

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
Sep 21, 2021, 11:00 AM to 12:35 PM

Present:

Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alexander Paulos, District Department of Energy & Environment
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Norman Whitaker, Virginia Department of Transportation
Samuel Gaber, Fairfax County
Scott Fincham, Loudoun County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Kelly Crawford chaired and called the meeting to order at 11 am. The July 13th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil briefed members on the current ozone season air quality data. There were eight exceedances of the 2015 ozone standard and two exceedance of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard observed as of that date. Ozone and PM_{2.5} levels were overall higher in March May of 2021 compared to same months in 2020. Warmer and drier than normal weather might have contributed towards higher pollutant levels this year. Increased emissions from different sources this year might also have played a role.

Doris asked about the 4th highest ozone values for Virginia counties/cities. Sunil provided information on that. Sunil emphasized the role of the low 2020 ozone data in the 2019-2021 ozone design value.

3. Update on 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP

3a. Briefing on EPA Response to List of Questions on 2015 ozone NAAQS & Update on Emissions Inventory

Sunil briefed members on the response received from EPA to the list of questions sent to them regarding the 2015 zone SIP. He informed that he will be sending requests soon to state air agencies to provide updated 2017 point and non-point inventories.

3b. Update on Control Measures

Tim Masters briefed members on the 2015 zone SIP. He talked about the meeting held in the morning before TAC. The Control Measure group discussed the OTB and potential OTW measures. Members suggested quantifying benefits from such measures and focusing on measures that can be implemented soon.

3c. Update on Photochemical Modeling

Sunil briefed members on the ongoing photochemical modeling effort for the 2015 zone SIP. He said that EPA's is planning to release the 2016 V2 inventory soon, which will be used to update the photochemical modeling inventory. VDEQ is waiting for NESCAUM to release the Photochemical Modeling Technical Support Document.

Jane Posey asked the group's thinking on continuing attainment Plan or switching to maintenance plan as the region's draft 2019-2021 design value is 70 ppb. Doris said she prefers the maintenance plan for several reasons. Anti-backsliding is required after attainment. Contingency measures can be implemented in case the region violates the NAAQS again. She also mentioned that contingency measures will be acceptable to Virginia legislature as they will be federal requirements as part of the maintenance plan. Joseph said the District is expected to submit a request to EPA soon to declare the 2020 data as exceptional. For this reason, the region will remain in nonattainment due to the absence of the 2020 data. Therefore, the District supports submitting an attainment plan. Tad said he supports attainment plan keeping in mind the District's 2020 exceptional data request and the chances of the region going back to nonattainment again in the next year or two is high. He also suggested talking this issue to local elected officials as this is also a political question. Sunil said this discussion will continue in next TAC and other meetings.

4. MWAQC Comments on Good Neighbor SIPs

Tad Aburn said that MWAQC should comment on Good Neighbor SIPs of upwind states such as, Pennsylvania as their emissions affect the region's air quality on exceedance days. He said it is important that power plants in those states run emissions controls on those days. He further suggested MWAQC either support MDE's comments or make general statements supporting that effort. Jeff asked Tad about the schedule for above SIPs. Tad said MWAQC can comment on RACT II, RACT III, and Good Neighbor SIP. There may be other opportunities coming up next year. Doris and Joseph said that they need to consult their respective higher management on that issue.

5. State & Local Updates

The District and Virginia didn't have any updates. Tad said that Maryland intends to adopt enhanced anti-tempering rule.

The conference call ended at 12:35 pm.