

# REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

---

## MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, March 25, 2010  
H-GAC Conference Room A  
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor  
Houston, Texas 77027

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Beskid (Via Phone)  
Laura Blackburn  
Dana Blume  
Lisa Chisholm (Via Phone)  
Elena Craft (Via Phone)  
Catarina Gonzalez Cron  
*Trudie Terreo (Via Phone) (Alternate for Melissa Hagan)*  
Dan Hoyt  
Mark McClelland (Via Phone)  
Lisa McMichael (Via Phone)  
Stuart Mueller

*Bob Allen (Alternate for Snehal Patel)*  
Edmond Petry (Via Phone)  
Mathew Tejada  
*Melanie Oldham (Alternate for Mathew Tejada)*  
Marise Textor  
*Rebecca Moring (Alternate for Marise Textor)*  
*Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate for Rakesh Tripathi)*  
Beth Whitehead (Via Phone)  
Paulette Wolfson (Via Phone)  
Julie Woodard

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)  
Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)  
Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)  
Allison Carr (H-GAC)

Patricia Franco (H-GAC)  
Lauren Hoff-Ovshak (H-GAC)  
Ben Finley (H-GAC)  
Crystal Spencer (H-GAC)

### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Patrick Buzbee  
Robert Lanham  
Cynthia Redwine  
Ron Schultz

Jeff Suggs

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

1. Past Chair, Mr. Matthew Tejada officially called the meeting to order at 2:08 P.M.
2. Mr. Tejada welcomed all people in attendance and then RAQPC Committee Members and staff introduced themselves.
3. Approval of the February 25, 2010 meeting summary.
  - a. The February 25, 2010 meeting summary was approved and the following items were amendments:
    - Members Present – Correct spelling for Bob Allen.
    - Members Present – Correct spelling for Charles Airiohuodion.
    - Regional Ozone Update – The Katy Park non-regulatory station reported 76 and all other non-regulatory stations reported 27.

- Action Item – c. The action item to accept Recommending H-GAC Board of Directors to Submit Comments on National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone (O3) was approved with 14 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

## **AGENCY REPORTS:**

### **1. TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown**

- Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Attainment Demonstration and the Reasonable Further Progress State Implementation Plan (SIP)**  
The commission adopted the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Attainment Demonstration and the Reasonable Further Progress SIP revisions for the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard and the associated rule revisions on March 10, 2010. Documents are posted on the TCEQ's Web site: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/hgb.html>
- Clinton Drive**  
On March 9, 2010, the Harris County Commissioners Court voted to execute an interagency agreement with the City of Houston to construct roadway improvements along Clinton Drive between the east city limits and Federal Road.
- Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee**  
The next Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2010 at Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). Information may be found at: [http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/committee/pmtc\\_set.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/committee/pmtc_set.html).
- New Technology Research and Development (NTRD) Grants Program**  
The TCEQ is accepting applications for a grant from the NTRD Grants Program until 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2010. This special program differs from the regular TERP grants in that the grants are made to developers of emission reduction technologies rather than the users of such technologies. For questions about the NTRD program you may send an e-mail at: [ntrd@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:ntrd@tceq.state.tx.us).
- AirCheck Texas Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) Program**  
677 vehicles have been repaired at a cost of \$366, 970 and 1,932 vehicles have been retired at a cost of \$5,804,000 during the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2010, which ended on November 30, 2009.

### **2. EPA Update – Mr. Carl Young**

- Fine Particulate Matter (PM) Update**  
EPA published a notice of availability of the “Integrates Science Assessment for Particulate Matter” on December 15, 2009. The assessment and additional technical and policy assessments provide the scientific basis EPA used to make decisions on revising the NAAQS for PM. Comments on the first draft of the “Policy Assessment for the Review of the Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards” are due April 12, 2010. EPA plans is to issue an advance notice of proposed rulemaking in late summer, propose rulemaking in January 2011 and complete rulemaking in October 2011.
- Proposal to Include Additional Emission Sources for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting System**  
In October 2009, EPA finalized a greenhouse gas reporting requirement that required 31 industry sectors to track and report their GHG emissions. EPA announced a proposal to include additional emissions sources in the GHG reporting system. New covered sources could include:
  - The oil and natural gas sector,
  - Industries that emit fluorinated gases, and
  - Facilities that inject and store CO<sub>2</sub> underground for geological sequestration or enhanced oil and gas recovery

More information may be found under “what’s new” at:  
[www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgrulemaking.html).

- c. Second Annual Ranking of US Cities with Most Energy Efficient Buildings  
Houston ranked sixth on the EPA’s second annual Energy Star Ranking for Cities. The top ten cities are as follows:
- 1 Los Angeles
  - 2 Washington, DC.
  - 3 San Francisco
  - 4 Denver
  - 5 Chicago
  - 6 Houston
  - 7 Lakeland
  - 8 Dallas-Fort Worth
  - 9 Atlanta, and
  - 10 New York

More information may be found at <http://www.energystar.gov>.

A question was asked about last year’s ranking of Houston. Mr. Young reported that Houston ranked third in 2008.

