

AIR CURRENTS

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Newsletter (Winter 2006)

MWAQC 2006 Outlook: Air Quality Plan Coming Together

MWAQC is nearing the home stretch on completing a plan ("SIP) to meet the 8-hour ozone standard. The plan as a whole is a roadmap for the Washington region to meet the new ozone standard ("8-hour") by 2009. During the past two years, staff has been developing required technical pieces of the plan to be brought together this spring. The deadline is June 2007, but MWAQC expects to complete the plan this year. The states will submit the plan to EPA in early 2007.

This year, the Washington region has been developing measures in participation with northeastern states in the Ozone Transport Commission and the Lake

Michigan Air Directors' Consortium (LADCO). To demonstrate the effectiveness of various control strategies, the Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality is doing photochemical modeling in collaboration with the Ozone Transport Commission, New York State (NYSERTA) and with VISTAS, a regional planning organization of southeastern states.

Preliminary model results indicate that the Washington region will be close to meeting the standard in 2009 if sufficient local measures are implemented. MWAQC will be assembling a "voluntary bundle" of innovative local programs for the new plan.

(continued on Page 2)

State Air Quality Initiatives

MWAQC Briefing Planned

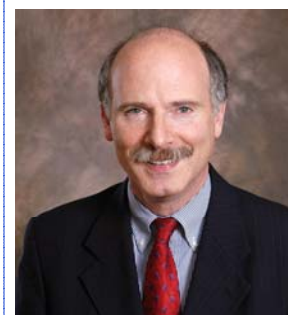
The 2006 legislative sessions in Maryland and Virginia both promise action on air quality issues. In Maryland two efforts are underway to clean up emissions from Maryland power plants.

In November 2005 Governor Ehrlich announced the "Maryland Clean Power Rule," which addresses nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides and mercury emissions from Maryland's six largest coal-fired power plants. Kendl Philbrick, Secretary of Maryland Dept. of the

Environment, says the proposed rule exceeds emission reductions that will be achieved under EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). The Maryland Healthy Air Act (SB154) was introduced in the Maryland Senate by a coalition of senators and delegates led by Senator Pinsky.

SB154 would reduce carbon dioxide emissions in addition to the pollutants addressed by the Clean Power Rule.

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In 2006, **Phil Mendelson** will once again serve as Chair of MWAQC.

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| JUNE | | | | | | |
|------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
| | | | 78 | 45 | 32 | 49 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 81 | 75 | 80 | 83 | 63 | 41 | 52 |
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| 48 | 41 | 75 | 66 | 60 | 53 | 69 |
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| 49 | 48 | 78 | 73 | 70 | 81 | 87 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| 96 | 43 | 67 | 52 | 91 | | |

Last year, the Washington region went all summer **without a Code Red ozone day.**

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(MWAQC Outlook, continued from Page 1)

Many of the innovative programs began in 2003-2004 when the last air quality plan was adopted.

Programs such as:

- ◆ Using renewable energy (wind power);
- ◆ Purchasing alternative fuel vehicles, diesel retrofits;
- ◆ Environmental performance contacting.

These programs are voluntary measures from the "Gold Book" of state and local initiatives to clean up the air, adopted by MWAQC in 2003.

Diesel retrofit projects which have a dual benefit of reducing nitrogen oxides and fine particles will play an important role in reducing regional ozone and particle pollution.

Several federal programs have funds available for diesel retrofit projects, including EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign, the Dept. of Energy, and the Federal Highway Administration. The new federal transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, adds non-road equipment diesel retrofits to the list of projects eligible for CMAQ funding in FY 2007.

The elements of the SIP include base year (2002) and future year (2009) inventories, Reasonable Further Progress analysis for 2008, attainment demonstration, Reasonable Available Control Measure (RACM) analysis, control strategy and contingency measures. They will be approved as a draft plan/SIP for public comment later this year.

Mendelson to Lead MWAQC in 2006

In 2006, D.C. Council Member Phil Mendelson will serve as MWAQC Chair. He has been a member of MWAQC for nine years and has twice chaired the regional committee—in 2001 and 2003.

