

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 8, 2022, 10:00 AM to 11:35 AM

Present:

Tad Aburn, Chair, Maryland Department of the Environment
Alexander Paulos, District Department of Energy & Environment
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Dan Salkowitz, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Dave Krask, Maryland Department of the Environment
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Joel Dreessen, Maryland Department of the Environment
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Kari Snyder, Virginia Department of Transportation
Kristen Stump, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation
Nicole Hebert, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Samuel Gaber, Fairfax County
Scott Fincham, Loudoun County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tad Aburn chaired and called the meeting to order at 10 am. The December 7th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Revised 2015 Ozone NAAQS SIP Schedule

Sunil discussed the revised schedule for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The schedule was revised based on MDE's schedule for Baltimore/Philadelphia attainment SIPs. Jim Ponticello wanted to know if this would delay the attainment plan submittal. Sunil said this would likely delay

that by 4-6 months. Tad said that EPA hasn't bumped the Washington region up yet so it will be fair for them to give us more time to submit the plan though the attainment plan submittal date is provided in the Clean Air Act. Tom said that EPA may get issued if they delay the submittal date so they may just stick with the deadline of January 1, 2023. Doris mentioned that EPA R3 hinted the publication of the bump up rule by March but didn't sound too certain about it. Joseph and Roger echoed what Doris said. Roger thought that there is a possibility that EPA might delay the submittal date to start of the 2023 ozone season though he didn't hear this from EPA. Roger asked Sunil if there is a RACM list available. Sunil said that Tim Masters will send one.

3. Short-Term Emissions Control Measures

Tad Aburn discussed four specific control measures that can provide emissions reductions in short term and lower ozone and fine particle levels. He asked COG staff to brief MWAQC Executive Committee on this issue in its February meeting and set up a process until March TAC to approve or disapprove those measures. Tom said MDE wants local governments to adopt control measures, but it does not look like those suggested measures can be acted upon by them. Joseph said that he would like to consult with the higher management but supports measures like anti-tampering and anti-idling. Tom said he is fine with this issue being discussed in the MWAQC Executive Committee meeting. He will explain DEQ's position there.

4. MDE Proposed Air Quality Forecasting Changes

Joel Dreessen discussed changes to the air quality forecasts for the Washington, Baltimore, Western Maryland, and Eastern Shore regions proposed by MDE. Maryland will divide the above four regions into multiple sub-regions. For example, the Washington region will be divided into three Maryland sub-regions, one sub-region each for the District and northern Virginia. The District and northern Virginia can also be combined into one sub-region. These changes according to MDE are being done to provide more accurate forecasts to the four regions. Sunil discussed issues and concerns expressed by COG, DOEE, and DEQ related to this proposal. He said that the reason for issuing just one forecast covering the entire Washington region is the message to reduce emissions from upwind areas so downwind areas on high ozone days. Multiple forecasts and alerts within the region can potentially cause confusion among public. Also, it will take some to make changes to COG and Clean Air Partners websites, App, and phone lines as well as to convey this to public. Joel said that "Action Day" message could be issued even if there are no high ozone levels in upwind areas.

Joseph said that DOEE will be fine with keeping inner core areas of the Washington region together while allowing sub-regions for Frederick and southern Maryland separate. Jen said that it will take time to make changes to websites and doesn't look like it is doable before the start of the ozone season.

5. Potential List of MWAQC-TAC Topics for 2022

Sunil discussed the list of topics that can be discussed in 2022. Tad suggested adding presentations on science research related to air pollution and efforts to reduce VMT.

6. Announcement of 2022 MWAQC-TAC Stakeholders

Tad announced that John Kinsman and Dan Goldberg will continue to be stakeholders for 2022.

7. State & Local Updates

There were no updates.

The conference call ended at 11:35 am.