**3. Regional Ozone Update – Mr. Ben Finley reported update in Ms. Diana Sullivan Absence**

- a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards  
The Houston area had 0 days of exceeding 8 hour ozone standard since the last report that stated the 1 day of exceeding 8 hour ozone standard at the Katy Park regulatory stations.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

No presentations given.

**ACTION ITEMS**

(Please refer to handout.)

**1. Adoption of the Updated Air Quality Reference Guide – Ms. Laura Blackburn**

- a. The action item to adopt the Updated Air Quality Reference Guide was postponed to the April RAQPC meeting. Postponing the issue will allow the subcommittee to receive and incorporate additional comments from the RAQPC Membership.
- b. The Air Quality Reference Guide may be downloaded at:  
<http://www.cleanairaction.org/AQ2010DRFT1BK/DFT01AQ.html>

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Controlling Coastal Pollution – Mr. Bob Allen**

(Please refer to [www.youtube.com/harriscountyattorney](http://www.youtube.com/harriscountyattorney))

- a. Mr. Bob Allen shared a brief video clip featuring the Harris County Attorney regarding awareness of Controlling Coastal Pollution.
- b. The Controlling Coastal Pollution video was submitted along with a support letter to the IMO.

**2. Review of H-GAC Board of Directors Comments on National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone (O3) – Mr. Ben Finley**

- a. The proposed comment letter that was submitted to the Board regarding the ozone standards was very well received. The letter was signed by Mr. Jack Steele and submitted to EPA by e-mail and through regular post.

- b. The only major change was rewording the last paragraph regarding the workload of the State. The revision did not change the suggested intent of the committee.

### **3. RAQPC Membership Term Expirations – Mr. Ben Finley**

(Please refer to handout.)

- a. Mr. Jim Lester with HARC will be voted on during the April Board. Mr. Lester will make the twenty-sixth RAQPC member. RAQPC is currently at full membership.
- b. H-GAC staff has already submitted nomination forms back to the nominating entity that nominated the 2010 members. It was stressed that each of the active member's term that is expiring have good standings.
- c. It is important that RAQPC Members whose terms expire in 2010 be reinstated for the 2010 election of officers. This vote will be held during the May meeting.
- d. There was discrepancy regarding the delivery of the nomination forms. Mr. Finley will check on the status of the nomination forms that was distributed to the entity that nominated each member.

### **4. H-GAC Update – Ms. Shelley Whitworth**

#### **a. New H-GAC Employee: Allison Carr**

Ms. Allison Carr started with H-GAC about a month ago, and will be working as an Air Quality Planner with Ms. Shelley Whitworth and Mr. Ben Finley. Ms. Carr's background is in energy and climate change policy and science.

#### **b. Clean Vehicles Update**

Within the last month, projects for 6 entities went to the Board for an addition commitment of over \$3,119,109 CMAQ funds. The projects will replace 67 engines which will result in approximately 47.18 tons of NOx reduction over the next 3 years.

#### **c. DERA Loan Update**

The DERA Loan (Drayage Truck Bridge Loan) program has some very significant size projects that will be going the Loan Committee within the next week. The Loan Committee has been able to make recommendations and has issued loans on smaller projects. Some of the loans are with companies that have several trucks and the applications will have to go to the H-GAC Board of Directors for approval.

Within the last month, projects for 9 entities were approved for \$577,420 in DERA Loan funds. The projects will replace 29 Drayage Trucks which will result in approximately 25 tons of NOx reduction.

#### **d. Comments National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone**

The action to send comments regarding the National Ambient Air Quality standards (NAAQS) for Ozone was approved at the H-GAC Board of Directors. (Please refer to Mr. Finley's earlier comments in Information Items.)

#### **e. Fresh Air Friday (See Announcements)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

#### **1. Acknowledgements**

- a. No public comments given.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

#### **1. Upcoming Events**

- a. Cooperative Research And Development Agreement (CRADA)  
The EPA has completed the last round of data collection regarding the CRADA project that studied the feasibility of mobile emissions monitoring regarding drayage trucks associated with the Port of Houston.
- b. Fresh Air Friday  
H-GAC is hosting the seventh annual Fresh Air Friday on April 16, 2010. The event will be from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Jones Plaza located at 600 Louisiana, Downtown Houston. For more information visit: <http://www.cleanairaction.org/events/events.html>
- c. Earth Day Houston Festival, 5k, and Green Expo  
The City of Houston is hosting the Earth Day Houston Festival, 5k, and Green Expo on April 3, 2010. The event will be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Discovery Green.
- d. Clean Air Forum  
The Clean Air Forum has been rescheduled to November 5, 2010.
- e. SECO Alternative Fuel and Hybrid Vehicle Grant  
The purpose of this grant is to partner with local governments and school districts to transition vehicle fleets to alternative fuel by hybrids to create or retain jobs reducing emissions in the state independency on foreign oil. The budget allocation is \$1.31 million dollars in competitive grants for the state fiscal year 2010 through August 31, 2010. 50% is allocated to awards under \$20,000.00. Application deadline is April 16, 2010. Please visit the following website for more information:  
<http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/funding/vehicle.php>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.**

**ADJOURN:**

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 P.M.