

# REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, December 03, 2009  
H-GAC Conference Room A  
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor  
Houston, Texas 77027

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Beskid	Ron Schultz
Dana Blume	<i>Edmund J. Petry (Alternate for Kimberly Slaughter)</i>
Patrick Buzbee	Jeff Suggs (Via Phone)
Catarina Cron (Via Phone)	Mathew Tejada
Dan Hoyt	<i>Lisa Chrisholm (Alternate for G. Michael White)</i>
Mark McClelland (Via Phone)	<i>(Via Phone)</i>
Stuart Mueller	Paulette Wolfson
<i>Bob Allen (Alternate for Snehal Patel)</i>	<i>Danielle Lincoln (Alternate for Julie Woodard)</i>
Karl Pepple	
Cynthia Redwine	

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)	Diana Sullivan (TCEQ)
Ben Finley (H-GAC)	Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)
Crystal Spencer (H-GAC)	
Lauren Hoff-Ovshak (H-GAC)	

### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Laura Blackburn	Matthew Kuryla
Elvia R. Cardinal	Robert Lanham
Elena Craft	Beth Whitehead

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

1. Ms. Paulette Wolfson called the meeting to order at 2:04 P.M. and welcomed attending members.
2. The October 29, 2009 meeting summary was reviewed and the following items were addressed:
  - a. Action Item – Motion was passed.
  - b. Information Items – 5. Possible Comments on O3 Standards Reconsideration: The proposal has not been published.

The meeting summary was approved with amendments.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

1. TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown
  - a. SIP Revisions

TCEQ staff is in the process of responding to comments received on the proposed Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Attainment Demonstration and Reasonable Further Progress State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard and the associated proposed rule revisions. These revisions are scheduled to be considered for adoption at a March 10, 2010, Commission Agenda.

- b. Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee  
The next Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2010.
- c. FLARE Taskforce  
The Final Flare Task Force Report is under management review and will be submitted to the Executive Director for consideration. Additional Flare Task Force efforts will occur only as directed by executive management. Once the Final Flare Task Force Report is publically available it will be posted on the stakeholder group web page and notice will be sent out through the SIP Hot topics Gov Delivery list serve.
- d. Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) Alternative Work Practice (AWP)  
The Chapter 115 LDAR AWP Rulemaking will be proposed on December 9, 2009. The proposed rulemaking would allow the use of optical gas imaging instruments to detect fugitive volatile organic compounds emission leaks from equipment in a manner that ensures frequent measurement, appropriate repair, and accurate accounting of emissions. The proposed rulemaking would affect petroleum refineries in Gregg, Nueces, and Victoria Counties; petroleum refineries, petrochemical plants, natural gas and gasoline processing operations, synthetic organic chemical, polymer, resin or methyl-tert-butyl ether manufacturing processes in the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso, and HGB ozone nonattainment areas.  
[http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/rules/ldar/ldar\\_awp.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/rules/ldar/ldar_awp.html)
- e. Degassing Rule Revisions  
Staff is requesting informal stakeholder comments until December 7, 2009, on the upcoming Chapter 115 Degassing Rule Revision project. The proposed rulemaking would revise 30 TAC Chapter 115, Subchapter F, Division 3 (Degassing or Cleaning of Stationary, Marine, and Transport Vessels), to clarify the degassing rule requirements and facilitate rule compliance and enforcement. Additional information can be found on the Chapter 115 Stakeholder Group Web page. [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/rules/115/115\\_stakeholder](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/rules/115/115_stakeholder)
- f. Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Designation Recommendation  
The presentation from November 19, 2009 informal public meeting on Designation Recommendation for the EPA's 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) for Harris County is available through the SIP Hot Topics Web page. Commission action on the Executive Director's recommendation for Harris County to remain in attainment is anticipated at the December 4, 2009, Commissioners' Work Session. The TCEQ's recommendation is scheduled to go to the governor on January 5, 2010, and the governor's recommendation is due to the EPA on February 5, 2010. For further information regarding the designation recommendations, please contact Margaret Earnest, Air Quality Division, at (512) 239-4581, or [mearnest@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:mearnest@tceq.state.tx.us).
- g. Advisory Committee on Property Tax Exemptions for Pollution Control Property  
The TCEQ is forming a permanent advisory committee to provide input regarding property tax exemptions for pollution control property and accepting applications for potential committee members who represent the following groups: industry, appraisal districts, taxing units, environmental groups, and members who are not representatives of any of those groups but have substantial technical expertise in pollution control technology and environmental engineering. Advisory committee members are expected to be appointed by the commission in January 2010 and the initial committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2010. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on December 15, 2009. For additional information, contact the Tax Relief Program at 512-239-1917 or by e-mail at [txrelief@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:txrelief@tceq.state.tx.us).

h. Comment Period on Failure to Attain

Comments are being solicited on the proposed rule language to implement the Federal Clean Air Act Failure to Attain (Section 185) rule. The comment period closes January 11, 2010. Two public hearings on this proposal will be held at 2:00 p.m. on January 5, 2010, at TCEQ and January 6, 2010, at H-GAC. Additional information is available on the SIP Section 185 Fees Web page. The contact person is Kathy Pendleton, Emissions Assessment Section, (512) 239-1936. <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/industei/psei/sipsection185.html>

