

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
October 13, 2015
10:00 AM to 11:35 AM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy and Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Energy and Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, 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
Molly Berger, Maryland Department of the Environment
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Lyn Ericson, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Kanti Srikanth, COG/DTP
Ron Milone, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The September 8 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil presented an overview of the 2015 ozone season data till date. There were five exceedances (code orange) of the 2008 ozone standard in the season. Based on the current draft design value, the region met the 2008 ozone standard and will likely be designated as an attainment or marginal nonattainment area for the new tougher ozone standard (70ppb).

3. EPA's New Ozone NAAQS

Sunil briefed the group regarding EPA's new ozone NAAQS, which was announced on October 1, 2015. John Kinsman pointed to the slide 14 of the presentation (projected attainment/nonattainment status of different counties in the country) and said that the figure there does not represent the counties where currently no ozone monitors operate. Also, the projection is for 2025 while the Washington region likely has to attain the standard by 2020 if designated as a marginal nonattainment area. So the 2025 projection does not provide the status of attainment/nonattainment for the Washington region in the required time-frame.

4. Update on PM2.5 Maintenance Plan and Mobile Budget Revision

Sunil updated the group on the status of the PM2.5 maintenance plan and mobile budgets. He informed the group that a preliminary draft version of the plan document will be shared with states soon. Doris said that VDEQ needs to around two weeks to review the document and then the Emissions Inventory Sub-Committee needs to review emissions inventories before it could be presented to MWAQC-TAC. Sunil agreed with the suggestion and said that the plan document will be shared with MWAC-TAC in its December meeting after states and the EI sub-committee has reviewed emissions and the document.

5. Briefing on 2015 CLRP Performance Analysis

Dan Sonenklar provided an overview of the 2015 CLRP Performance Analysis. He mentioned that emissions of all criteria pollutants are expected to drop steadily between now and 2040. Also, total CO2 emission is forecast to drop by 2040 and CO2 emission per capita is expected to drop at an even greater rate. Tad pointed to the slide 23 (Mobile Source Emissions (2015-2040)) and asked why the earlier disclaimer regarding mobile budgets being applicable to the 1997 ozone standard is no longer there. Dan said this is a pared down document and the 2015 CLRP document has already mentioned that. Tad suggested adding the COG and the other regional greenhouse gas goals to the slide 25 (Mobile Source Greenhouse Gas Emissions: (2005-2040)).

6. Briefing on MDE Comment letter to MWAQC on Future Standards and GHG Emissions

Steve briefed members on a MDE letter addressed to MWAQC regarding the 2015 CLRP & 2015-2020 TIP effort. In its letter, MDE supported the conformity for the region. MDE also expressed the need for a more up to date process for communicating the relationship between transportation and air quality challenges. MDE suggested an enhanced communication process separate from the conformity determination, which can include mobile emissions projections for ozone precursors and greenhouse gases already being performed as part of the conformity determination effort. Tad said that this letter should have been discussed at MWAQC. Steve said he briefly mentioned it in his briefing on the ongoing MSWG effort in the MWAQC meeting and the letter was also shared with the MWACQ members.

7. Update on OTC Photochemical Modeling

Sunil updated the group on the status of the ongoing OTC photochemical modeling effort. OTC is currently working on developing and improving emissions inventories for 2011, 2017, 2018, and 2028. OTC is also developing emission estimates for High Electricity Demand Days (HEDD) besides revising the 2018 future year projection to 2017, further improving model performance, assessing attainment status and modeling needs for the 2015 ozone NAAQS revision, and is expected to produce additional modeling results by the OTC Fall Meeting in November. The base case 2018 modeling projections showed the Washington region's design value in the range of 70-75 ppb. When 25% NOx reduction is assumed across the modeling domain, this value drops down to a range of 65-69 ppb. MARAMA is also focusing on developing a good quality HEDD emissions inventory as HEDDs tend to coincide with ozone exceedance days. These HEDD emissions need to be added to the inventory during HEDD periods to reflect actual emissions. Steve asked if the HEDD emissions are separate for EGUs and emergency generators. Sunil said there will be two separate categories.

8. State and Local Updates

Jessica said DDOE has no updates. Doris talked about Virginia's remote sensing program for assessing motor vehicle emissions. Tad said Maryland has finalized the Stage II rule. MD AQCAC has approved AIM and Paint rules. Climate commission is meeting in October. MDE is working on Clean Power Plan and the NOx RACT rule.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.