REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, August 29, 2019 – 2:00 P. M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027
(Meeting Held – Second Floor, Agency Conference Room B/C)

MEMBER PRESENT
City of Houston – Win Colbert
Exxon Mobil Corporation – Sherman Hampton
Air Alliance Houston – Bakeyah Nelson
Metropolitan Transit Authority – Edmund Petry

ALTERNATE PRESENT
AGC of America – Marc Anderson
TxDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphreys
Greater Houston Partnership – Steven Will
America Lung Association – Paulette Wolfson

OTHERS PRESENT
Capital Assets – Steve Brown
CEC Houston – Ken Fountain
City of Houston – Nguyen Ly
Harris County – Kristen Lee
Harris County Pollution Control – Latrice Babin
TCEQ – Michael Honeycutt

STAFF PRESENT
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Graciela Lubertino
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington
TCEQ – Allison Stokes
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young

BRIEFING
Overview
   a. The RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA update, TCEQ update, Regional Air Quality Monitoring update); a series of discussion and information items were delivered; and the meeting concluded with no announcements.
   b. Go to http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-material.aspx to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER
ITEM 1A. Introductions
Sherman Hampton, RAQPAC Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summaries (02-28-2019, 04-25-2019, and 06-27-2019)
There were not enough members present to meet quorum. The meeting summaries will be revisited for approval at a future meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS
ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Carl Young)
A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) briefed the committee on four topics:

1. **Reclassification of Ozone Nonattainment Areas to Serious for the 2008 Ozone Standard**
   EPA continues to work on finalizing the reclassification of the Houston area, Dallas/Fort Worth, and five other ozone nonattainment areas to Serious that missed the 2008 ozone standard of 75 parts per billion. The effective date of the final rule is September 23, 2019.

   Based on air quality monitoring data for the years 2015-2017, these areas failed to attain the standard and did not qualify for a 1-year attainment date extension. The new date for these areas to attain the 2008 ozone...
standard of 75 parts per billion is July 20, 2021. EPA will use air quality monitoring data for the years 2018-2020 to determine if the area meets this deadline or qualifies for a 1-year attainment date extension.

In the Federal register notice, the final rule sets a deadline of August 3, 2020, as well as setting the deadline for new SIP submittals.

2. **Proposal on Project Emissions Accounting**
   On August 9 EPA proposed to clarify the process for evaluating whether the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program would apply to a major modification of a facility. This proposal would make it clear that both emissions increases and decreases from a major modification are to be considered during the NSR applicability test. This process is known as project emissions accounting or previously as project netting.

3. **Proposal on Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards**
   In 2008, EPA adopted Tier 4 emission standards for marine diesel engines used for certain high-speed commercial vessels. On August 26 a proposal was signed to amend the national marine diesel engine program to address concerns associated with finding and installing certified Tier 4 marine diesel engines in certain high-speed commercial vessels. Tier 4 engines continue to be unavailable. EPA proposes additional lead time for qualifying engines and vessels. The proposal also includes a waiver, which will allow continued installation of Tier 3 engines for certain vessels if suitable.

EPA is also proposing adjustments to the requirements for certifying marine diesel engines, especially as it relates to demonstrating the durability of emission controls, to promote certification of engines with high power density.

4. **Proposed Amendments to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the oil and natural gas industry**
   On August 28 a proposal was signed to amend the NSPS for the oil and gas industry. The goal for the proposal is to remove regulatory duplication, while maintaining health and environmental protection from oil and gas sources that EPA considers appropriate to regulate. The existing standards regulate ozone-forming volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and methane.

As an alternative, EPA is proposing to rescind the methane requirements that apply to all sources in the oil and natural gas industry, without removing any sources from the requirements for ozone forming VOCs.

**ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Alison Stokes)**

TCEQ staff gave an updates on various topics including the following:

1. **TCEQ Air Quality Division Staffing Announcements**- Steve Davis, Air Modeling & Data Analysis (AMDA) Section Manager, retired on July 31, 2019. Daphne McMurrer started as the new AMDA Section Manager on August 1, 2019.

2. **TCEQ Office of Air Reorganization**- The office of Air has created a new Grants Division, effective September 1, 2019. The Grants Division will be led by Mike Wilson, formerly the Air Permits Division Director, and will focus on the administration of the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) programs.

3. **Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)**- Applications rounds for the Light-Duty Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (LDPLIP) and the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP) are tentatively scheduled to open in fall 2019. The funds are being offered on a first-come, first serve basis until early 2021 or until all funds have been awarded. TERP will offer a work shop on how to apply for the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program throughout September. There will also be a free webinar hosted on October 1, 2019. TCEQ will conduct a stakeholder meeting to solicit informal comments on the implementation and administration of the new Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleet (GAFF) Grant Program. For more information visit the website [http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/terp_mtgs.html](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/terp/terp_mtgs.html).

