

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 30, 2009
H-GAC Conference Room A
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Bruhl (Alternate for Craig Beskid)
Laura Blackburn
Dana Blume
Lilly Wells (Alternate for Dana Blume)
Patrick Buzbee (Via Phone)
Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate for Elvia Cardinal)
(Via Phone)
Elena Craft
Catarina Cron
Dan Hoyt
Bob Allen (Primary alternate for Bud Karachiwala)
Stewart Muller (Secondary alternate for Bud Karachiwala)
Robert Lanham

Dale Kornegay (Alternate for Robert Lanham)
Larry Mann (Via Phone)
Sandra Pickett (Alternate for Mark Mc Clelland)
(Via phone)
Snehal Patel
Karl Pepple
Cynthia Redwine (Via Phone)
Ronald Schultz
Edmund Petry (Alternate for Kimberly Slaughter)
(Via Phone)
Arianne Robinson (Alternate for Adam Smith)
Matthew Tejada
Paulette Wolfson

STAFF PRESENT:

Carl Young (EPA)
Diana Sullivan (TCEQ)
Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)
Clio Fergil (H-GAC)
Debbie Pankey (H-GAC)

Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)
Graciela Lubertino (H-GAC)
Ben Finley (H-GAC)
Lauren Hoff (H-GAC)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Elvira Cardinal
Matthew Kuryla
Jeff Suggs

G. Michael White
Beth Whitehead
Julie Woodard

CALL TO ORDER:

1. Mr. Matthew Tejada called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm and welcomed attending members.
2. The July 30, 2009 meeting summary was reviewed and the following items were addressed:
 - Informational items #2 – Amend name from David Bower to David Schanbacher.
 - Presentation – Amend Susan Ghertner's e-mail to ghertner.susan@heb.com.The minutes were approved with amendments.

AGENCY REPORTS:

1. TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown

- a. HGB Attainment Demonstration and Reasonable Further Progress SIP Revision
TCEQ staff is preparing the documentation for the HGB Attainment Demonstration and Reasonable Further Progress SIP revisions for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard and the associated rule revision projects as specified in previous updates. These documents are scheduled to be filed with the TCEQ's Chief Clerk's Office on September 4th for the September 23, 2009 agenda. Two hearings are scheduled in Houston at H-GAC on October 28th at 2:00 PM and 6:00

PM and one hearing is scheduled in Austin at TCEQ on October 29th at 2:00 PM. The public comment period is anticipated to close on November 9, 2009.

b. HRVOC Stakeholder Meeting

The minutes and presentation from the July 2, 2009, HRVOC Stakeholder Group meeting regarding potential revisions to the HRVOC Emissions Cap and Trade (HECT) program allowance allocation methodology and HECT program cap are posted on the TCEQ's Web site. http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/hrvoc_stakeholders.html

c. Leak Detection and Repair Alternative Work Practice

The minutes and presentation from the Leak Detection and Repair Alternative Work Practice Stakeholder Group meeting held June 23, 25, and 26 are also posted on the TCEQ's Web site. http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/rules/ldar/ldar_awp.html

d. Southeast Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee

The next Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2009. The latest modeling files for the HGB attainment demonstration SIP are posted on the FTP site: <ftp://ftp.tceq.state.tx.us/pub/OEPAA/TAD/Modeling/HGB8H2>.

e. Flash Emissions from Storage Tanks

As part of continued efforts to improve emissions calculation methods, the TCEQ conducted a study to evaluate methods and models for estimating flashing emissions from storage tank batteries. The study gathered process, operational, and measurement data from tank batteries servicing gas or oil wells across the state. To access this report and related information, please visit: <ftp://ftp.erg.com/FlashStudy/>. The user ID for this folder is "TCEQ" and the password is "Long45Beach". Please note that both the folder name and password are case-sensitive. Please also note that to access this FTP site through your Web browser, pop-ups must be enabled and FTP access must be configured properly.

f. Public Participation

The TCEQ is committed to public participation in its guidance development process, and is accepting informal public comment on the report and its conclusions until August 31, 2009. Please address any questions or comments to Danielle Nesvacil at (512) 239-2102 or by e-mail at dnesvaci@tceq.state.tx.us.

