

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
January 13, 2015
10:00 AM to 11:55 AM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, 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
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County
Ana Prados, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Association

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP
Yu Gao, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Nick Ramfos, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The December 9 meeting summary was approved without any changes. Steve informed the group that Maryland representative would continue to be the TAC chair for 2015 while the District representative would be the vice-chair.

2. Status of 2014 VIN Data

Elena presented details of the 2014 vehicle identification number (VIN) data for Maryland, Virginia, and the District. She compared the processed VIN data for 2008, 2011, and 2014 and said that the vehicles are getting older though at a slower pace between 2011 and 2014 compared to the period 2008 through 2011. Jim asked about the impact of hybrid vehicles on emissions. Yu said he would have to look into it. Howard asked if the fleet includes all types of hybrids. Yu said the fleet includes all types such as, plug-in, etc.

3. Commuter Connections TERM Analysis

Nick Ramfos presented the Transportation Emission Reduction Measures (TERM) analysis as part of the Commuter Connection program. He discussed emission benefits resulting from the several commuter connection programs. Howard asked which models were used for this analysis. Nick said appropriate models were used in different years.

4. Scope of Work (2015 CLRP Analysis)

Jane discussed in detail the scope of work for the 2015 CLRP analysis. She discussed the models to be used, the analysis years, and the pollutants to be modeled as part of the Transportation conformity analysis. She said TPB would soon release this document for the public comment period.

5a. Draft MWAQC Ozone Comment Letter

Sunil discussed the MWAQC ozone comment letter sent to EPA in 2010 and said this letter is being used as a template for the new letter. He asked for inputs and any language to be included in the new letter. Tad said the group would keep working on this after this meeting and will be presented again in the February TAC meeting.

5b. Court Decision (2008 Ozone NAAQS Attainment Date)

Sunil discussed the Court decision on December 23, 2014 regarding the attainment date for the 2008 ozone standard. The Court did not agree with EPA's interpretation and decided that the attainment date should be July 20, 2015 instead of December 31, 2015. This means the Washington region will not be able to use the 2015 ozone season data for demonstrating attainment. Based on the 2012-2014 design value, the region did not attain the standard. Sunil discussed the two options for the region following this decision related to the 2008 ozone standard. The first option is to request for an extension of the attainment date based on the clean data observed in 2014. The other option is to start working on the SIP after EPA reclassifies the region as a moderate nonattainment area. He also mentioned that there is a new tougher ozone standard expected in October 2015, which may affect how EPA deals with the issue of nonattainment for the 2008 standard. Jim wanted to know about EPA's plan to appeal this decision. He suggested waiting for EPA's decision on this before taking any action. Ana wanted to know if the requirements for a moderate SIP would go away after the new standard is announced. Sunil thought this requirement should become mute, but Diane said this may not be the case as in past environmental organization made an issue out of this. So it takes time before these requirements go away. Tad suggested the group to wait to learn about EPA's thinking on this before moving forward on this issue.

6. State Gold Book

Isabel talked about the list of control measures (state gold book), which she developed in association with state air agency staff. She asked about the format of the document and the ultimate outcome this effort would lead to. Doris liked the format. She suggested clarifying meaning of large, medium, and small emission benefits in the table. Tad said the group should package up the list of control measures and present it to MWAQC. He said the gold book should be turned into a regional action plan. Steve said states need to provide inputs on the above list before February TAC meeting. Howard said a detailed discussion on the cost and implementation time-frame of the measures is necessary before it goes to MWAQC. Doris said this can be presented as an information item to MWAQC. Tom said Virginia has a few voluntary programs such as, smartways, but regulations can be challenging.

7. Status of Multi-Sector/Multi-Disciplinary GHG/AQ Work-Group

Steve informed the group about the invitations sent to a few people across various departments in different jurisdictions regarding the first meeting of the Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG)

scheduled on January 30, 2015. Participants will be provided the background and history of the greenhouse gas/air quality efforts in the first meeting. Different MSWG sub-groups will identify various viable strategies in July 2015. Finally, all sub-groups will send their respective recommendations to the main group by September 2015 and an interim report will be developed by that time. The sub-group recommendations will be shared with MWAQC, CEEPC, and TPB.

8. Announcement of TAC Stakeholders

Sunil announced the re-appointment of four stakeholders for MWAQC-TAC for 2015. They are:

Jennifer Tabor – Department of Defense

Ana Prados – Fairfax county federation of citizens' association

John Kinsman – Edison Electric institute

Walter Seedlock – MWAA

9. State and Local Updates

Tad said that MDE is working on finalizing its new power plant NOx emission regulation. Cecily and Tom did not have any updates for the District and Virginia respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.