4. **Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP)**- The TxVEMP program is currently accepting applications for the repower or replacement of school buses, transit buses, and shuttle vehicles.
buses. A summary of applications submitted to date and remaining funding by area is available at https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/implementation/air/terp/VW/TxVEMP_Buses_Statis.pdf

5. **HGB Serious Reclassification SIP Revisions for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS**-On August 23, 2019 the EPA published the final notice reclassifying the HGB nonattainment area from moderate to serious for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS. In anticipation of the reclassification, TCEQ staff developed attainment demonstration and reasonable further progress (RFP) SIP revisions. The SIP revisions are scheduled for proposal at the September 11, 2019 commissioner’s agenda. For more information visit the website at (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/Hottop.html).

6. **Quadrennial Rule Review**-On August 28, 2019, the TCEQ adopted the completed Rule Review of 30 TAC Chapter 118, Control of Air Pollution Episodes. This action is required by Texas Government Code, §2001.039, which requires a state agency to review and consider its rules for re adoption, re adoption with amendments, or repeal every four years. As a result of the review, the TCEQ finds that the reasons for adopting the rules continue to exist and if re-adoption of the rules is necessary.

**ITEM 2C. Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update** (Andrew DeCandis)

Andrew DeCandis gave an update since the last meeting in June, we had eighteen/eight nonattainment days of 75ppb two in July and one in August. Regarding the 70ppb standard we had two in June, July, and August. In August, we had one date that was our highest at 91. Our highest 8-hour average was 110. The current design value for the region remains at 78ppb for Houston Aldine. We reached the 4th highest at Balen Park at 80.79 at Mandelle Troy and 79 at Galveston 99th street monitor. Also, in June and August there were one each 1-hour ozone exceedance days. Our Clinton PM monitor average in June 12.04 pg/m3, July 11.16 pg/m3, and August 10.62 pg/m3.

Our design values still remain at 78, The annual and monthly average for the PM 2.5 measurements from last year look aligned with one another. There were only 4 or 5 days of monitoring in August for Deer Park. These days have not been our highest PM dates.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM 3A. RAQPAC Officer Elections**- (Sherman Hampton)

There were not enough members present to meet quorum. The officer elections will be revisited at a future meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ITEM 4A. Refinery Sector Rule Benzene Fence Line Monitoring** (Dr Michael Honeycutt, TCEQ)

Dr. Michael Honeycutt gave the committee an overview of the refinery back in 1995, when the EPA promulgated refinery MACT, which regulated a lot of activities at refineries. The rule was updated in 2009. In 2015, EPA completed a residual risk and technology review (RTR). Basically, this means you modeled the emissions after controls and see if you can do more.

Dr Honeycutt gave an overview of how some center point refineries work. It is involved in (5) main areas, which is air monitoring, air permitting, remediation risk assessment, toxicity factor development, and research. As well as, characterizing communication, human health risk, and providing objective data analysis for policy makers.

Dr Honeycutt advised the committee that setting up placement for monitoring is very meticulous You break a circle around the metal tube and every 70 degrees, you have to place a fence line monitor. The metal tube contains a resident that as the air passes over, it will absorb VOC’s out of the air. They are housed in a plastic top that is covered and exposed at the bottom. You can also attach it to a fence post. They stay out for two weeks continuously sampling the air. At the end of the sampling, a technician comes out and analyze the Benzene.

The Delta C is calculated, you take the lowest monitor value from the perimeter and subtract it from the highest monitor value for the two-week period. EPA provides the refineries a spreadsheet to plug the numbers in. If the value exceeds 900 grams cubic meter, then they are required to provide a cost analysis of what caused the exceedance and develop a corrective action plan to submit to their agency (within 45 days), and then implement the plan. All APWL determinations are reviewed.
ITEM 4B.  2018 PM 2.5 Path Forward Report Preview (Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC)
Andrew DeCandis gave the committee an update on the status of the 2018 PM$_{2.5}$ report. The update will focus on where we are and how we are doing with regional efforts to maintain PM$_{2.5}$ emissions under federally mandated limits. The EPA advance program is for regions that are not exceeding a NAAQS but potentially could do so in the future. The program is intended to help these potentially exceeding areas put together proactive solutions to try to reduce emissions, improve public health, and to remain in attainment over the long term. The regions who in this program commit to participate in the program for five-years and to submit an annual progress report on each of those years. This report, called a Path Forward in our region includes the status of PM$_{2.5}$ in the region, an overview of emission reduction implementation efforts by stakeholders, and, if possible, PM$_{2.5}$ monitoring results.

For this year’s report, we received feedback from several stakeholders including updates on existing project and additional information on new ones. The current draft is available, you can review and make suggestions and additions that have not yet been included in the report. We are looking to get the draft versions completed by the first week of September and sent to members for review. We are hoping to request final from RAQPAC at the September meeting and submit the final report to EPA sometime in October.

INFORMATION ITEMS
ITEM 5A. H-GAC Update (Andrew DeCandis, HGAC)
- In early August H-GAC’s Clean Vehicles Program conducted a Workshop. Thirty-five people attended. As a result of the workshop, people are interested in applying for funding.
- On the counter, HGAC, had flyers looking for applications for the (Parks and National Areas award). If you know of any projects that serve for models on how parks can improve the environment, please feel free to get involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ITEM 6A.
The committee members had no announcements.

Next meeting will be September 26, 2019

ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.