

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: July 14, 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 (June 15, 2009)**
Chairman Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- 10:10 2. Air Quality Impact of Renewable Fuel Standards**
Jeff King, COG DEP, will discuss possible air quality impacts of EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standard. A draft comment letter will be discussed.
- 10:30 3. Transition to MOVES Model**
Diane Franks, MDE, and Jim Ponticello, VDOT, will discuss formation of a MOVES transition task force. Eulalie Lucas, COG DTP, will provide updates on activities to address technical issues with the transition to EPA's MOVES model.
- 10:45 4. Ozone Season Update**
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP, will provide an ozone season update.
- 11:00 5. Draft Conformity Scope of Work**
Jane Posey, COG/DTP, will discuss the proposed revisions to the scope of work for this year's conformity analysis.
- 11:10 6. EPA's Proposed Revisions to NO₂ NAAQS**
Jeff King, COG DEP, and Amy Sanders, COG Air Quality Intern, will discuss EPA's proposed revision to the NO₂ NAAQS.
- 11:30 7. Other Business**
- 11:45 8. State and Local Air Agency Report**
- 11:55 9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn**
Next TAC Meeting: September 8, 2009



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**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
June 15, 2009 10am to 12pm
Rooms 4/5, 1st Floor**

Present:

Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Aiken, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality (by teleconference)
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of the Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of Environment
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Environment
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of Environment
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
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
Walt Seedlock, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
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Staff:

Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Anne Mariani, COG/DEP Intern
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Amy Sanders, COG/DEP Intern
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

Observers/Participants:

Charley Baummer, MWAA

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary (May 12, 2009). The meeting was called to order at 10:08. The minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were approved with a suggested change from Fairfax County. Under the local updates, the text should read: "Joan Rohlf's said that Fairfax County approved limited funding to continue air quality monitoring for ozone and PM_{2.5} for FY 2010 only. In FY 2011, all responsibility for air quality monitoring in Fairfax County will be turned over to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality."

2. Transition to MOVES Model

Eulalie Lucas and Sunil Kumar provided an update on activities to address technical issues with the transition to EPA's MOVES model. Sunil Kumar reviewed the primary data inputs to the new model, highlighting those that will require a change in the standard procedures currently used for developing mobile emission estimates. Several of the key changes involve developing age distributions and VMT by HPMS vehicle type instead of by facility types. Another issue is to develop VMT fractions across four road types for each of the 13 HPMS vehicle types. It was agreed that the myriad of technical issues should be addressed in an interagency workgroup. Jim Ponticello agreed to be a co-chair of the workgroup representing the transportation sector.

Eulalie Lucas reviewed a draft work plan and schedule. The interagency task force will be formed in June/July. Staff and agency review of inputs will occur through September. The model will be tested in June/July. Local inputs will be developed in July/August and local inputs will be applied in the model in September. Final decisions on local inputs will be made once the MOVES model is approved by EPA.

There will be MOVES model training held at COG on June 29 and 30th.

3. Report on the Recent OTC/LADCO Meeting Modeling Results

Virginia DEQ presented and discussed modeling results conducted by LADCO. The goal of the state collaborative exercise was to provide EPA input on how CAIR should be updated to better comply with the requirements of 110(a)(2)(D). The effort involved several issues that need to be considered when interpreting the results. The chosen modeling platform was CAMx and overall the results are not SIP quality. The output was provided on an absolute basis, relative reduction factors were not used. 2005 was the base year. Virginia DEQ identified errors in the point source inventory for Virginia.

In terms of model performance, estimates for PM_{2.5} were generally reasonable, although organic carbon substantially underestimated, (summer) sulfate underestimated, and (winter) nitrate slightly overestimated. For ozone, results were also generally reasonable (mostly within $\pm 15\%$).

The model attainment predictions indicated that only a few areas will not meet PM_{2.5} and 85 ppb ozone standards; but many areas will not meeting for 75 ppb ozone standard. The model results also indicate that additional EGU emission reductions will be effective in lowering PM_{2.5} and ozone concentrations. The model results also suggested that reductions from the "home" state generally will have the largest impact; neighboring states generally have next largest impact (i.e., impacts decrease with distance). The results indicated that mobile sources dominate for ozone; point/mobile/area are all important for PM_{2.5}. Despite differences in meteorology, 2002 and 2005 meteorology produce similar results (with higher concentrations for 2002).

Doris McLeod said reviewed some other research results. For the DC region, it is possible that area source VOCs are an important contributor to PM_{2.5}, but this is a very difficult sector to regulate. It was also suggested that ammonia being generated from catalytic converters contributes to PM formation, but there may be issues with the emission inventory. Sulfur from home heating oil was also noted as an important contributor to PM.

