

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
February 19, 2019, 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM

Present:

Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy & Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alexandra Catena, District Department of Energy & Environment
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Mike Lake, Fairfax County
Matt Krupp, WMATA
Leal Boyd, Navy Mid-Atlantic

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Brian Hug called the meeting to order at 10 am. The December 11th meeting summary was approved with a change to correct the date for the last meeting.

2. Update on Base Year Emissions Inventory

Sunil Kumar discussed the comments received from committee members on the draft list of questions being developed for EPA regarding various base year emissions inventory requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. Ram explained to members the methodology DOEE is suing to develop the 2017 VIN data. He said DOEE will apply the decoded vehicle age distribution from the 2016 VIN data to the raw 2017 VIN data to develop the vehicle age distribution data for 2017. Brian requested that the DOEE staff provide appropriate language for the section dealing with the District's VIN data in the list of questions. Doris asked Sunil to send a template for point source emissions inventory. Sunil agreed to send this to members. Dusan asked Sunil about the expected time to receive a response from EPA. Doris said that it takes approximately one month.

3. MWAQC Strategic Assessment

Jen Desimone briefed members on a document for the Strategic Assessment, which provides details of the findings and recommendations based on the survey conducted earlier. She mentioned that as of now there is no consensus on MWAQC's core function and role. Therefore, COG staff is evaluating the idea of organizing a special meeting to just discuss that

or establish a special committee to do that.

4. Proposed Rule – Revised Supplemental Cost Finding for MATS Rule

Sunil discussed the EPA's proposed rule for the revised supplemental cost finding for MATS. EPA determined on February 7th that it is not "appropriate and necessary" to regulate Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) emissions from power plants under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. However, current emission standards for the MATS rule (published in 2012) would remain in place as EPA is not proposing to remove coal- and oil-fired power plants from the list of sources that are regulated under Section 112 of the Act. EPA's determination is based on the finding that the costs of such regulation grossly outweigh the quantified HAP benefits. EPA proposed that its 2016 Supplemental Finding erred in its consideration of the cost and therefore used a different approach in this proposal. In addition, EPA proposed that its earlier reliance on PM_{2.5} co-benefits was flawed and that it now finds that a cost-benefit analysis should focus only on the direct reduction of HAP.

Members wanted to know if MWAQC wants to comment on the proposal. Sunil said that the MWAQC Chair wants to comment, but MWAQC staff would also like to get your inputs on this. State environment department representatives agreed that a general letter commenting on the process followed on this proposal to exclude co-benefits from the cost/benefits consideration of the rule would probably be acceptable to them. Sunil said that he would pass this message to the MWAQC Chair and would let members know his response.

5. Briefing on "Turn Your Engine Off" Campaign

Jen Desimone briefed members on the new campaign being undertaken by COG to spread awareness about the disadvantages of idling. Currently, a questionnaire is being developed, which will be used for a survey of the truck drivers. A contractor is being hired for conducting the survey, which will be done using an Ipad. MWAQAC-TAC will be briefed on the questionnaire and the survey results when they are ready.

6. Briefing on "What We Can Do" Webinar

Sunil briefed members on the webinar held on February 6, 2019 as part of the "What We Can Do" effort. The main theme of this webinar was to reduce idling and the associated NO_x emission from motor vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment in the Washington region. Michael Stricker from Maryland Department of the Environment was invited to talk about Maryland's initiatives to reduce NO_x emission from idling motor vehicles.

Mr. Stricker talked in detail about various approaches MDE is using to promote idling reduction among the general public, at schools, and in the trucking industry. Sunil Kumar talked about various initiatives that can be taken to reduce NO_x emission from idling of construction vehicles and equipment.

7. State & Local Updates

There were no updates.

8. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.