors and provided several certificates to sponsors.

D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council

Mr. Aburn reported. The IAQC met via conference call and moved ahead on a list of key projects to complete in 2006. IAQC will work closely with COG staff on the initiatives. IAQC is working on three primary issues – a power plant initiative to make CAIR tougher; controls from area, mobile, and other smokestack sources; and expansion of existing control programs to attainment areas that are upwind of nonattainment areas.

4. EPA Guidance and Revised SIP Schedule

Ms. Rohlfs briefed the Committee on new EPA guidance for air quality planning for the 8-hour ozone SIP, which was released in November. The guidance lays out the requirements for the Washington nonattainment area. A 2002 baseline emission inventory is due in June 2006. Also required as part of the SIP process is a Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) demonstration, weight of evidence, reasonably available control measure analysis (RACM), reasonably available control technology (RACT) for certain emission sources, and a modeling and attainment demonstration. The RFP plan must show a 15% reduction in emissions between 2002 and 2008. The attainment demonstration must show that control strategies achieve design values below 85 parts per billion of ozone by September 2009.

The 8-hour ozone SIP is due in June 2007 and the attainment date for the 8-hour standard is June 2010. Ms. Rohlfs said that this means the region must show attainment by the end of the 2009 ozone season. Therefore, all measures must be implemented by the start of the 2009 ozone season, which is May 2009. If a region cannot show attainment by 2010, it can get a one-year extension by requesting a bump-up to a Serious classification. This would entail additional reduction requirements.

Staff also discussed PM_{2.5} implementation. The attainment date for PM_{2.5} is 2010 and the PM_{2.5} SIP is due in April 2009. The SIP must address PM direct, SO₂, and NO_x emissions. The states and/or EPA may require planning for ammonia and VOC emissions if they are determined to be significant contributors to the PM_{2.5} problem. Modeling performed for the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) shows the Washington region meeting the PM_{2.5} standard by 2010. The states in the region need to perform their own modeling to confirm this finding, and different assumptions may be used and different results may be obtained. Because the ozone and PM_{2.5} attainment deadlines are similar, the technical analysis will be done at the same time for both. The SIPs will be completed separately.

Regarding the schedule for the ozone SIP, the SIP must be approved for public hearing in July 2006. The public hearing will be held and comments addressed. MWAQC will approve the SIP in fall 2006 and transmit the SIP to the IAQC. The states will submit the SIP to EPA in early 2007 to meet the June 15, 2007 deadline.

5. Attainment Modeling: Overview

Mr. Ballou provided an overview of the modeling being performed for the Washington-Baltimore region for the 8-hour ozone and fine particle standards. Mr. Ballou stated that the model simulates actual air quality events, or episodes, and takes into consideration weather patterns, pollutant levels, and chemistry and transport of pollutants. The first step is to perform modeling of an historic base case of a high ozone event and compare those model results to actual concentrations to validate the model. Then, future base case modeling is performed to account for known existing and future control measures and future emission levels, and results are evaluated. Finally, future control case modeling is performed to include potential control measures and determine their effect on ozone concentrations. This last step can be repeated for different control measure scenarios to determine their effect on attainment.

Mr. Ballou discussed the attainment modeling progress to date for the 8-hour attainment demonstration. A draft modeling protocol is under review now and is expected to be finalized in

winter 2006. Staff has been participating in OTC modeling efforts and has verified that that VDEQ modeling platform produces accurate and comparable results. Base case modeling has been completed and may be revised in 2006 if an updated emissions inventory is available. VDEQ has found that their model meets EPA performance criteria, and that the model tends to slightly under-predict peak ozone levels.

The next steps are to perform future base case modeling for the year 2009. This will begin when the projection inventory is available, which should be very soon. After that, the future control case modeling will be performed. The Control Measures Workgroup and OTC workgroups will have input into this process when they identify control measures. The Weight of Evidence analysis will also be completed and the process will be documented for the SIP.

6. PM2.5 Conformity: MWAQC Comment Letter to TPB

Mr. King discussed TPB's PM2.5 conformity assessment on the 2005 CLRP and 2006-2011 TIP and a comment letter drafted by the MWAQC TAC on the assessment. The conformity determination must be completed by February 2006. TPB was able to choose between two emission tests through the interagency consultation process – the build/no-build test and the less than 2002 baseline test. Conformity was determined for direct PM emissions and NOx as a PM precursor. Mr. King discussed model inputs and versions. The results show that transportation emissions meet the interim emissions test. TAC's comment letter recognizes this result and endorses the analysis, while pointing out that the emissions margin is temporary. It also urges TPB to maintain TERMS and other emission reduction measures. TAC recommends MWAQC approve and submit the comment letter to TPB.

During discussion, some wording revisions were made to the draft letter. A motion to approve the letter with the suggested revisions was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

7. Nomination and Election of Officers for 2006

Ms. Pepper reported for the MWAQC nominating committee, which consisted of her, Mr. Mendelson, and Mr. Dernoga. The nominating committee proposes the following slate of officers for MWAQC for 2006:

- Chair: Phil Mendelson, Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
- Vice Chair: Nancy Floreen, Council Member, Montgomery County Council, MD
- Vice Chair: David Snyder, Council Member, Falls Church City Council, VA

It was moved and seconded to approve the slate. The motion carried unanimously.

8. State Air Agency Reports

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. He reported on Governor Ehrlich's Clean Power Rule, unveiled on November 17. The rule would impose emission rate limits on Maryland's six largest coal-fired electric power plants for NOx, SO2, and mercury. It would also prohibit Maryland power plants from buying out-of-state emission allowances to meet the state emission rate limits. Mr. Aburn said the rule is being reviewed at the advisory council level and he is hopeful that it will move forward this spring.

Mr. Sydnor reported for Virginia. He said the State Air Pollution Control Board has adopted draft air pollution rules. One provision in the rules is that power plants in nonattainment areas in Virginia will not be allowed to purchase emission credits to meet emission standards. There was also a proposal to consider mercury reductions. This was sent back to VDEQ for more work.

Mr. Wambsgans reported for the District of Columbia. He stated that DC is holding a public hearing on January 3rd on the proposed New Source Review regulations.

9. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting will take place on February 22. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.