

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, August 27, 2009
H-GAC Conference Room A
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Beskid
Dana Blume
Mike Lindsey (Alternate for Patrick Buzbee)(Via Phone)
Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate for Elvia R. Cardinal)
Elena Craft
Catarina Gonzalez-Cron
Dan Hoyt
Badrudin Karachiwala
Stuart Mueller (Alternate for Badruddin Karachiwala)

Matthew Kuryla
Robert Lanham
Mark McClelland
Snehal Patel
Cynthia Redwine
Edmund J. Petry (Alternate for Kimberly Slaughter)
Arianne Robinson (Alternate for Adam Smith)
G. Michael White
Beth Whitehead (Via Phone)
Paulette Wolfson
Julie Woodward

STAFF PRESENT:

Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)
Ben Finley (H-GAC)
Lauren Hoff-Ovshak (H-GAC)
Crystal Spencer (H-GAC)

Diana Sullivan (TCEQ)
Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)
Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Laura Blackburn
Jamie Galloway
Mike Leech
Larry Mann

Karl Pepple
Jeff Suggs
Matthew Tejada

CALL TO ORDER:

1. Ms. Paulette Wolfson called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm and welcomed attending members.
2. The July 30, 2009 meeting summary was reviewed and the following items were addressed:
 - Members Present – Edmund Petry attended in person.
 - Information Items – The Report on Attendance Policy states the by-laws indicate that either three (3) consecutive misses or five (5) misses in a two (2) year term of meeting attendance may pursue the removal of a member.

The meeting summary was approved with amendments.

AGENCY REPORTS:

1. **TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown, TCEQ**
 - a. HGB Attainment Demonstration and Reasonable Further Progress SIP Revision
TCEQ staff is finalizing the documents related to the proposed HGB Attainment Demonstration and Reasonable Further Progress SIP revisions for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard and the associated proposed rule revisions, which include:

- HRVOC allowance reallocation methodology and a 25 % cap reduction in the Harris County HRVOC cap (Rule Project No. 2009-006-101-EN);
- Mass Emissions Cap and Trade program prohibiting the issuance of allowance allocations to major sources that did not submit the required Level of Activity Certification forms by the compliance date in 30 TAC §101.360 (Rule Project No. 2009-019-101-EN); and
- Revisions to rules for offset lithographic printing facilities to satisfy Reasonably Available Control Technology by limiting the VOC content of solvents used (Rule Project No. 2008-019-115-EN).

All documents are scheduled to be filed with the TCEQ's Chief Clerk's Office and posted on the TCEQ's Web site on September 4th for the September 23, 2009, commissioners' agenda. An e-mail will be sent once they are available. Two hearing dates are tentatively 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. Southeast Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee

TCEQ presented the 2018 future year HECT and VMEP emissions reduction control strategy modeling at the Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee (SETPMTC) meeting held August 19, 2009. In addition a weekday versus weekend modeling analysis, and the chemical process analysis of base case modeling results for selected 2005 and 2006 episode days were also presented. The final modeling files for the proposed HGB attainment demonstration SIP are posted on the TCEQ FTP site. (<ftp://ftp.tceq.state.tx.us/pub/OEPAA/TAD/Modeling/HGB8H2/>)

The next SETPMTC meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2009, and will include TCEQ presentations on the weight of evidence analyses for the attainment demonstration SIP.

c. Drive a Clean Machine

In the Houston area, for the fiscal year through May 2009, Drive a Clean Machine has repaired 1,670 vehicles with \$914,723.19 in assistance; and retired/replaced 3,224 vehicles with \$9,678,500 in assistance.

d. FLARE Task Force

Flare Task Force stakeholder meetings will be held in September or October to solicit stakeholder input on the draft Flare Task Force report. The task force evaluated applicable technical documents to identify the most relevant issues for understanding how flares factor into state air quality issues and open participation meetings were previously held in March and April to solicit stakeholder input.

e. Revisions to State Plans Regarding Mercury

The Executive Director will propose the following at the September 9, 2009, commissioners' agenda. All associated documents can be found on the TCEQ's Web site at: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/caircamr.html> revisions to:

- Revisions to the Texas SIP for the Clean Air Interstate Rule SIP;
- Revisions to 30 TAC Chapter 101, Subchapter H, Division 7;
- Propose to repeal the Clean Air Mercury rule; and
- Withdrawal from consideration of the Texas State Plan for Mercury.

f. New Appointments and Positions

- i. Governor Perry appointed Carlos Rubinstein as TCEQ commissioner, effective August 31, 2009.

- ii. Governor Perry appointed Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D. as presiding officer of the commission effective September 10, 2009.
- iii. David Brymer is the new Air Quality Division Director. David is a graduate of Texas A&M and joined TCEQ in 1994. David served as Team Leader over the organic laboratories from 1998-2002 and Section Manager over Monitoring Operations Laboratory and Mobile Monitoring Section from 2002-2008. Since August of 2008, David has been a Technical Specialist in the Air Quality Division with a variety of duties including coordinating air quality research projects for the division.

2. EPA Update – Mr. Carl Young, EPA

a. Assistant Administrator Visit to Houston

Gina McCarthy, the Assistant Administrator for the EPA Office of Air and Radiation, was in Houston yesterday to speak at the Clean Air Action Leadership “Best in Motion” Awards Luncheon. The luncheon recognized employers for leadership in reducing air pollution in the Houston area. We appreciate H-GAC, the Greater Houston Partnership and the Commute Solutions partners inviting EPA to participate in the luncheon.

While Ms. McCarthy was in Houston she announced that we are awarding H-GAC \$9 million to support the SmartWay Clean Diesel Finance Program for work at the Port of Houston. This innovative financing program will promote the purchase of cleaner vehicles and equipment at the Port.

b. Area Designation for the 2008 Revised Ozone Standard

In March of this year we received recommendations on area designations from the Governors for the revised 2008 ozone standard. We are scheduled to make area designations for the revised standard by March 12, 2010. However, before we make our final designations we will inform States and the Public of our intentions for attainment and nonattainment designations and boundaries and accept comment on our intentions. The date for issuing our intentions is November 12, 2009. For the Houston area Governor Perry recommended that the nonattainment area boundary remain the same.

c. National Brownsfields Conference

Our Regional office is hosting the 2009 National Brownfields Conference in New Orleans, November 16-18. The conference will focus on cleaning up and redeveloping abandoned, underutilized, and potentially contaminated properties. For more information please go <http://www.brownfields2009.org>.

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

a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards

The Houston area had 20 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 68 days exceeding the 8 hour ozone standards and nine (9) days exceeding the one (1) hour standard for 2009.

PRESENTATION:

“Proposed NO2 Standard” – Mr. Alan Shar, EPA

Mr. Alan Shar provided a presentation to the members discussing the Proposal to Revise the Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2). Highlights of the presentation include:

- Proposal Overview;
- Proposed NO2 Standard Levels;
- Proposed NO2 Standard Form and Averaging Time;
- Updating the Monitoring Network;
- Setting the Air Quality Standard for NO2;
- NO2 is the Indicator for Entire NOx Group of Gases;
- Sources of NOx Pollution;
- Reducing NOx Pollution in the U.S.;
- New Health Evidence in this Review;
- Nitrogen Oxides also Contribute to the Formation of Fine Particle Pollution and Ozone;
- Near and On Roadway NO2 Exposures;
- CASAC Recommendations; and
- Anticipated Implementation Schedule.

A discussion of the NO2 Proposal followed the presentation.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Question to pursue removal of Julie Woodard as RAQPC Member (3 consecutive meetings missed)

A motion was made for no action to be taken to pursue the removal of Ms. Julie Woodard.

INFORMATION ITEM:

1. Discussion on Upcoming Officers – Ms. Paulette Wolfson

- a. It was reported that the committee briefly overlooked the by-laws about the change in officers and the change should have happened in the meeting after June 30th. Ms. Paulette Wolfson stated the past practices with alternating chairs and vice chairs. There are six (6) members on the executive committee consisting of three (3) officers and three (3) additional members.

RAQPC formal committee nominees will be motioned at the September 24th meeting. It was suggested for the committee to get together to nominate a member within their group for the executive committee.

The by-laws indicate the RAQPC committee will consist up to twenty-six (26) members. There was discussion on the composition of the RAQPC committee membership groups appearing to be uneven. Mr. Ben Finley suggested using alternates to help balance the representation of RAQPC, but since RAQPC advises elected officials, the membership naturally should have a higher percentage of local government representation. Mr. Finley will investigate ways to find a better representation percentage among the three groups.

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

- a. Currently revising the annual report on all Air Quality Implementation Programs. Previous reports consisted of several programs to be showcased within the region. The education and outreach groups are welcomed to get involved to calibrate activities throughout the region.
- b. The Revolving Loan Grant Program through EPA holds nine-million in stimulus funds will begin with the Port of Houston and extend to all of the ports in the Houston-Galveston region. The steering committee will assist companies that operate Drayage trucks in and around the ports to apply for TERP and CMAQ funds. The stimulus program will allocate a limited amount of funds and low interest loans will be available for cost effectiveness.

- c. On Wednesday, August 26, 2009, H-GAC hosted the Clean Air Action Leadership Awards Luncheon. Forty-one companies made commitments to participate in documenting their efforts for the next SIP Plan, and they were recognized with awards as Clean Air Champions. In addition, all eight of nine attainment area counties signed MOA's committing to make efforts to implement various programs in the Houston-Galveston Area region for SIP documentation purposes.
- d. H-GAC was denied the Clean Cities Grant application.
- e. The Cooperative Research Program along with EPA, the Port of Houston, and TCEQ is analyzing data they collected and is moving forward to process additional research and survey in mid September 2009. The research team will monitor emissions and portable activity on the trucks. Within the next year, the team will have a new mobile model with the ability of monitor data.

3. Scheduling Next Year's Meetings – Mr. Ben Finley, H-GAC

- a. Mr. Finley clarified RAQPC Proposed Dates for 2010
 - i. January 28
 - ii. February 25
 - iii. March 25
 - iv. April 29
 - v. May 27
 - vi. June 24
 - vii. July 29
 - viii. August 26
 - ix. September 30
 - x. October 28
 - xi. December 2

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. Ms. Betin Bilir Santos announced the "2009 Clean Air through Energy Efficiency Conference: Impacts and Opportunities in Today's Economy" will be October 14-16, 2009 at Renaissance Houston Hotel Greenway Plaza.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. There was a suggestion to study the feasibility of updating and posting the "Air Quality Reference Guide for the Houston-Galveston Area" July 2002 manual to reflect the current complying standards and information.
- 2. The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.