He served as the Chair of the region's Transportation Planning Board (TPB) in 2005, and last December, he received COG's 2005 Elizabeth and David Scull Award given to the regional leader of the year.

As TPB Chair, Mendelson moved the CapCom program forward, which will improve coordination among state transportation departments and transit agencies by allowing them to share information during all types of emergencies.

As Chair of the Board of Directors in 2004, he spearheaded a multi-year policy focus on growth and development and oversaw creation of the Blue Ribbon Metro Funding Panel that became a major regional initiative.

At MWAQC's December meeting, Nancy Floreen of the Montgomery County Council, and David Snyder of the Falls Church City Council, were elected as Vice Chairs of MWAQC.

The new officers will assume their duties on February 22, 2006, the first MWAQC meeting in the new year.



No Code Red Cake: Phil Mendelson (center) celebrates 2005's major air quality achievement with Fairfax County Supervisor Dana Kauffman, Montgomery County Council Member Nancy Floreen, and AQPAC Chair Julie Crenshaw.

No Code Red Days in 2005, But Challenges Remain

In September 2005, MWAQC celebrated the lack of Code Red days as evidence of significant progress in improving air quality in metropolitan Washington.

2004. Nineteen 8-hour ozone exceedances (or Code Orange) days were measured during the 2005 season.

A summary of the season's air quality days from the beginning of May through mid-September indicates that the 2005 season was the first in the Washington region without ozone pollution levels reaching unhealthy, Code Red levels as determined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2005 was a typical Washington summer as high pressure situated itself over the region bringing with it hot temperatures, little precipitation, and plenty of sunshine.

"We're seeing undeniable progress at making dirty air an urban legend. While we must keep up the focused effort, a hot Washington summer without Code Red is truly a breath of fresh air," said Fairfax County Supervisor Dana Kauffman, who served as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee.

The region saw its first Code Orange day at the end of June, and this was just the beginning. July and August experienced the largest number of Code Orange days—the first week of August with five straight days of Code Orange conditions.

Despite last year's achievement, the region still has challenges ahead. EPA replaced the previous ozone standard with a tougher 8-hour ozone standard in

Unhealthy ozone levels affect the health of sensitive groups, such as children, people with respiratory disease, and adults who are active outdoors. It can irritate the respiratory systems, causing coughing, throat irritation, and/or uncomfortable sensations in the chest. Over time, lung tissue may become permanently scarred, resulting in reduced lung function.

*In 2005,
19 "Code Orange"
or
"8-HR Exceedance
Days" Occurred*

MAY

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 55 | 51 | 40 | 53 | 58 | 51 | 69 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 64 | 60 | 67 | 67 | 47 | 46 | 59 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 50 | 44 | 47 | 62 | 58 | 54 | 49 |
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JUNE

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| 81 | 75 | 80 | 83 | 63 | 41 | 52 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 48 | 41 | 75 | 66 | 60 | 53 | 69 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
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| 96 | 43 | 67 | 52 | 91 | | |

AUGUST

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| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 69 | 52 | 28 | 60 | 94 | 88 | 88 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 80 | 73 | 46 | 71 | 73 | 46 | 69 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 63 | 62 | 62 | 58 | 68 | 56 | 35 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| 58 | 55 | 29 | 43 | | | |

JULY

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| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 78 | 68 | 66 | 70 | 48 | 47 | 75 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 75 | 81 | 100 | 52 | 81 | 50 | 58 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 58 | 69 | 54 | 88 | 93 | 94 | 64 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 64 | 80 | 97 | 78 | 66 | 55 | 70 |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| 59 | | | | | | |

SEPTEMBER

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 50 | 55 | 60 | 67 | 83 | 88 | 80 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 77 | 86 | 82 | 32 | 44 | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| | | | | | | |



(State AQ Proposals, continued from Page 1)

The proposed legislation provides carbon dioxide regulations as an option if the Governor does not join the northeast states' Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) by June 30, 2007.

In Virginia, Delegate Reid has submitted the Clean Smokestack Act (HB1055), a bill that was submitted during last year's legislative session. The bill would require power plants to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and mercury. It would require a study of a program to control carbon dioxide emissions.