2. EPA Update – Mr. Carl Young

a. Diesel Emission Reduction Project Awards

- i. Earlier this month EPA announced the selection of diesel emission reduction projects for funding. About \$5.8 million will be going to the City of Houston and the Port of Houston Authority for projects. The Port of Houston Authority will receive over \$3 million for projects that will promote the use of advanced emission reduction and energy efficient technologies as well as replacement of cargo handling equipment and the repowering of the Sam Houston marine vessel. Both projects are part of the port's Clean Air Strategy Plan.
- ii. The City of Houston will receive over \$2 million for its project to remove some of the city's oldest, and highest polluting, vehicles and equipment from various departments and replace them with newer and cleaner-running vehicles.

b. Proposal for Revised Primary Nitrogen Dioxide NAAQS

EPA's proposed revisions to the primary nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) standard were published in the July 15, 2009 Federal Register, starting a 60 day comment period. The revisions would:

- Establish a one-hour NO₂ standard at a level between 80 to 100 parts per billion (ppb);
- Retain the current annual average NO₂ standard of 53 ppb;
- Add NO₂ monitoring within 50 meters of major roads in cities with at least 350,000 residents; and

- Continue monitoring “area-wide” NO₂ concentrations in cities with at least 1 million residents.
- c. Proposals to Control Ship Emissions
- i. EPA is proposing more stringent exhaust emission standards for the largest marine diesel engines used for oceangoing vessels. The proposed engine standards are equivalent to the nitrogen oxide (NO_x) limits recently adopted under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). We are also proposing a change to our diesel fuel program to limit marine fuel oil to 1,000 parts per million (ppm) sulfur.
 - ii. Also, EPA is proposing to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to designate our coastal areas as emission control areas for ocean-going ships are moving forward. In March 2010, the IMO will vote on the proposal.

Approval of these proposals will reduce ship emissions of NO_x, particulate matter and sulfur oxides. For more information please go to <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/oceanvessels.htm>.

Mr. Mann asked a question regarding tax credits for companies using alternative fuels. Mr. Young replied that he does not work with this aspect in the EPA. Contact information was exchanged, and Mr. Young will find a person who could answer Mr. Mann’s question more accurately.

- d. Proposed Settlement Agreement between EPA and the Business Coalition for Clean Air
 In response to a question, it was noted that a proposed consent decree and proposed settlement agreement between EPA and the Business Coalition for Clean Air was published in the July 30, 2009 Federal Register. The proposal concerns EPA action on State Implementation Plan revisions related to Texas air permitting. Written comments on the proposal are due by August 31, 2009. Victoria Johnson of EPA is listed as the contact at 214-665-7569.

3. **Regional Ozone Update – Ms. Diana Sullivan, TCEQ**

- a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards
 The Houston area had 16 days of exceeding 8 hour ozone standards at regulatory stations. An additional three (3) days of exceedences were observed in the non regulatory stations.
- b. 1 Hour Ozone Standards
 Three (3) days exceeded the 1 hour ozone standard at regulatory stations. Two (2) additional days of exceedences were observed at non regulatory stations.
- c. Comparisons
- i. The California south coast area observed 65 days exceeding the 8 hour ozone standards and seven (7) days exceeding the one (1) hour standard for 2009.
 - ii. At this time last year, Houston observed 13 days of exceeding 8 hour ozone standards at regulator stations, while the DFW area observed 21 days. At this time last year, California’s observed 76 days exceeding the 8 hour ozone standards at regulatory stations.

PRESENTATION:

TBH Talento Bilingue de Houston, Donde Jugaran Los Ninos – Mr. Juan Esquivel, President/CEO and Ms. Angeles Romero

Mr. Juan Esquivel and Ms. Angeles Romero provided a presentation to the members discussing the Environmental Latino Awareness Campaign for 2009-2010. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Past Latino participation in ecological projects has been minimal;
- TBH will play a major role in linking the arts with local ecological concerns;
- TBH commits to transform the lives of Latinos by empowering them with the creative means to become involved as: Green promoters, supporters, recruiters, educators, artists; and

- An invitation to the 2009 Black Tie Carnival Gala was presented in conjunction with presentation/handout materials.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Creating a letter from the H-GAC Board to Submit to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regarding Including the Entire United State Coastline as an Emission Control Area (ECA)

a. Ms. Craft introduced the topic and described the issue. Ms. Patel added that this issue was heard at the Harris County Commissioners Court, and that they are strongly in favor and are working on a resolution. Ms. Blume expounded on the issue and stated that not only is the Port of Houston in favor of the ECA, but the Texas Ports Association does as well. Mr. Finley added that during his research for this topic, the Port of Galveston stated that they are also in favor of the continuous ECA. This issue will be voted on at the IMO Meeting in London in March of 2010.

b. Mr. Finley introduced a draft letter to members that was based on letters of support from other entities. Modifications were suggested to the draft.

