

RAQPC Action Item Summary

RAQPC Bylaws: Article 2 Section 4

Review and make recommendations to H-GAC's Board of Directors on other mobile source emission control measures. Review and recommend comments to H-GAC's Board of Directors on plans for reducing emissions from area and stationary sources.

Discussion:

Advisory Committees are formed by H-GAC's Board of Directors to secure information, expertise and recommendations in the diverse areas of H-GAC's work. RAQPC is tasked with remaining current with environmental issues and plans in order to provide the Board of Directors accurate information to make sound decisions on environmental issues.

Summary:

- a. Create a letter of recommendation for H-GAC Board to submit to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regarding including the entire United States coastline as an emission control area (ECA).

The United States Government is planning to request that the IMO designate an area off coasts in which stringent international emission controls would apply to ocean-going ships. The EPA is currently preparing the documents for this application package. The international standards remain a major part of the national program to reduce NOx and PM.

Preliminary air quality modeling suggests that emissions from ships are transported over great distances. As such, creating a continuous ECA lowers the opportunity for pollutants to migrate from non-ECAs into established ECAs.

Ships operating in the ECA would be required to use fuel with a sulfur content not exceeding 10,000 ppm; in 2015, this would be reduced to 1,000 ppm. In most cases, ships already have the capability to store two or more fuels. However, to meet the 2015 requirement of 1,000 ppm fuel sulfur, some vessels may need to be modified for additional distillate fuel storage capacity.

Shippers currently choose ports for a number of reasons including available facilities, geographic location, and access to land-based distribution channels (railroads and highways). Therefore, shippers choosing an alternate port is unlikely. Furthermore, a continuous ECA would incorporate all ports, thus reducing the desire for ship diversion.

RAQPC Bylaws: Article 3 Section 8

If any member, or their principal alternate, fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee, or a total of five meetings during the member's term, he or she is subject to removal on a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting of the committee where a quorum is present.

Discussion:

As RAQPC is a subcommittee of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Board of Directors, the Board has the authority to appoint and/or remove RAQPC members. The RAQPC Committee may request that the Board accept replacements, or remove members.

Summary:

b. Question to pursue removal of Ron Schultz as RAQPC member (3 consecutive meetings missed)

Mr. Ron Schultz has missed the following RAQPC meetings in 2009: April, May, and June. A letter was sent to Mr. Schultz regarding the possible vote for removal shortly after the June RAQPC meeting.

Mr. Schultz expressed a desire to remain on RAQPC, and has made arrangements to provide representation for this and future meetings. Mr. Schultz represents Citizen/Environment, and he was nominated by the Air Toxic Research Center.