The Air Board approved adoption of EPA's CAIR reductions for Virginia power plants. The proposed CAIR rule will be published for public comment in early 2006. EPA requires states to

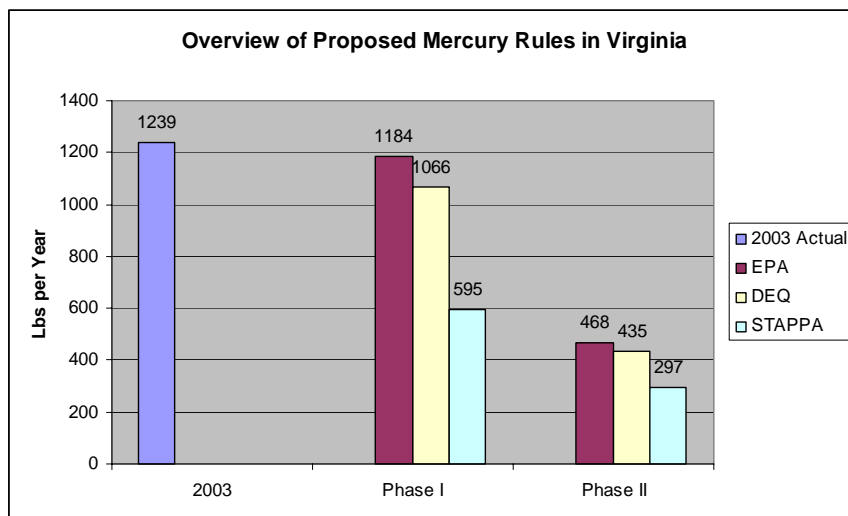
adopt the CAIR rule by June 2006.

Mercury News

The Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board has considered several options for controlling mercury that would go beyond the federal requirements as set for the state in EPA's Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). At the time of this newsletter, the General Assembly is considering a state-wide mercury control strategy that would closely follow the requirements of the CAMR as put forth by the EPA. Once the Board considers the requirements that are expected from the new legislation, proposed regulations will be published for public comments before any final regulation is adopted. Below is information about the levels of mercury emissions that have been considered by the Board at this time.

Mercury Emissions under Three Regulatory Scenarios in Virginia pounds (year)

| | EPA CAMR | VADEQ | STAPPA |
|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Phase I | 1184 (2010) | 1066 (2010) | 595 (2010) |
| Phase II | 468 (2018) | 435 (2015) | 297 (2013) |



EPA Proposes to Lower the PM_{2.5} Daily Standard

The Washington, DC-MD-VA region was designated nonattainment for the annual PM_{2.5} standard, effective on April 5, 2005.

EPA has released a proposed rule that would lower the daily standard for PM_{2.5} from its current level of 65 µg/m³ to 35 µg/m³. The annual standard would remain unchanged. EPA also proposed a new standard that would cover PM_{2.5-10}.

Based on an analysis conducted by COG staff, the region will be in nonattainment of the proposed 24-hour standard of 35 micrograms/m³ based on monitoring data from 2002-2004. The estimated Design Value would be 45.7 µg/m³.

There is no monitoring network in place nationally to measure PM_{2.5-10}. EPA expects the network to be in place by 2009. Designations would occur in 2012.

Written comments on this proposal must be submitted to EPA received by April 17, 2006.

<http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution/actions.html>



Clean Air Partners Update



Clean Air Partners is the air quality public education program for ground-level ozone and particle pollution that serves Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Central Maryland and Baltimore area.

At the December MWAQC meeting, Harriet West, Managing Director, Clean Air Partners, recognized sponsors of the 2005 media campaign: Washington Gas, Montgomery County, and Fairfax County.

PRR, marketing consultant to Clean Air Partners, hosted a strategic planning session in early December. The session's results will be used to develop a marketing plan for 2006-2007 ozone seasons.

Clean Air Partners submitted a grant application to EPA to fund the Print Industry Air Quality Action Days Demonstration Project. (See page 7)

Clean Air Partners has contracted with Environmental Education Exchange (EEE) to develop a school curriculum for ground-level ozone and particle pollution. EEE will be developing innovative materials for use in the classroom.

