

Item 2

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203

MINUTES OF July 27, 2005 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Sharon Anderson, District of Columbia
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Rick Canizales, Prince William County
Julie Crenshaw, Chair, AQPAC
Hon. Thomas Dernoga, Prince George's County
Hon. Adam Ebbin, Virginia General Assembly
Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County
Hon. Sharon Grosfeld, Maryland State Senate
Hon. Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County; MWAQC Chair
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council
Hon. Eric Olson, College Park Council
Michelle Pourciau, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Hon. David Snyder, Falls Church
Joanne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Health
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, Virginia General Assembly

Others Present:

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County
Adrianna Hochberg, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Alex Hekimian, Montgomery County M-NCPPC
Kanathur Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Lawrence Nwankwo, District of Columbia

Staff:

Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP	Mike Clifford, COG/TPB
Jeff King, COG/DEP	Lee Ruck, COG General Counsel
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP	Eulalie Lucas, COG/TPB
Rich Denbow, for COG/DEP	Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP	

1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. No members of the public signed up to speak during the public comment period.

2. Approval of Minutes, Announcements, Chairman's Report

Mr. Kauffman called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the April 27, 2005 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Crenshaw requested clarification to the AQPAC Committee Report and asked that staff add additional comments made during the meeting on the topic of controls at the power plant in Alexandria. Ms. Rohlf said staff would review the tape and revise the minutes accordingly. The minutes were approved with the requested corrections.

Mr. Kauffman delivered the following Chair report: In May a Strategic Planning Session was held to focus on local government air quality initiatives. A lot of good information was presented and yesterday MWAQC leadership and staff shared that with the IAQC. In June members of this committee participated in a Renewable Energy Forum. Since we last met, EPA has taken some actions affecting the Washington region. First, the one-hour ozone standard was revoked on June 15, 2005. The action was expected, as it was announced in 2004 when the 8-hour ozone designations were made. Second, EPA announced in the Federal Register that the Maryland SIP is approved and is no longer subject to sanctions as a result of not having a Section 185 provision. Also, the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) adopted a resolution in June to develop by June 2006 a regional Multi-Pollutant program and MOU to assist the OTC States in attaining and maintaining the 8-hour ozone standard. The states agreed to seek support from other states in the mid-west for a broader inter-regional attainment strategy. Lastly, Dave Paylor, Virginia Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, was elected to Vice Chairman of OTC. Maryland's Tom Snyder, Air Director, ARMA, was elected to Secretary/Treasurer, OTC. It is good news that the Washington region will have two states in the OTC leadership next year.

3. Committee Reports

A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Aburn reported on the activities of the TAC for June and July. He stated that a tremendous amount of work has been done over the previous few months, including development of draft emissions inventories for the 2002 base year and 2009 controlled inventories. A work group has also been working on photochemical modeling. A long list of all possible control measures has been developed and TAC is working on a priority list. TAC has begun to address the fine particulate standard and has been monitoring EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and OTC initiatives that go beyond CAIR.

B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Ms. Crenshaw, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported. She discussed a membership application for Jill Engel-Cox, who is re-applying because she changed location. Ms. Crenshaw asked that MWAQC continue Ms. Engel-Cox's membership, but under a new category. A motion was made and seconded to continue Ms. Engel-Cox's membership. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Crenshaw discussed a sequential control measure ranking system and recommended that it be used by TAC to determine priority control measures. The system ranks a control measure on

a high, medium, or low basis for emission reductions, cost, and feasibility. Ms. Crenshaw thanked the staff and especially Jeff King for work on this tool.

C. Report of the Clean Air Partners

Ms. Bulova reported on the activities of Clean Air Partners (CAP). CAP recently completed a radio buy in the region, which included four radio station promotions. She reported that TAC has identified several potential industries for voluntary business emission reduction strategies, including dry cleaners, auto body shops, and printers. CAP received a \$30,000 grant for public air quality education. CAP will hire a consultant to develop curriculum and then begin teacher training. CAP is working on developing a gasoline lawn mower exchange program, contingent on identifying sponsors. Lastly, the 2005 awards program will be held at the National Press Club on November 2nd.

D Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council

Mr. Aburn reported that the IAQC met the prior day with the MWAQC Executive leadership and talked about the successes over the past few years. IAQC provided a report on some of the initiatives they are working on to reduce transport and discussed OTC resolutions. MWAQC leadership discussed local measures being implemented to improve air quality. Mr. Aburn said we are at a point where we want to add fine particulate to the planning process of the IAQC, and discussion has begun to do so.

4. Summer 2005 Air Quality Status Report

Mr. Kumar provided an update on air quality for the 2005 ozone season to date. There have been nine exceedances of the 8-hour ozone standard so far. There have been no one-hour ozone standard exceedances this year to date. Mr. Kumar said there are several reasons why no Code Red days have occurred. The temperatures during the first part of the summer have been below normal. We have also not seen the typical Bermuda High air mass off the coast. We have seen a tropical air mass with warm, moist conditions. Also, there has been little transport from the west.