Brian Hug said that the modeling results are being reviewed by the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) so should be regarded as preliminary until more information is available. It's possible that the effort didn't adequately capture the role of long-range pollutant transport.

John Kinsman said that if you look at the data since 1995, there have been very significant improvements in air quality partly as a result of controls installed on EGUs. Additional EGU controls may be very expensive given the extent of controls already installed. It will be important to look at cost/benefit comparisons with control measures available for other sectors.

4. Recent Federal Climate Change Actions

Jeff King discussed recent federal climate change actions. Topics included recent announcements on federal action on CAFE and greenhouse gas emission standards, and EPA's proposed Renewable Fuel Standards. EPA has proposed a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) that will increase the amount of biofuels that must be produced over time. The second phase of the RFS mandates an increase in biofuels production from 10 to 36 billion gallons per year. It also specifies an eligibility requirement such that manufacturers must demonstrate that a biofuel results in a net reduction in greenhouse gases compared to conventional petroleum fuels on a lifecycle basis. The White House announced that there will be a joint EPA/DOT rulemaking to impose more stringent corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards as well as establish new tailpipe emission standards for greenhouse gases. The purpose of the joint rulemaking is to harmonize the emission standards and the fuel economy standards. EPA envisions setting the emission standard at 250 grams CO₂/mile. The fuel economy standard is expected to be 35.5 mpg by 2016. The public comment period for the EPA RFS proposal ends on July 27. The schedule for the joint rulemaking is not yet known.

5. Discussion of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects and Inclusion in SIPs

Jeff King discussed recent developments in plans to purchase renewable energy in the region. Due to recent price increases for local Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the Montgomery County Purchasing Group in its most recent contract renewal will involve purchase of RECs from out of the region. The price differential between local and out-of-region RECs has grown significantly. Local RECs are now selling for more than \$25/MWh. Out-of-Region RECs are as low as \$2. Under EPA's policy for crediting renewable energy programs in SIPs, the purchase would have to be for an area that impacts air quality in our region. The move away from local purchases will lower the amount of wind energy credits eligible for inclusion in the SIP.

In the case of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) commitment to retire RECs in the 8-hour ozone SIP, WSSC is now moving towards sale of a portion of its RECs to raise revenue. In Virginia, it is not yet known whether the next purchase contract will include local or out-of region RECs.

One of the main reasons that the price for local RECs has grown is that mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) are requiring that utilities provide a certain percentage of electricity from renewable energy. As the RPS mandates increase, there should be continued pressure to develop new renewable resources and to purchase local RECs.

In terms of current wind purchase commitments in the SIP, the next evaluation report to EPA is due in 2010, and the region should be able to report satisfactory progress through 2009. The main outstanding item is for the states to retire NOx Allowances commensurate with the purchased quantity.

6. Draft Conformity Results for the 2009 CLRP and 2010-2015 TIP

Jane Posey presented draft results of this year's conformity analysis. New inputs to the analysis include Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts, 2008 Vehicle Registration Data, and new inputs from BMC and FAMPO. The Cooperative Forecast growth projections for 2010 were lowered, as a result 2010 VMT is projected to be 2 percent lower than estimated in the previous analysis. However, because the 2008 vehicle registration data showed that the age of the vehicle fleet in the region is aging, average emission rates have increased. The overall result is that 2010 emissions are higher than were estimated last year, such that 2010 emissions are now much closer to the proposed 2010 mobile budget. However, overall projected emissions are below the approved and proposed mobile budget for all analysis years for all pollutants. The public comment period for the draft analysis ends on July 11.

Members unanimously approved a draft comment letter which expressed concern about the 2010 mobile emissions being very close to the proposed mobile budget and urging the transportation agencies to maintain commitments to emission reduction measures in light of the new lower ozone standard.

7. Update on Formation of Technical Committee to Support the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

Joan Rohlf's discussed formation of a technical committee to support climate change planning efforts in the National Capital Region. The first meeting of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) will be held in July. Leadership and staff are seeking input on how to provide technical support to the new committee. One option is to form a stand-alone technical committee that will report to CEEPC. Joan Rohlf's asked for feedback from members. Members suggested that a formal technical committee may not be needed. It may be more useful to form ad hoc workgroups or tap the existing COG technical committees on an as-needed basis.

8. Other Business

Joan Rohlf's introduced Anne Mariani and Amy Sanders. Anne Mariani will be working with COG as an intern focused on climate change planning. Amy Sanders is a COG intern working on air quality forecasting.

9. State and Local Air Agency Report

There were no state and local air agency reports.

10. Set Date for Next Meeting, Future Agenda Items, Adjourn: The next TAC meeting will be held on July 14, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.