The motion to request the H-GAC Board to submit to the IMO the draft letter with modifications passed.

2. Question to pursue removal of Mr. Ron Schultz as RAQPC Member

A motion was made to pursue the replacement of Mr. Ron Schultz. It is noted that Mr. Finley has been in contact with Mr. Schultz who has expressed his interest in remaining a RAQPC member and will make a concerted effort to attend the RACQC meetings.

No motion was made to pursue removal of Mr. Schultz.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1 Legislative Update

a. It was reported that the Texas State Legislative session is out of session. No further updates will be needed until the next State Legislative session opens.

2 H-GAC Update – Shelley Whitworth, H-GAC

a. The NuRide program has been managing the HEB 15 Million Mile Challenge. As of June 2009, the program reached the 9 million mile milestone, and is well on the way to reaching 10 million miles.

b. The Mall of the Mainland Pilot Transit project kicked off the week of June 22, 2009, and is running from the Mall of the Mainland to UTMB in Galveston, and some relocated offices due to the recent hurricane. This project was delayed from its original launch (Fall 2008) due to the hurricane issues.

c. By Product Synergy Workshop was held Monday, July 27, 2009. The presenters have noted that important contacts were able to connect with each other due to the presentation. Continued support is expected.

d. The Cooperative Research Agreement with H-GAC, EPA, Port of Houston, and TCEQ has concluded testing at the Port. The EPA is pleased the largest quantity of port data was obtained in the Port of Houston. The next steps are to look at the Port of Houston's inventory and perform further analysis of the dredge fleets. Participation from companies to install portable emissions monitoring equipment and portable activity monitoring equipment on appropriate vehicles is expected. Additional data will come from emission levels based on drive cycles and drive loads.

e. The month of August is Commute Solutions Month. H-GAC will be participating in a press conference at Greenway Plaza August 4th. METRO will be promoting the Star Vanpool program,

Fort Bend County will be promoting the Trek Express bus and the launch of new services, and several other entities will be discussing their new programs that tie into Commute Solutions.

- f. METRO will host an event at one of their rail stations and several Park-and-Rides. The Pasadena Park-and-Ride is scheduled to be an event site.
- g. Clean Air Leadership Awards Luncheon will be held August 26, 2009. Save-the-Dates were included in the meeting materials. The EPA Administrator is slated as the key note speaker. To be a Clean Air champion, please speak to any RAQPC member.

3 Report on Attendance Policy

- a. Mr. Finley clarified the attendance policy. He stated that the by-laws indicate that five (5) misses in a two (2) year term is when RAQPC may pursue removal of a member. Also, RAQPC may pursue removal of a member after 3 consecutive missed meetings.
- b. Mr. Finley investigated the issue of having the member's nominating entity approve the alternate for that member. According to the bylaws, it is the member's responsibility to assign their alternate. Mr. Finley will note this issue for the next by-law revision.
- c. Mr. Finley noted that Ms. Laura Blackburn has officially replaced Mary Ellen Whitworth.
- d. Mr. Finley noted that Jed Anderson has asked to step down as a member of RAQPC.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1 Mr. Pepple announced that the working group is still compiling information from local entities regarding what environmental improvement measures have been taken. There are some basic measures that are common among the entities that have reported. Several entities are doing tree planting, and would like to have this activity count toward the SIP.
- 2 The public comment period for the Conformity Finding to the TIP is began July 22 and will end August 22. A public meeting will take place August 13, 2009 at 5:30 pm. Ms. Lubertino introduced a hand out summarizing the data that will be presented at the public meeting.
- 3 The Synergy By Product Workshop start-up meeting will be in November 2009. Fees to participate in the program for local governments are a percentage of funds generated and saved, for large businesses it is \$10,000, and smaller businesses the cost is \$5,000.
- 4 Clinton Drive monitor meeting was discussed. The recommendation of the meeting was to advance the Clinton Drive project in the RTP to the TIP. A support letter will be brought forth once all information is gathered and the parameters of this project are finalized.
- 5 Ms. Graciela Lubertino announced her transition to the modeling and GIS department within H-GAC. She will continue to be available to provide information on conformity issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.