**Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee**

**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E.** **Washington, DC 20002-4239** **(202) 962-3360**  **Fax:** **(202) 962-3203**

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The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 19, 2010

Room 1

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** DeronLovaas, Chair; Bill Butler; Beverly Fourier; Sally Kane, Linda Murphy, Rick Reiss, Julie Van Fleet, Larry Zaragoza

**Staff:** Joan Rohlfs, Jeff King

**1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Joan Rohlfs. Larry Zaragoza asked that adoption of the June minutes be postponed until the September meeting as he submitted extensive comments related to VDEQ and the Fairfax monitor issue.

**2. EPA’s Transport Rule and SO2 NAAQS (Jeff King, DEP staff)**

EPA has proposed a rulemaking (the Transport Rule) to resolve issues with the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) that was remanded by the courts to EPA for reconsideration. The proposal would require significant reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions that cross state lines. By 2014, the rule and other state and EPA actions would reduce power plant SO2 emissions by 71 percent over 2005 levels. Power plant NOx emissions would drop by 52 percent. The rule will set state level budgets and will limit interstate trading of allowances. TAC will consider a draft comment letter in September. The proposal does not consider the new lower ozone NAAQS so EPA is proposing to evaluate what state budgets would be needed for the regions to meet the new NAAQSs as part of a Transport Rule amendment.

Dr. Zaragoza asked if VOC is treated by the Transport Rule. Jeff said that the Transport Rule only addresses SO2 and NOx from utilities. Rick Reiss said NOx comes from buoyant sources, power generated in the Midwest. Nox is a bigger issue. Dr. Zaragoza said that ACPAC should weigh in on the Transport comment letter. Rick wondered why EPA didn’t consider VOCs and transportation conformity in the rule. Julie agreed that ACPAC should weigh in on the issue.

Staff reported on the SO2 rule. EPA has finalized a new lower SO2 National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The new 1-hour standard is set at 75ppb. Designations will be finalized in 2012, State Implementation Plans (SIPs) will be due in 2014 with the attainment date in 2017. Since SO2 pollution is more of a localized issue, attainment designations may be handled differently than the traditional nonattainment region approach. Designations will be at the county-level and will be based not only on monitoring data but analysis of sources as well as local modeling. The current monitoring network will not be sufficient for designations, the states may need to install new monitors in closer proximity to major sources.

Dr. Zaragoza said there needs to be analyses of sources and population, to make sure that monitors will go to areas of highest risk. The old SO2 standard was based on epidemiology studies, but it’s hard to distinguish SO2 and particles for effect. Sally Kane asked if SO2 and PM always occur at the same time. She observed that its hard to translate the air quality index into human activity. Rick Reiss said one-third of particles in the northeast are sulfur. He said there’s a need to link monitors to the CBSA, but if planning is on a county level, it could be that the metropolitan Washington area wouldn’t have enough monitors. Fairfax County might have two, the District, one or two; Montgomery County, one.

Julie Van Fleet reported that the ATSDR has a new report on toxic releases from the Potomac River Power Plant in Alexandria. The report will be released at the end of July. There will be an open-house in Alexandria hosted by ATSDR.

Dr. Zaragoza said he was troubled by DEQ’s decision regarding the Mt. Vernon monitor location. Rick Reiss said there needs to be a monitor in any county that could plausibly exceed the standard, but if it doesn’t have a major power source, it’s not likely to have a monitor. That’s why modeling is so important. Peak concentrations are more important than long term transport.

The group said they have several questions about monitors. They would like to know more about the process for siting monitors, how population is factored in the decision, and whether any academic studies with GIS have been done. Rick Reiss said all the NAAQS have modeling and monitoring information. He suggested that EPA Technical documents be consulted.

It was agreed that ACPAC will comment at the MWAQC meeting on the Transport Rule, asking why only stationary SO2 sources are involved, and why the SO2 annual standard is being deleted. Dr. Zaragoza and Deron Lovaas will coordinate regarding the MWAQC meeting on Wednesday. Deron said the public officials need to be educated about the public health benefits of the standards. Rick Reiss said that 20% of outside ozone gets indoors.

**3. Regional Energy Outreach Pilot Project: Update**

COG will be engaging the pilot communities in a grassroots effort to encourage participation in an online home energy efficiency savings program. The three communities selected for the pilot are Greenbelt, MD; Brookland in the District, and the Cascades community in Loudoun County. A contractor will be selected this week to develop COG’s energy efficiency website. The CEEPC will vote on a name for the campaign at its meeting this Wednesday. Ms. Rohlfs distributed a ballot of ten names and asked for ACPAC members to select their favorite campaign name.

**4. Committee Updates:**

* **CEEPC**: PACE: Ms. Rohlfs discussed the issue of Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, loans. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are opposed to these loans because they present risk to mortgage lenders. Linda Murphy said PACE loans could upset mortgages and could cause instant default. The committee members requested a copy of the PACE legislation.
* CEEPC: Progress Report tracking for the Climate Action Plan. Staff showed a draft of the proposed progress report format.

Sally Kane asked why some jurisdictions don’t achieve. She suggested that report discuss barriers to achievement.

* Street Lights Committee: staff reported that the committee met and discussed LED and other technologies for street lighting. Mayor J Davis of Greenbelt is the new committee chair. Staff discussed EPA’s interest in cooperative solar purchasing.

**6. New Business**: Beverly said that she experienced severe pain on July 16 and 17, an episode of Code Orange Days. She said the AQI does not properly reflect the risks posed by poor air quality.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

**Next meeting: September 13 – 5:30pm – Room 1**