

# **REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

---

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, May 27, 2010  
H-GAC Conference Room A  
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor  
Houston, Texas 77027

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Beskid (Via Phone)	Lisa McMichael
Dana Blume (Via Phone)	Stuart Mueller
Patrick Buzbee (Via Phone)	Snehal Patel
Lisa Chrisholm (Via Phone)	Edmond Petry (Via Phone)
Elena Craft (Via Phone)	Cynthia Redwine
Catarina Cron (Via Phone)	Ron Schultz (Via Phone)
Dan Hoyt	Dawn Steph
Robert Lanham	Marise Textor
<i>Dale Kornegay (Alternate for Robert Lanham)</i>	<i>Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate for Rakesh Tripathi)</i>
Jim Lester (Via Phone)	Paulette Wolfson
Mark McClelland (Via Phone)	Julie Woodard

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)	Lauren Hoff-Ovshak (H-GAC)
Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)	Allison Carr (H-GAC)
Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)	Ben Finley (H-GAC)
Patricia Franco (H-GAC)	

### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Laura Blackburn	Jeff Suggs
Melissa Hagan	Matthew Tejada
	Beth Whitehead

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

- 1. Ms. Paulette Wolfson officially called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.**
- 2. Ms. Paulette Wolfson welcomed all people in attendance and then RAQPC Committee Members and staff introduced themselves.**
- 3. Approval of the April 29, 2010 meeting summary.**
  - The April 29, 2010 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved without amendments.

## **AGENCY REPORTS:**

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

#### a. Final Rule on Permitting Requirements for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions from Large Facilities

On May 13, EPA finalized regulations for permitting GHG emissions from large stationary sources. The regulations will be phased in over time. Under the regulations:

- Large stationary sources would be required to address increases in GHG emissions in their construction and operating permits
- New or expanding facilities would use best available control technologies and energy efficiency measures to minimize GHG increases

The six GHGs covered under the rule are:

- Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Methane
- Nitrous oxide
- Hydrofluorocarbons
- Perfluorocarbons
- Sulfur hexafluoride

To determine applicability for the rule, a source's GHG emissions are calculated as the sum of the six gases on a CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent basis and compared against a relevant threshold.

More information is available at: [www.epa.gov/nsr/actions.html](http://www.epa.gov/nsr/actions.html) (click on 2010).

#### b. Revision of the Primary Sulfur Dioxide Ambient Air Quality Standard

In November of 2009, EPA 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. EPA plans to finalize the proposal next week on June 2. More information is available at [www.epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide](http://www.epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide) (click on regulatory actions).

#### c. Revisions for Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter Ambient Air Quality Standards

EPA is planning to issue a revised ozone standard on August 31, 2010. They are also planning to propose a revision to the fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) standard in November of this year and finalize the revision in July 2011.

In response to a question it was stated that EPA guidance on ozone designations was on the internet. The most recent EPA guidance can be found at:

<http://earth1.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/designations/guidance.htm> (click on the link under “2008 Standards”).

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

#### a. Section 185 Fee Termination

The request to terminate the Federal Clean Air Act, Section 185 fee program requirement for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) one-hour ozone nonattainment area and the supporting documentation were submitted to the EPA on May 20, 2010. Further

information may be found at:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/industei/psei/sipsection185.html>

b. Public Meeting on EPA's Proposed 2010 Ozone Standards

The TCEQ's Air Quality Division will host informational public meetings in June and July on the EPA's proposed 2010 ozone air quality standards, providing the public an opportunity to obtain information and offer their comments on potential ozone nonattainment area boundaries and designations. For the HGB area, a meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 8th, at TCEQ headquarters, Building F, Room 2210, 12100 Park Circle 35, Austin, Texas 78753 with video conferencing at the Texas Department of Transportation Houston District Office, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007. Written comments will be accepted until close-of-business September 3, 2010 via e-mail to Margie McAllister at [mmcallis@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:mmcallis@tceq.state.tx.us) or via mail to the TCEQ, MC-164, Post Office Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.

c. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Storage Rulemaking Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings have been tentatively scheduled for a proposed Chapter 115 VOC storage rulemaking to expand the existing HGB area requirements to other areas and clarify certain portions of Chapter 115, Subchapter B, Division 1 to address questions that have been raised by stakeholders regarding incomplete or unclear requirements. Meetings are scheduled in Beaumont on June 21, 2010, in Dallas on June 24, 2010, and in all TCEQ regions (except Beaumont and Dallas) on June 25, 2010 via video conference. Contact: Bob Gifford, 512 239-3149, for more information.

d. Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Committee (SETPMTC)

The next Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2010, at the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC). Please see the following for more information:

[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).

