

RAQPC Action Item Summary

RAQPC Bylaws: Article 2: Section 5

5. Receive public comment and assist in disseminating public information on air quality issues, plans, and programs.

Discussion:

RAQPC should continue to track and report on the progress towards accomplishing the necessary emissions reduction and other policy objectives needed to meet national air quality objectives. This can be accomplished with the cooperation of all regulatory agencies stakeholders participating in air quality improvement programs.

Summary:

The Air Quality Reference Guide (AQRG) is a RAQPC document that summarizes several air quality issues. It introduces the general public to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) emissions, the health risks associated with NAAQS emissions, the trends of the NAAQS emissions in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area, and programs used to reduce the NAAQS emissions. The AQRG also provides resources such as studies and organizations that are focused on NAAQS emissions and other air quality issues. Additionally, the AQRG contains a proactive section where the reader is encouraged to adopt behaviors that will help reduce NAAQS emissions.

The last AQRG update was in 2007, and several issues have changed in the past three years. A RAQPC Subcommittee, chaired by Laura Blackburn, League of Women Voters of the Houston Area, was comprised of representatives of the three categories of RAQPC Membership: Citizens and Environmental Organizations, Business and Industry, and Local Government. The subcommittee spent several months making decisions upon what issues needed to remain, and what new issues needed to be added to the AQRG. The subcommittee then compiled the information, and made several compromises as how to best present the material in an unbiased and factual manner. Finally, the subcommittee restructured the AQRG to make the document more “reader friendly”.

It is the subcommittee’s intent to reach RAQPC’s goal of having an approved AQRG ready to be released to the public by November 2010. Bringing the AQRG to the RAQPC Membership in August provides three months for the Membership to discuss, alter, and adopt the AQRG in order to meet the November goal.