After three summers with few Code Red Days, Clean Air Partners is reviewing proposals for Air Quality Action Day actions consistent with EPA's new ozone standard ("eight-hour ozone standard"). Focus groups will be held in February to test responses to different calls to action on days when pollution levels are high.

TAC Update

The MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provides technical guidance to MWAQC.

Currently, the TAC is chaired by Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. There are four subcommittees (current chair): Emissions Inventory (Maryland), Attainment Modeling (Virginia), Conformity (District of Columbia), and Local Government Initiatives (Montgomery County).

Four "stakeholders" were reappointed to MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee in January. The stakeholders were first appointed in February 2005 as part of MWAQC's reorganization and effort to broaden participation on the technical committee. The new appointment will be until December. At that time new candidates can be nominated for the positions. The four stakeholders for 2006 are:

- ◆ C. Flint Webb, Fairfax County Fed. Of Citz Assn
- ◆ Julie Thomas, US DOI, Natl Park Service
- ◆ Kipp Coddington, Washington Board of Trade
- ◆ Arnold Solomon, Mirant-MidAtlantic

TAC Notes from Recent Winter Meetings

- Draft attainment modeling results are expected in March.
- Control measures workgroup developing modeling inputs for future control case scenarios.
- Emission inventories nearly complete. Final mobile emissions estimates are required.

- COG is funding a study of non-road equipment inventories to target potential diesel emission reduction project activities.
- A new TAC subcommittee has been formed: Local Government Initiatives. Chaired by Mary Richmond, Montgomery County.
- Four stakeholder participants were reappointed for 2006.

AQPAC Update

In December the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), an advisory body to MWAQC, elected a new chair, Jill Engel-Cox, and a new Vice Chair, Brian Holmes.

Dr. Engel Cox represents the Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology on AQPAC. She works for Battelle Memorial Institute and also teaches at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Holmes represents the Maryland Highway Builders Association on AQPAC.

At her first meeting as Chair, Dr. Engel-Cox asked for ideas about agenda topics for future meetings. Committee members were interested in the proposed air quality legislation and rules in Maryland and Virginia and plan to have further discussions about these proposals.

The Committee wants to invite guest speakers to discuss such topics as the Ozone Transport Commission control measure priorities. AQPAC members also offered to help staff communicate air quality issues by reviewing brochures, serving as a test audience for presentations, and holding meetings in communities.

Northern Virginia Printing Industry Aims to Clean the Air

More than one million Northern Virginia residents, including children, senior citizens, and individuals suffering from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema are affected by ground-level ozone. Clean Air Partners and the Printing Industries of Virginia (PIVA) have joined together to reduce Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions on Code Orange and Red days, with a goal to improve the quality of life for sensitive populations affected by poor air quality.

The Printer Air Quality Action Day Demonstration Project will be formally announced at the March 7, 2006 PIVA Regional Conference. "The partnership with Clean Air Partners on this important new initiative will help improve the health and quality of life for thousands of Virginia residents who are affected by poor air quality." stated Bob Ramsey, President of PIVA.

In 2005, Clean Air Partners began developing a new component of its traditional Air Quality Action

Days (AQAD) program. The AQAD – Voluntary Business Emission Reductions program is designed to obtain voluntary emission reductions from local businesses. After an analysis of various industries in the region, Clean Air Partners selected the Northern Virginia printing industry as a pilot program. With over 300 printers in the region and no local air quality regulations, the greatest amount of benefits could be achieved through VOC reductions.

Emissions inventory data for the Northern Virginia portion of the Metropolitan Washington non-attainment area indicate that the use of solvents by printers accounts for 6 percent of all area VOC emissions, and is 2 percent of VOC emissions from all sources (mobile, non-road, area, and stationary) in Northern Virginia. By reducing the use of solvents on days when ground-level ozone concentrations are predicted to be above the federal health standard, lower VOC emissions will aid in reducing overall ozone levels on those days.

Air Quality Web Cam

The National Park Service operates digital cameras at many parks to help educate the public on air quality issues. These cameras often show the effects of air pollution such as visibility impairment. Because these cameras are typically located near air quality monitoring sites, the camera web pages display other information along with the photo such as current levels of ozone, particulate matter, or sulfur dioxide air pollutants, visual range, and weather conditions.