e. Liquid Cargo Barge Data

The TCEQ is requesting input from stakeholders concerning air emissions-related data associated with liquid cargo barges transiting the HGB, Beaumont/Port Arthur, and Corpus Christi industrial waterways. The data will be used to improve the TCEQ-developed county-level VOC emissions inventory for this source type. Eastern Research Group, Inc., (ERG) is assisting the TCEQ in this effort by conducting a study of barge operational data including estimated volumes or tonnages of liquid product, number of barges, capacities, typical barge cargo, barge color, and transit time. ERG will be contacting stakeholders and requesting assistance regarding data inputs. Contact Danielle Nesvacil, 512 239-2102, for more information.

f. Texas Clean Fleet Program (TERP)

Applications for the new Texas Clean Fleet Program must be submitted by June 30, 2010. The TERP program is also accepting applications for the Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants (ERIG) Program, which is the large TERP grants program that includes a variety of eligible project categories, until 5:00 p.m. on August 13, 2010. Both grant application forms and instructions are available on the TERP Web site. [www.terpgrants.org](http://www.terpgrants.org).

g. TCEQ Rulemaking Website

To find out quickly when new rulemaking items have been added to the Rules Web pages, check the What's New in TCEQ Rules at:  
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/whatsnew.html>.

**3. Regional Ozone Update – Mr. Claudio Gulli, TCEQ Staff (presented by Mr. Ben Finley)**

a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards

The Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area had 7 days of exceeding 8-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations, and non-regulatory stations. The HGB area has had 1 day exceeding the 1-hour standard so far this year.

b. Comparisons

The Dallas Fort Worth area had 2 days exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard, and has not exceeded the 1-hour standard so far this year.

The California South Coast area has had 6 days exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard, and has not exceeded the 1-hour standard so far this year.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**No presentations.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

(Please refer to handout.)

**1. Election of Officers**

- a. The action item elect the RAQPC Chair Officer – Bob Lanham (Business and Industry) was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- b. The action item to elect the RAQPC Vice Chair Officer – Elena Craft (Citizens and Environmental) was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

**1. Discussion of Possible Presentation: Information on Coal Fired Power Plants – Ms. Paulette Wolfson in Mr. Matthew Tejada absence**

- a. The committee suggested Ms. Jennifer Powis as a representative of The Sierra Club to possibly provide argument against Coal Fired Power Plants.
- b. The committee suggested a representative of either The Partnership or TXU could provide argument for Coal Fired Power Plants.

**2. Update on the Air Quality Reference Guide – Ms. Paulette Wolfson in Ms. Laura Blackburn absence**

- a. The revised draft copy of the Air Quality Reference Guide was distributed to everyone that attended the last subcommittee meeting.
- b. An upcoming subcommittee meeting to review the revised draft copy of the Air Quality Reference Guide is in the works.

- c. Once the review is complete, the draft copy of the Air Quality Reference Guide will be forwarded to an editor for organizational changes. The draft will be resubmitted to RAQPC in June 2010 for review and resubmitted to an editor. The final version will be submitted RAQPC in July 2010. The Air Quality Reference Guide will need to be ready to be released to the public by November 2010.
- d. It was suggested that RAQPC be absolutely sure that the contents of the Air Quality Reference Guide be accurate before being submitted to an editor. Also, instruct the editor to only revise the guide in making it user friendly; and the content should be approved by the entire RAQPC committee.
- e. It was suggested for the editor to have strict guidelines and perhaps a RAQPC subcommittee member that is familiar with the material could work more closely with the editor; maybe chapter by chapter, and be available for questions.
- f. RAQPC was asked to submit all additional comments or revisions for the Air Quality Reference Guide to Mr. Ben Finley.

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

#### **a. Clean Vehicles Update**

H-GAC Board of Directors approved the following:

Funding through the Clean Vehicle (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funded program) to replace 60 diesel engines, to include 13 vehicles for Pasadena ISD and 2 vehicles for companies. The \$3,206,962 of funding will produce a NOx emission reduction of 32.259 tons per year.

#### **b. Regional TERP**

H-GAC Board of Directors approved the following:

Funding through the Regional Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP) for replacing 2 diesel engines for Chambers County. The \$131,392 of funding will produce a NOx emission reduction of 2.756 tons per year.

- c. Some companies are looking at their finances to warrant justification and adequate usage on the commitment for emission reduction. H-GAC staff is currently going out to monitor vehicles to make sure the commitment for remission reduction is being fulfilled.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**No public comments given.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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

- a. Application Deadline for Texas Clean School Bus Program is May 31, 2010.
- b. H-GAC Freight Basics Workshop is June 9, 2010.
- c. Blue Skyways Annual Meeting is June 2, 2010.

There will be two associated webinars:

- “Ozone 101: What is ozone and why is it a problem for our community?” is June 2, 2010.

- “Opportunities to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gasses and get co-benefit” is June 16, 2010.
- d. Application Deadline for Texas Clean Fleet Program projects funded through TERP is June 30, 2010.
- e. 2010 Public Clean Air Forum: Communicating Air Quality to the Public is November 4, 2010.
- f. TCEQ will host a Video Conference: Ozone Standards is June 08, 2010.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.

**ADJOURN:**

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned.