

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: September 8, 2009

Time: 10 am to 12 pm

Teleconference

Call In Number: 1-888-898-8635

Passcode: 774715

DRAFT Agenda

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- 10:00 1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (July 14, 2009)**
Chairman Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- 10:10 2. SIP Status Report**
Cristina Fernandez, EPA Region III, will discuss the status of the ozone and fine particle SIPs submitted to EPA in 2007 and 2008.
- 10:25 3. Inventory Development Update**
Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, will provide an update on emission inventory development.
- 10:45 4. MOVES Transition Team: Report**
Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, and Eulalie Lucas, COG DTP, will discuss activities related to the transition to the new MOVES model.
- 11:00 5. Ozone Season Update and Regional Air Quality Trends (2006-2008 Design Values)**
Sunil Kumar and Jen Desimone, COG DEP, will provide an ozone season update and will present data on regional air quality trends.
- 11:15 6. Comment Letter on Renewable Fuel Standard**
Jeff King, COG DEP, will present a revised draft comment letter on EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard.
- 11:30 7. Other Business**
-- NO₂ NAAQS/Monitoring Data
-- Conformity
- 11:45 8. State and Local Air Agency Reports**
- 11:55 9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn**
Next TAC Meeting: October 13, 2009



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**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 14, 2009 10am to 12pm
Teleconference**

Present:

Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of Environment
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ana Prados, Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Associations
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Environment
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
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Staff:

Daniel Bisutti, COG/DEP Intern
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Amy Sanders, COG/DEP Intern
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

Observers/Participants:

Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC
Tim Lavallo, Consultant

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (June 15, 2009). The meeting was called to order at 10:05. The minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting were approved with no changes.

2. Air Quality Impact of Renewable Fuel Standards

Jeff King discussed possible air quality impacts of EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard and a draft comment letter was discussed. EPA is proposing a Renewable Fuel Standard involving an increase in the required quantity of renewable fuels to 36 billion gallons per year. In its proposal, EPA acknowledged that the action would likely involve some increases in emissions of certain air pollutants, including ozone and fine particulate precursors. However, EPA did not present an analysis of the anticipated air quality impacts. The draft comment letter expresses support for actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but raises concern about the lack of information on air quality impacts and requests that EPA take action to mitigate any detrimental impacts caused by the proposed actions. Doris McLeod and Diane Franks stated that they would support a recommendation that a comment letter not be sent to EPA on this proposed rule. Tom Biesiadny said he supports the points in the letter related to asking for analysis of impacts and mitigation actions if necessary. Tom Ballou said he wants to advance the letter if possible. Mike Clifford said that TPB staff are currently investigating the issues raised by the proposal. Members agreed to provide comments on the letter before the next TAC meeting in September. MWAQC is expected to take action on the comment letter on September 23.

3. Transition to MOVES Model

Diane Franks and Jim Ponticello agreed to be co-chairs of a task force to handle issues related to the transition to EPA's new MOVES model. The first meeting will be held on August 18 at 10am. Currently EPA has not released the final version of the model nor has it released any technical guidance. EPA is taking comments on the draft model and is conducting a series of training sessions. Mike Clifford said he sent questions to EPA but has not yet heard back. He agreed to share the questions with the task force.

4. Ozone Season Update

Jen Desimone provided an ozone season update. So far this year, temperatures have been cooler, with winds from the north/northwest, and as a result, air quality has been relatively good. There were 3 code orange days for ozone, all in June and 13 code yellow days. For fine particles, monitors are indicating all code green and code yellow. COG is using the 75 ppb code orange cutoff for ozone and the 35.5 ug/m³ code orange cutoff for fine particles.

5. Draft Conformity Scope of Work

Jane Posey discussed the proposed revisions to the scope of work for this year's conformity analysis. The special round of conformity analysis is being conducted because of three projects that need to be included so they can proceed. The projects include the purple line, a project at L'Enfant Plaza, and a K St Busway. The new analysis will use Round 7.2a Cooperative Forecasts. The current schedule is to have draft results in September and final action in October.

6. EPA's Proposed Revisions to NO₂ NAAQS

Jeff King and Amy Sanders discussed EPA's proposed revision to the NO₂ NAAQS. On June 26, 2009, EPA proposed to strengthen the primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). EPA is proposing to establish a new 1-hour NO₂ standard

at a level between 80 – 100 parts per billion (ppb). The Agency is taking comment on alternative levels for the 1-hour standard down to 65 ppb and up to 150 ppb. EPA is also proposing to retain the current annual average NO₂ standard of 53 ppb. In addition to proposing an averaging time and a range of levels for the standard, EPA is also proposing a “form” for the standard. For the new 1-hour NO₂ standard, EPA is proposing that the form be a 3-year average of the 4th highest daily maximum 1-hour average concentration in a year, or a 3-year average of the 99th percentile of the annual distribution of daily maximum 1-hour average concentrations. EPA is also proposing changes to the ambient air monitoring and reporting requirements for NO₂. Changes to the NO₂ air quality monitoring network would include monitors in locations to measure peak concentrations that occur over shorter periods of time to support the proposed 1-hour standard. These locations will typically be near major roads in urban areas because cars, trucks and other mobile sources are key contributors to the maximum outdoor NO₂ concentrations. EPA will accept comments for 60 days after the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register.

Amy Sanders presented data indicating that the region experiences maximum concentrations above both 80 and 100 ppb. Members asked staff to develop further information on the 99th percentile of the 4th highest concentrations.

7. Other Business

Tom Ballou said that the Appeals Court in Virginia overturned the no trading provisions for nonattainment areas. Virginia is in the process of deciding how to proceed.

Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet asked again for information on why the Mirant Plant in Alexandria shut down operations. Doris McLeod said it was reportedly just part of normal operations.

The first meeting of COG's new Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) will be held on July 22.

8. State and Local Air Agency Report

Tom Ballou and Doris McLeod reported for Virginia. Virginia is working to respond to an additional data request from EPA on the exceptional events submission for the wildfires in eastern North Carolina and the Dismal Swamp. The VOC regulations are going to public hearings on July 22. The Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board meeting originally scheduled for July has been cancelled.

Diane Franks reported for Virginia. The opacity rule passed. EPA intends to approve the Maryland CAIR rule. Maryland is conducting outreach on the Distributed Generation Rule.

Ram Tangirala reported for the District. The VOC regulations are going through an internal process, hearings are anticipated in the near future. The Conformity SIP is ready to submit to EPA. Significant efforts are underway on climate change and the DC Green Agenda.

9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn: The next TAC meeting will be held on September 8, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06.