

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 30, 2010 – 2:00P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Room A, Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Beskid (Via Phone)

Laura Blackburn

Arturo Blanco

Dana Blume

Pat Buzbee

Mike Lindsey (Alternate for Pat Buzbee)

Lisa Chisholm (Via Phone)

Steven Hansen

Dan Hoyt

Robert Lanham

Mark McClelland (Via Phone)

Stuart Mueller

Edmond J. Petry (Via Phone)

Ceil Price

Cynthia Redwine

Michael Schaffer

Shae Cottar (Alternate for Matthew Tejada)

Julie Woodard (Via Phone)

STAFF PRESENT:

Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)

Carrie Paige (EPA) (Via Phone)

Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)

Allison Carr (H-GAC)

Ben Finley (H-GAC)

Crystal Spencer (H-GAC)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Elena Craft

Catarina Gonzales-Cron

Melissa Hagan

Jim Lester

Lisa McMichael

Ronnie Schultz

Marise Textor

Dawn Steph

Jeff Suggs

Rakesh Tripathi

CALL TO ORDER:

1. **Chairman Robert Lanham officially called the meeting to order at 2:08 P.M.**
2. **Chairman Lanham welcomed all people in attendance.**
3. **Approval of the August 26, 2010 meeting summary.**
 - a. The August 26, 2010 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved with amendment.
 - i. Members Not Present – Arturo Blanco’s name correction
 - ii. TCEQ Update – Email Correction {in AQRG}
 - iii. Action Item B. – The motion to revise the AQRG to alter language regarding Effective Screen Levels (ESLs) was rejected and others approved.

AGENCY REPORTS:

1. **TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown (Via Phone)**

a. New TCEQ Website

The TCEQ’s SIP Web site has been reorganized to be more user friendly and has a new web address.

Please visit: www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/texas-sip

b. Informal Comments on NO₂ NAAQS

Informal comments on the new nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) designation recommendation will be accepted until October 1, 2010. Email comments to Margaret Earnest at mearnest@tceq.state.tx.us.

The commissioners will consider the 2010 NO₂ NAAQS designation recommendation at the November 12, 2010, work session.

State designation recommendations are due to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 10, 2011.

For more information, please see the NO₂ Web site at www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/texas-sip/criteria-pollutants/sip-no2

c. Written Comments on Ozone Nonattainment Boundaries and Designations

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 November 8, 2010.

For instructions on how to submit comments and updated information, please see the TCEQ's Web page www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/aqps/eighthour.html

d. Draft SIP Timeline

A draft SIP timeline, which reflects the ongoing SIP revision activities through 2013, is posted on the SIP Hot Topics Web page: <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/HotTop.html>

2. EPA Update – Ms. Carrie Paige (Via Phone)

a. Reconsideration of the 2008 Ground-level Ozone Standards

EPA expects to finalize the decision on revising the ozone standards on or about the end of October 2010. In conjunction with the final decision, EPA plans to propose regulations for implementing the standards.

More information on the proposal can be found at www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone (click on regulatory actions).

b. Proposals on Permitting Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

On September 2, EPA published two proposals regarding greenhouse gas (GHG) permitting regulations for large stationary sources in Texas and 12 other states.

In the first proposal, EPA proposes to find that Texas and the 12 other states need to revise their permitting regulations to cover GHG emission increases.

In the second proposal, EPA proposes a Federal Implementation Plan for States that are unable to revise their permitting regulations to address GHG emission increases.

More information can be found at www.epa.gov/nsr (under announcements, click on "Proposed Rules on Clean Air Act permitting for GHG Emissions").

c. Corrections to the Transport Rule Proposal

In September 14 Federal Register EPA published Corrections to the Transport Rule proposal, and it was published in the Federal Register on August 2, 2010. The preamble to the proposed Transport Rule contains minor, technical errors that EPA is correcting. In the portion of the preamble discussing in detail the proposed trading programs, EPA states that it is proposing

provisions that allow units to opt into these trading programs. Moreover, the proposed rule text for the Transport Rule includes detailed opt-in provisions for each proposed trading program.

However, two sentences in other portions of the Transport Rule preamble erroneously state that the proposed trading programs do not allow units to opt in. EPA is correcting the technical errors in the September 14 notice.

The deadline for receipt of comments on the proposed Transport Rule continues to be October 1, 2010, the same date set forth in the August 2, 2010 proposal. For additional information, see www.epa.gov/airtransport (click on regulatory actions).

3. Regional Ozone Update – Mr. Ben Finley in Mr. Claudio Galli’s absence

a. 8 Hour Ozone Standards

- i. The HGB area had 6 days of exceeding 8-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations and 7 days at the non-regulatory stations. The HGB area did not exceed the 1-hour ozone standard.
- ii. The Dallas-Fort Worth area exceeded the 8-hour ozone standard 5 days, and did not exceed the 1-hour standard.
- iii. The California South Coast area has had 17 days exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard. They have had 1 day exceeding the 1-hour standard.

PRESENTATIONS:

No presentation given.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Vote on approval of the Air Quality Reference Guide

- a. The motion to accept the Air Quality Reference Guide was seconded, and unanimously approved with no discussion.

2. Vote on Recommending H-GAC Board of Directors to Submit Comments to TCEQ Regarding Air Permits of Major Sources in Counties Neighboring the HGB Ozone Nonattainment Area

- a. Discussion of the letter prompted two changes; members added reference to public health considerations and changed “adjacent counties” to “counties neighboring.”
- b. The motion to vote on Recommending H-GAC Board of Directors to Submit Comments to TCEQ Regarding Air Permits of Major Sources in Counties Neighboring to the HGB Ozone Nonattainment Area was seconded, and unanimously approved with discussion.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Review of RAQPC Meeting Dates – Mr. Ben Finley

- a. H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Conference Room A from 2:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Thursday, September 30, 2010
Thursday, October 28, 2010
Thursday, December 2, 2010
Thursday, January 6, 2011
Thursday, January 27, 2011
Thursday, February 24, 2011
Thursday, March 31, 2011
Thursday, April 28, 2011
Thursday, May 26, 2011

2. H-GAC Update – Ms. Shelley Whitworth

a. Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles

H-GAC Board will help 6 entities replace 27 engines for a NOx reduction of 11.904 tpy.

b. TERP

Regional TERP will help Waller County replace 2 engines for a NOx reduction of 1.423 tpy.

c. H-GAC Board

H-GAC will hire a consultant to help update the 2040 RTP. EPA Drayage Loan Program will finance 14 trucks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a. Ms. Jenifer Powis with the Sierra Club stressed the importance that the letter Regarding Air Permits of Major Sources in Counties Neighboring the HGB Ozone Nonattainment Area is still timely. Ms. Powis emphasized that the letter should still be sent to TCEQ, despite TCEQ's recent permit approval for a new source right outside of the 8-county nonattainment. The purpose of the letter is to ask TCEQ to consider the impact of new sources near nonattainment areas because millions of dollars are spent to reach federal minimum air quality standards within the regions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. October 19 & 20, 2010 – EPA Annual National Clean Diesel Conference

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2010 at 2:00 P.M.**

ADJOURN:

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned at 2:59 P.M.