REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, July 26, 2018 – 2:00 P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027 (Meeting Held in Room 2B/C)

MEMBER PRESENT
Air Alliance Houston – Bakeyah Nelson
City of Houston – Loren Raun
City of Texas City – Gary Scooggin
ExxonMobil Corporation – Baytown – Sherman Hampton
Harris County Pollution Control – Bob Allen
The Dow Chemical Company – William Nipper

ALTERNATE PRESENT
American Lung Association – Paulette Wolfson
Harris County – Matt Van Vleck
Harris County – Ronnie James
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright

STAFF PRESENT
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Laurie Chandler
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shelley Whitworth
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Lola Brown
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality – Walker Williamson
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young

BRIEFING
Overview
a. The RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with the following: Reported U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Update, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Update, and the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update. Air Alliance Houston staff presented on the North Houston Highway Improvement Project Health Impact Assessment. H-GAC gave updates on the formation of a TERP Subcommittee and the PM 2.5 Subcommittee activity. The meeting concluded with listed announcements.

b. Go to http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS
ITEM 2.
a. EPA Update (Carl Young)
Two items were discussed: 1) Reclassification of Moderate Ozone Nonattainment Areas for 2008 Ozone Standard, and 2) Implementation of the 2015 Ozone Standard.
1. Houston Area is 81 parts per billion (ppb) 8-hour ozone design value which exceeds the 2008 ozone standard of 75 ppb. EPA is working on a Federal Register notice proposing reclassification of the Houston area and approximately 8 other Moderate ozone attainment areas that missed the 2008 ozone attainment deadline and did not qualify for a 1-year extension of the deadline. The notice would propose reclassification from Moderate to Serious.

2. EPA reported that 6 Houston area counties were classified as part of a Marginal nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb. The final rule designating nonattainment areas for the 2015 ozone standards was published in the Federal Register on Monday, June 4. The effective date of the final rule is August 3. The attainment deadline for the Houston area to meet the 2015 ozone standard is August 3, 2021.

b. TCEQ Update (Lola Brown, Walker Williamson)
TCEQ staff presented information on several programs: Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP); AirCheckTexas Drive a Clean Machine (DACM) Program; Infrastructure and Transport SIP Revisions for the 2015 Ozone Standard; and HGB One-Hour and 1997 Eight-Hour Ozone Redesignation and Maintenance Plan SIP. Highlights include:

- There are three TERP grant programs currently accepting applications and a few more may be opened for applications soon. To learn more visit www.terpgrants.org.
- The DACM Program is currently accepting applications for vehicle repair and replacement in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area. The DACM program provided $2.3 million in assistance, repairing 396 vehicles and retiring/replacing 660 vehicles in the HHGB area in third quarter of FY 2018 (March 1, 2018 through May 30, 2018).

- On August 8, 2018, the commission will consider adoption of two revisions to the Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). For more information visit [https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/criteria-pollutants/sip-ozone](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/criteria-pollutants/sip-ozone)

- In response to the D.C. Circuit Court’s February 16, 2018 opinion that vacated parts of United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) final 2008 ozone standard SIP requirements rule, including the redesignation substitute, TCEQ staff is developing a formal redesignation request and maintenance plan SIP revision for the revoked one-hour and the 1997 eight-hour ozone NAAQS to ensure federal antibacksliding requirements are addressed. This SIP revision is scheduled to be considered by the commission on September 5, 2018. If approved, the public comment period would open on September 7, 2018 and close on October 8, 2018. A public hearing would be held in Houston on October 8, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Texas Department of Transportation located at 7600 Washington Avenue.

c. **Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update** (Andrew DeCandis)

   Since the last meeting in June, there was one exceedance of the 2008 75 ppb ozone 8-hour standard. There were four exceedances of the 2015 70 ppb 8-hour standard, three of which occurred within the last week. The fourth highest design value was 81 ppb at the Baytown Garth monitor. There have been no 1-hour standard exceedances in 2018. African dust storms have been affecting regional PM 2.5 levels which can be seen in June’s numbers.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ITEM 4A. – North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) Health Impact Assessment**

(Bakeyah Nelson)

RAQPAC Member Bakeyah Nelson gave an overview of a project being undertaken by Air Alliance Houston to develop a Health Impact Assessment to determine the impact of air toxics on sensitive groups due to the upcoming North Houston Highway Improvement Project.

**ITEM 4B. – Formation of TERP Subcommittee** (Shelley Whitworth)

Shelley Whitworth discussed the formation of a subcommittee devoted to analyzing and developing recommendations regarding TERP in anticipation of the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session. An additional email will be sent out to RAQPAC next week with more information.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ITEM 5B. – PM 2.5 Subcommittee Update** (Andrew DeCandis)

Andrew discussed the status of the PM2.5 Advance Path Forward Report. This PM2.5 Subcommittee met on July 19 to continue work on the 2018 version of the report as well as discuss potential routes towards including new information in this year’s report. So far, the subcommittee has received revisions to several sections. Staff and committee members have also taken steps to reach out to potential new contributors in business and industry. It is hoped that a working draft of the PM2.5 report will be ready for distribution to the subcommittee on or about August 10th in preparation for the next subcommittee meeting on August 16th. Andrew hopes to distribute a draft of the final report to RAQPAC prior to the August meeting in advance of a request for final approval at the September RAQPAC meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ITEM 6A. – VW Beneficiary Plan**

Keep a look out for the release of the TCEQ-developed VW Settlement Beneficiary Plan. It is unclear when this will be finalized, but September 2018 is anticipated. A comment period will follow.

**ITEM 6B. – Texas Energy Summit**
The Texas Energy Summit was previously known as the CATEE Conference. This year the TES will be held at the Houston Galleria Hyatt Regency from September 24 to the 26. More information and registration can be found at: https://texasenergysummit.com/

**ITEM 6C. – TCEQ HGB SIP Redesignation Substitute Public Hearing**

It is anticipated that TCEQ will hold an HGB SIP Redesignation Substitute Public Hearing on October 8, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the TxDOT Auditorium, 7600 Washington Avenue.

Next Meeting August 30, 2018 (electing officers)

**Meeting Adjourned at approximately 3:05 P.M.**