The air quality data on the National Park Service site for Washington, D.C. is provided by the District Dept. of Health Air Quality Division, and is from the McMillian monitor site.

Click on the photograph for a link to the NPS web cam site for Washington, DC.



Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC) 2005 Annual Report

Formed in 2004 by the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Governors of Maryland and Virginia to improve regional air quality planning in the Washington region, the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC) includes the secretaries of transportation and environment for the three states. IAQC provides general oversight and policy guidance to the regional air quality planning process in collaboration with MWAQC.

Kendl Philbrick, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment, will continue to chair the IAQC in 2006.

Over the past year, the IAQC has worked on two initiatives with the Ozone Transport Commission to reduce transport into the Washington, D.C. region.

The two OTC initiatives are a CAIR Plus program to further reduce emissions from power

plants and other multi-state control measures being developed in cooperation with the OTC states.

The IAQC has also looked at opportunities to expand some of the regulatory programs already adopted in the Washington region to areas that are upwind and contribute to Washington's air quality problem.

Control Measures for the 8-hour Ozone and PM_{2.5} SIPs

Control measures will be needed for the 8-hour ozone and PM_{2.5} SIPs.

A COG staff analysis indicates that existing "on-the-books" measures, and "on-the-way" measures will continue to provide emission reductions of ozone precursors through 2010 and beyond.

However, additional measures will be needed to attain the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Attainment modeling results in March will indicate the level of emission reduction required.

Additional ozone measures will be selected from a master list of over 200 control measures. Several proposed priority measures, include:

- ◆ Small boiler and distributed generation rules;
- ◆ Diesel retrofit programs;
- ◆ Clean construction initiatives;
- ◆ Energy efficiency and renewable energy measures;
- ◆ Expansion of cleaner (reformulated) paints and consumer products.

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) has developed a list of proposed regional measures. Recommendations will be presented to the OTC Commissioners at a special meeting on February 22/23.

Diesel Emission Reduction Strategies

Diesel Collaborative - On February 28, EPA and MARAMA are hosting the first meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative. The purpose of the meeting is to gain a better understanding of the vision and goals of clean diesel and the collaborative; discuss near term structure/organization for the collaborative; identify key opportunities for near term and longer term regional diesel mitigation projects; and discuss information exchange and technology transfer opportunities.

EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign offers funding for diesel retrofit projects and is the catalyst forming regional collaboratives. The campaign includes regulatory and voluntary programs. The initiative includes regulations for new cleaner diesel engines beginning in 2007. The voluntary programs for existing engines target five sectors:

- ◆ School buses
- ◆ Ports
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Freight
- ◆ Agriculture

The Mid-Atlantic Diesel Collaborative is looking for partners to address retrofits in the five sectors. EPA is hoping to leverage resources by using a coordinated approach in the Mid-Atlantic region.

The Diesel Collaborative will be held February 28 in the COG Board Room from 9:00 AM—4:30 PM

See:

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3artd/workshop/dieseldirections.htm>

<http://www.dieselmideatlantic.org/diesel/>



MWAQC Role

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) ([see Map](#)) is the entity certified by the mayor of the District of Columbia and the governors of Maryland and Virginia to prepare air quality plan for the DC-MD-VA Metropolitan Statistical Area under Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

In executing its responsibilities, MWAQC coordinates air quality planning activities with the states and the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC), COG member local governments, other external committees, and the Transportation Planning Board; reviews policies; resolves policy differences; and adopts an air quality plan for transmittal to the IAQC and District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia for submittal to EPA.

2006 MWAQC Meeting Schedule

COG Board Room, 3rd Floor
12 p.m.— 2 p.m.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| February 22, 2006 | May 24, 2006 | September 27, 2006 |
| March 22, 2006 | June 28, 2006 | October 25, 2006 |
| April 26, 2006 | July 26, 2006 | December 13, 2006‡ |
| | | ‡ Location, Time T.B.A. |

Air Quality Links

<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/air>

<http://www.air-watch.net>

<http://www.cleanairpartners.net>

<http://www.epa.gov>

<http://www.airnow.gov>

<http://www.airquality.dc.gov>

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/air>

<http://www.deq.state.va.us/ozone>

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