

# REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 29, 2010  
H-GAC Conference Room A  
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor  
Houston, Texas 77027

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Laura Blackburn  
Dana Blume  
Patrick Buzbee (Via Phone)  
Elena Craft  
Catarina Gonzales Cron  
*Beth Whitehead (Via Phone)*  
*(Alternate for Steve Hansen)*  
Dan Hoyt  
Robert Lanham  
Mark McClelland  
Lisa McMichael  
Stuart Mueller

Edmond Petry (Via Phone)  
Cynthia Redwine  
Michael Schaffer  
Ron Schultz  
Matthew Tejada  
*Rebecca G. Moring (Alternate for Marise Textor)*  
*Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate for Rakesh Tripathi)*  
Paulette Wolfson  
Julie Woodard

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)  
Angela Kissel (TCEQ) (Via Phone)  
Claudio Gulli (TCEQ)  
Ben Finley (H-GAC)  
Lauren Hoff-Ovshak (H-GAC)  
Patricia Lawhorn (H-GAC)

Crystal Spencer (H-GAC)

### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Craig Beskid  
Arturo Blanco  
Lisa Chisholm  
Melissa Hagan

Jim Lester  
Dawn Steph  
Jeff Suggs

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

1. **Chairman Robert Lanham officially called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.**
2. **Chairman Lanham welcomed all people in attendance and then RAQPC Committee Members and staff introduced themselves.**
3. **Approval of the May 27, 2010 meeting summary.**
  - a. The May 27, 2010 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved with one amendment.
    - Mr. Robert Lanham was present as was his alternate Mr. Dale Kornegay.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

1. **TCEQ Update – Ms. Angela Kissel**
  - a. **State Implementation Plan (SIP) Update**

The executive director approved a concept memo to begin working on a Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) Update State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision (Project No. 2010-028-SIP-NR). The purpose of

this SIP revision is to provide the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a RACT analysis update to include Control Techniques Guidelines (CTG) that were not addressed in the March 2010 HGB Attainment Demonstration SIP Revision for the 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard and to incorporate any CTG-related rulemaking (Rule Project No. 2010-016-115-EN) currently being considered for the HGB area. These revisions are tentatively scheduled for proposal in May 2011 with adoption in November 2011. Open participation stakeholder meetings are anticipated in fall 2010. For further information contact Nikki Dowiak at (512) 239-3931 for the proposed rulemaking and Lola Brown, at (512) 239-0348 or Angela Kissel at (512) 239-0707 for the proposed SIP revision.

b. Revisions to Degassing Rules in 30 TAC Chapter 115

At the July 28, 2010, agenda, the commission approved proposal of revisions to the VOC degassing rules in 30 TAC Chapter 115. The proposed changes would improve enforcement of the rule requirements and clarify rule provisions to aid regional staff and regulated entities in interpreting the rules. Public hearings on this proposal will be held in Austin on September 7, 2010; in Houston on September 8, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC); and in Fort Worth on September 9, 2010. The comment period closes September 13, 2010. The contact for this project is Eddy Lin, Air Quality Division, at (512) 239-3932. More information can be found on the TCEQ's current rule proposals Web page: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/prop.html#09050>

c. Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Program

Public hearings on proposed Rule Project No. 2009-050-17-EN, House Bill (HB) 3206/HB 3544: Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Program will be held in Houston on August 9, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at H-GAC; in Beaumont and Austin on August 10, 2010; in Corpus Christi on August 12, 2010; and in Fort Worth on August 13, 2010. The comment period closes August 16, 2010. The contact for this proposal is Emmanuel Wada, Air Quality Division, at (512) 239-1917. More information can be found on the TCEQ's current rule proposals Web page: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/rules/prop.html#09050>

d. Ozone nonattainment area boundaries

Written comments on potential ozone nonattainment area boundaries and designations for the EPA's proposed 2010 ozone air quality standards 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.

e. Texas Drive a Clean Machine

For the AirCheck Texas Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) Program, 2,249 vehicles have been repaired at a cost of \$1,240,416 and 3,965 vehicles have been retired at a cost of \$11,908,000 during the first three quarters of Fiscal Year 2010, which ended on May 31, 2010.

f. Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee (SETPMTC)

The next SETPMTC meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2010, at H-GAC. Please visit the SETPMTC Web page for further 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)

## 2. EPA Update – *Mr. Carl Young*

### a. New Ambient Air Standard for Sulfur Oxides

On June 22 EPA published a new primary NAAQS for sulfur oxides. The primary standard is to protect human health, while secondary standards are to protect public welfare. EPA established a new 1-hour standard of 75 ppb. The new standard is measured as the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations. Previously the existing primary standards were 140 ppb measured over 24-hours, and 30 ppb measured over an entire year.