**2. EPA Update – Mr. Carl Young**

a. Greenhouse Gas Mandatory Reporting Rule

The regulation on greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting was published in the Federal Register on October 30, 2009. Information on the new reporting system and reporting requirements, including a Question and Answer document, presentations on the rule, and notice of a December 9 webinar, is available at: [www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html). There are tentative plans for an EPA training session on reporting for the rule to be held January 28, 2010 in Houston. We should have a flyer on the training out later this. Also, there is a Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule Hotline at: (877) 444-1188; or e-mail: [ghgmrr@epa.gov](mailto:ghgmrr@epa.gov).

b. Proposed Revision to the Primary Sulfur Dioxide Ambient Air Standard

On November 16 we proposed to revise the sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) primary ambient air standard to a level of between 50 and 100 parts per billion (ppb) measured over 1-hour. The primary standard is designed to protect public health. The existing primary standards are 140 ppb measured over 24-hours, and 30 ppb measured over an entire year. The public comment period for our proposal will be open for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. We plan to finalize the standard by June 2, 2010. More information is available at [www.epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide](http://www.epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide).

c. New EPA Regional Administrator

In November a new Regional Administrator for EPA Region 6 was announced. It is Dr. Al Armendariz. Dr. Armendariz is a chemical engineer and is a professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He is originally from El Paso, but has lived in Houston. More information on Dr. Armendariz is available from the EPA Region 6 website [www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6) (page down to Region 6 Administrator).

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

(Please refer to handout.)

a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards

The Houston area had 28 days of exceeding 8 hour ozone standard at regulatory stations. An additional four days of exceeding were observed in the non regulatory stations.

b. 1 Hour Ozone Standards

Four days exceeding the 1 hour ozone standard at regulatory stations. Two additional days of exceedences were observed at non regulatory stations.

c. Comparisons

The California south coast area observed 168 days exceeding the 8 hour standards and fifteen days exceeding the 1 hour standard for 2009.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

None

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Report on Multi Pollutant Plan – Ms. Lauren Hoff**

- a. Users can search the outreach information at either [www.airqualityhouston.com](http://www.airqualityhouston.com), org, or net.
- b. The outreach information website is user friendly, has a simplistic appeal, and can easily be added and updated.
- c. Ms. Hoff demonstrated the outreach information website “search” options before the RAQPC Committee members.
- d. The option to display Spanish instructions on the outreach information website was favorable.
- e. The outreach information will soon be available to the public once inquiries verify the agency database information.

**2. Updating Reference Guide – Ms. Paulette Wolfson**

- a. A commitment for staff resources to update the Air Quality Reference Guide was put in place to be reviewed at the February meeting and used at the Partnership Workshop forum in April.
- b. It was recommended to setup an Air Quality Reference Guide Review Committee. H-GAC will update the Air Quality Reference Guide tables, graphs, and standard changes. The Review Committee will examine the contents and language.
- c. The Air Quality Reference Guide draft will be available in early February 2010 and will eventually be available as a link on the website.

**3. H-GAC Update – Ms. Shelley Whitworth**

- a. The Drayage Steering Program Committee met last week and is currently receiving feedback. The Drayage Loan Staff had their first meeting yesterday, and will submit material to the Fiscal Director and Agency Attorney for review.
- b. H-GAC started processing an Annual Program Progress Report and it will be available in January 2010.
- c. H-GAC is tightening-up the Clean Vehicle Program Guidelines. Some applicants are being evaluated by reasons of some companies going out of business due to the economy, and the trading of equipment is a major concern. H-GAC attorneys are currently reviewing the Clean Vehicle Program legalities.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**1. Upcoming Events:**

- a. U. S. Business Council for Sustainable Development (12/10/2009)
- b. Bi-Product Synergy Luncheon (12/12/2009)
- c. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual A&WMA Hot Air Topics Conference (01/14/2010)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion on Possible Regional Anti-Idling Program Project – Ms. Dana Blume**

- a. Ms. Dana Blume volunteered to chair a Regional Anti-Idling Policy subcommittee. Willing participants will meet and come up with similar language across the board between municipalities and industries. An e-mail will be sent to RAQPC membership in January in order to find willing participants on the subcommittee.

**2. Update on Clean Air Centers Grant – Ms. Katherine Bennett Ensor, Ph. D., Rice University**

(Please refer to handout.)

- a. Center Goal
- b. Administrative Structure
- c. EPA RFA Questions Addressed
- d. Center Objectives
- e. Three Integrated Research Projects
- f. Chemicals of Concern (CoCs)
- g. Measurement Sites
- h. RC1: Increased Characterization of Particulate Matter Chemistry in Houston
- i. RC2: Distribution of Pollution and Association with Health Outcomes
- j. RC3: Combined Health Effects of Multiple Pollutant Exposures and Social Disadvantage
- k. Centers Budget and Competition
- l. Final Goals

**3. Report on Officer's Meeting – Ms. Paulette Wolfson**

- a. H-GAC Board of Directors will only accept RAQPC recommendation background papers; not the specific letter or comments. RAQPC members will see future draft background papers and prepare the draft comment letter in a timely manner before being submitted to the H-GAC Board of Directors.

**4. Discussion on SO<sub>2</sub> Potential Comments – Ms. Paulette Wolfson**

- a. An SO<sub>2</sub> subcommittee will be chaired by Mr. Dan Hoyt to prepare a draft of a background letter and position paper. Both documents will be presented to RAQPC before the background paper is submitted to H-GAC Board of Directors. H-GAC Board of Directors has the choice to accept, modify, or decline material RAQPC submit. If accepted, the final letter will be posted on RAQPC's website.

**5. The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for January 07, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.**

- a. Mr. Karl Pepple with the City of Houston was acknowledge and greatly appreciated for his service on the RAQPC Committee.

**ADJOURN:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.