

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 17, 2014
10:05 AM to 12:05 PM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Mike Kiss, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Molly Berger, Maryland Department of the Environment
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Walter Seedlock, MWAA
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Chair Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. The April 8 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Update

Sunil Kumar presented the 2014 ozone season summary. There have been only two code orange days so far in this season. Based on the current draft data thus far, the Washington region's design value for the current ozone standard (75 ppb) is 75 ppb, which indicates the region is at the same level as the current standard. The region needs to attain the current ozone standard by December 31, 2015. So the region is making good progress towards this goal, which is attributed to a number of local, state, and federal control measures implemented over the years.

Kanti suggested that the above control measures be listed in an appendix or on a separate slide. Tad suggested that a trend in the 4th highest 8-hour max ozone values should also be included in the future presentations. He also commented on a slide, which showed NASA's comparison of

NOx concentrations during two separate periods using two different maps. These NOx concentrations were measured by space based instruments by NASA and published recently in the Washington Post. Tad pointed out that the NOx concentrations shown in the two comparison maps were measured by the satellite throughout the atmospheric column and not just at the surface. Ram suggested obtaining PM2.5 and NOx concentration data measured by the near road and continuous monitors as they may show different data than the ones currently measured by the regional monitors.

3 & 4. Sectoral Contribution to Ozone Problem/Special Project – Next Steps

Based on Tad's suggestion, items 3 and 4 were merged together. The committee members agreed to this. Tad presented a detailed overview of the contribution of different emissions sectors towards the Washington region's ozone problem and possible steps to address it.

Tad talked about asthma rates in Washington, DC being one of the highest in the country. Steve suggested that we look into the DC asthma rates and see if those rates are being compared to other states. If so, it would be more beneficial to compare the DC (urban area) asthma rates to other urban areas in the country.

During discussion on the contribution of different emissions sectors towards the ozone problem using the OSAT analysis, Mike emphasized that focusing on the trends of the OSAT model results would be more beneficial than looking specifically at the numbers. He further said the contribution of different emissions sectors varies depending on the apportionment tool used in the CAMx model. For example, OSCA tool assigns more contribution to biogenics. It was also noted that the model overstates the contribution of anthropogenic NOx emissions sources. There was some confusion about the initial and boundary conditions for the OTC and OSAT modeling analyses. Mike said that the initial/boundary conditions include both natural background ozone levels as well as emission coming from outside of the area. Tad suggested that he could get more information and follow up.

Regarding slide 35 showing a comparison of mobile NOx emission budget with the projected 2013 CLRP emissions and required NOx emissions in different years, Mike asked what modeling study was used to assess the required NOx emission levels. Tad said he would provide that information. Jim, Tom, Doris, and Elena felt that this particular slide should not be shown as this does not represent the correct picture. It was suggested that in order to avoid confusion in the future, a draft of presentations be sent out to the committee prior to the meeting, and prior to being uploaded on the website. Tad said there should be a process to reduce mobile NOx emission given its importance for the ozone issue.

Slide 36 compared projected mobile CO2 emissions to the COG CO2 emission goals in different years. Elena said these emissions will be revised to include Tier 3 and greenhouse gas rules, which could reduce CO2 emission in the future.

5. Reasonable Further Progress

Sunil presented the results of the draft RFP emissions reduction analysis. The analysis showed the region met the 15% RFP emissions reduction requirements. It was stated that once the data for Appendix D (State Reductions) becomes available it will be added to the RFP analysis. It was

pointed out that the 2017 point emissions for VOC and NOx in Virginia were missing from the tables on slides 5 and 6. Sunil said he would work with VDEQ to resolve this. He also mentioned that he would work with MDE to update 2017 point source emissions.

6. Base Year 2011 Emissions Inventory

Sunil discussed the two EPA comments on the base year 2011 emissions inventory document. While one comment was related to the use of I/M program in developing mobile emissions, the other one was related to the reporting requirements when making any changes to these programs. MDE worked with EPA and was able to address both of them. The document was approved by MWAQC in its July 31 meeting and sent to state air agencies for submission to EPA.

7. Proposed Greenhouse Gas Rule for Existing Power Plants

Jeff briefed on the EPA proposal for greenhouse gas rule for existing power plants. The rule is now open for public comments. Comments can be submitted in-person on July 29/30. States are planning to submit comments on this rule. Steve said there must be a common ground before MWAQC can develop and submit a comment letter. Ram supported submitting such letter either through MWAQC or CEEPC. He said DC's air deputy director is scheduled to submit a letter to EPA on July 30.

8. State & Local Updates

Ram said the District is preparing a testimony for the Clean Power Rule hearing on July 30th. Tom said VDEQ is preparing to send the base year inventory document to EPA. Tad said MDE is updating Appendix D information and gave an approximate timeline of 1 – 1.5 weeks before completion. He also said MDE is working on developing new rules for power plants, Stage II program, and electric vehicles.

9. Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is September 9, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.