Our schedule for implementing the new standard is:

- Guidance on Designations by December 2010
- Receive Governor recommendations in June 2011
- Designations in June 2012
- Basic SIPs due June 2013
- Nonattainment SIPs due February 2014
- Target for all areas attaining the standard is August 2017

Current data for Texas shows Jefferson County violating the standard (80 ppb) and Gregg County near nonattainment (75 ppb).

More information is available at [epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide](http://epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide) (click on announcements).

### b. EPA Public Meeting on Air Regulations affecting the Oil and Natural Gas Industry

EPA is reviewing air regulations that affect the oil and natural gas industry. On August 2 EPA will conduct a public meeting in Arlington, Texas on our review. The meeting will be at the Arlington Municipal Building, 101 W. Abram Street from 12 pm to 4 pm, and 6 pm to 10 pm. At the meeting there will be opportunity for:

- Questions and answers
- Giving oral or written comments

More information on the meeting can be found in the July 13, 2010 Federal Register.

### c. Clean Air Transport Rule Proposal

Adina Wiley of EPA Region 6 discussed EPA's Transport Rule proposal. It was proposed on July 6 and will help States address interstate transport of nitrogen oxide (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions for the 1997 ozone standards and the 1997 and 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. EPA expects the proposal to be published Monday (August 2), which would start the comment period. There will be 3 public hearings on the proposal (Chicago, Philadelphia and Atlanta). EPA is proposing to include Texas in the rule for NOx emissions contributing to ozone in Louisiana. Under the proposal a cap and trade program for NOx emissions would begin in May 2012. EPA is taking comment on whether Texas should be included in the rule for PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. More information, including a fact sheet, briefing materials, maps and the Federal Register manuscript is available at [www.epa.gov/airtransport](http://www.epa.gov/airtransport).

## 3. Regional Ozone Update – *Mr. Claudio Gulli*

### a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards

The Houston area had 6 days of exceeding 8-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations and 8 days at the non-regulatory stations, and an additional 4 day exceeded the 1-hour ozone standard.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **1. NRG Presentation on Coal Fuel Power Plants – *Mr. Ben Carmine, NRG Energy***

Mr. Ben Carmine with NRG Energy provided a presentation to the members discussing the NRG Energy Coal and Power Plant Information.

### **2. Beyond Coal: Transforming America’s Electric Sector – *Jenifer Powis, Sierra Club***

Ms. Jenifer Powis with the Sierra Club provided a presentation to the members discussing Beyond Coal: Transforming America’s Electric Sector.

Several questions were asked to the presenters, which prompted a discussion. The Sierra Club requested that RAQPC construct a resolution for the H-GAC Board of Directors to adopt. The resolution would not be in opposition to the White Stallion permit, but that the applicant has not done adequate modeling to show its impact to the HGB nonattainment area.

Further discussion resulted in the preliminary direction of a comment letter to be submitted to TCEQ. The letter would be broadly based as not to focus on any one permit, and should stay away from suggesting that RAQPC giving input on every permit. The main purpose of the comment letter is to express H-GAC’s concern about major new source air permits being approved next to the HGB nonattainment area without proper consideration and examination of the effects on the nonattainment area.

Ms. Dana Blume volunteered to chair the subcommittee.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **1. Update on the Air Quality Reference Guide – *Ms. Laura Blackburn***

- a. The committee completed the guide and it is scheduled to be submitted to the editor by noon. Once the editing process is concluded the report will be presented to the committee.
- b. Mr. Ben Finley will request verification of the committee members name, title, and organization as they would like it to appear in the final report.

### **2. H-GAC Update – *Mr. Ben Finley***

- a. Freight Mobility  
H-GAC and TTI is engaged in an ongoing project to study freight movement along the regional metropolitan areas. The research project began in 2004 and it is committed to continue forward through this year.
- b. Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles  
Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles will help 3 entities replace 25 engines for a NOx reduction of 22.675 tpy
- c. August is “Commuter Solution” month  
Commuter Solutions Month congratulates our Commuter Solutions Program. The Commuter Solutions Program is one of the major strategies that create emission reduction that is entered into the SIP.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **1. Acknowledgements**

- a. James Larimore expressed his concerns for the committee to “Look at the Big Picture”.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**1. Upcoming Events**

- a. Best in Motion Leadership Awards will be held on August 19, 2010. The luncheon will be at the Hilton Americas (1600 Lamar Street, Houston) beginning at 11:30

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.

**ADJOURN:**

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 P.M.