A discussion ensued regarding the fact that there have been no Code Red days. Ms. Bulova asked if we can tell to what degree the improvement is due to control measures that have been implemented. Mr. Kumar said we have to look at detailed modeling to know that. The meteorology has been similar to recent years, but the peak concentrations have been lower. It appears that the measures that have been implemented are working. Mr. Aburn said the NOx SIP Call program to regulate power plant emissions in the eastern U.S. is now in place and is working, which reduces pollution transport into our region. Mr. Snyder said this shows that our collective efforts can produce good results, but there is still work to do to meet the tougher 8-hour ozone standard and we need to work on the local and national level for more improvements. Mr. Aburn said the number of 8-hour exceedances have been reduced, as well as the magnitude of exceedances. As we move forward, local controls become even more important. Mr. Olsen asked if the increase in VMT and number of cars in the future will cause conditions to get worse. Ms. Rohlf said the national emission standards on vehicles will dramatically reduce vehicle emissions as soon as 2010, even though VMT is increasing.

Mr. Kumar continued with an update on the fine particle standard. So far there have been no Code Orange or Red days for fine particulate.

5. Preliminary Emission Reduction Requirements for 2009

Ms. Rohlfs provided an update on preparation of the emission inventory and identification of preliminary reduction requirements for 2009. EPA is supposed to release guidance on planning requirements for 8-hour ozone SIPs but has not yet done so. In the meantime, TAC and staff have begun the planning process because of the aggressive deadlines to develop a SIP that will require adopted measures. The SIP is due in December 2007.

Staff has developed preliminary emission inventories for the 2002 base year and the 2009 projection year over the past several months. Although there is still uncertainty in the numbers, they do provide an idea of how much emission benefit we will get from current “on the books” control measures by 2009, and how much additional reduction we will need. Ms. Rohlfs presented the data for all source categories. The next steps are to update the inventory with new point source data, new Round 7.0 forecasts, revised military and commercial airport emissions, and revised on-road numbers. Mr. Aburn suggested that staff add a list of the key measures that are responsible for the large decreases in emissions, such as the OTC rules.

6. Preliminary 8-Hour Control Strategy Report

Mr. King provided preliminary reduction goals developed by TAC for 2009. These goals have been developed in absence of EPA guidance and are subject to change once that has been released. The first goal is a rate of reduction of 3% per year between 2002 and 2009, or a 21% emission reduction. The second goal is an additional 10% on top of the first goal, or a 31% reduction.

Mr. King presented charts demonstrating that with the preliminary inventories, we may be able to meet the first goal with emission controls that are “on the books” already. To meet the second goal, additional measure will need to be adopted. Mr. King stated that meeting attainment will require adoption of additional controls.

Mr. King discussed the control measures development process TAC has followed. A master list was developed that contained all possible measures. From those, a list of potential measures is being developed based on cost effectiveness, emission reductions, and feasibility. Mr. King discussed some possible measures for MWAQC to consider in the near future. He stated that several uncertainties still exist, including point source details, updated mobile source modeling inputs, and pending EPA guidance.

Mr. Kaufman asked if it's likely we'll see some voluntary action from the airports to reduce emissions. Mr. King said the airports have brought forth fairly detailed lists of the measures they are considering so he expects to see some reductions, albeit minor because the airports themselves have limited controls over the sources on the properties. Mr. Aburn stated that states are preempted from regulating some airport activity because it's a federal source, but there is some low-hanging fruit.

Mr. King discussed the Preliminary Control Strategy Report prepared for the region that sums up the information he presented. The report lists the potential control strategies under consideration. It was moved and seconded to forward the report to the IAQC. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. PM2.5 Conformity Scope of Work

The MWAQC Executive Committee wrote a letter commenting on TPB's proposed scope of work for the upcoming PM2.5 conformity determination. The conformity determination must be submitted by April 2006. TPB briefed TAC in June on their proposed scope and the TAC Conformity Subcommittee met after that to draft a letter commenting on the scope. TAC reviewed the comment letter at the July meeting and made several revisions. The Conformity Subcommittee met again to revise the letter and forward it to the MWAQC Executive Committee. Mr. King summarized the process and discussions.

8. State Air Agency Reports

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. He thanked the COG staff for all the work they did to develop the inventories and preliminary control strategy report. It represents a lot of work. He believes the 31% reduction strategy is what we all need to be thinking about, and believes we're in a good position now with this work to think about what controls we need to get there. He reported that Maryland held a stakeholder meeting on SIP planning requirements and will hold more.

Mr. Sydnor reported that Virginia has started the process to adopt the CAIR rule and aims to have a draft of the rule developed by December and adopted by the summer of 2006. He believes it will provide an additional 20% NOx reduction in the ozone season beyond the NOX SIP Call.

There was no report for the District of Columbia.

9. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn

Ms. Rohlf's reported that the Barton Amendment that would delay attainment deadlines was dropped from the Energy Bill in Congress before it was adopted.

The next meeting of MWAQC is scheduled for September 28th. The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.