REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY
Thursday, October 31, 2019 – 2:00 P. M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027
(Meeting Held – Second Floor, Agency Conference Room A)

MEMBER PRESENT
City of Houston – Loren Hopkins
City of Texas City – Gary Scoggin
City of Houston – Win Colbert
The Dow Chemical Company – William Nipper
Houston METRO – Edmund Petry
Exxon Mobil Corporation – Sherman Hampton
Harris County – Kristen Lee
Houston Advanced Research Center – Mustapha Beydoun

ALTERNATE PRESENT
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphreys
American Lung Association – Paulette Wolfson
Associated General Contractors of America – Marc Anderson
Metropolitan Transit Authority – Vincent Sanders
Port of Houston Authority – Kenneth Gaithright
Greater Houston Partnership – Steven Will
TxDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
Houston METRO – Vincent Sanders

OTHERS PRESENT
Public Citizen – Stephanie Thomas
Harris County Pollution Control – Latrice Babin

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

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 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
Loren Hopkins, Chair, called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

The Chair, Loren Hopkins, entertained a motion to approve the meeting summaries. The meeting summaries were approved with no corrections.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Carl Young)
A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) briefed the committee on one topic:

1. Proposed Amendments to the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for the oil and natural gas industry-
In the September 24 Federal Register EPA published the proposal to amend the NSPS for the oil and natural gas industry. On October 17 EPA held a public hearing on the proposal in Dallas. The comment period ends
ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Alison Stokes)

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

1. **2020 Emissions Inventory Workshop**—Early registration for the 2020 Emissions Inventory Workshop opened on October 29, 2019. The workshop will be held on January 30, 2020 at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus in Austin. The workshop will cover updates for the 2019 reporting year, Web-EI reporting, applicability requirements, and common emissions sources. There will be a presentation from Emissions Banking and Trading on web submissions for applications. Additional information is available on Emissions Inventory Workshop webpage.

2. **Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)**—The Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP) opened on October 15, 2019 and will remain open for 16 months or until allocated funds have been awarded. The Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFP) is currently scheduled to open in Fall 2019. This is a competitive grant round with approximately $12 million in grant funds available. The grant round will remain open for around 4 months once the program opens. Keep updated on all programs by visiting the TERP website at www.terpgrants.org.

3. **Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP)**—The TxVEMP program opened a grant round for the repower or replacement of refuse vehicles on October 8, 2019. Vehicles eligible for funding in this grant round include the following: garbage trucks, recycling trucks, dump trucks, chipper trucks, street sweepers, and roll off trucks. Electric and hydrogen infrastructure may also be included in a grant application for charging and refueling all electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in the project.
   - Approximately $41 million in grant funds will be available under this round of funding.
   - Eligible projects will be processed for approval on a first come, first served basis.

   Visit www.txvwfund.org to stay updated on future grant rounds and to find eligibility requirements, grant materials, and project summary reports. Contact TxVEMP staff by phone at (832)215-TXVW (8989) or by email at VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov.

4. **HGB Serious Classification SIP and Rule Revisions for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS**—The TCEQ held a public hearing on October 14, 2019 regarding the HGB serious classification SIP and rule revisions for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS. The public comment period for both the SIP and rule revisions closed on October 28, 2019. The SIP revisions are scheduled to go to the commissioners' agenda for adoption on March 4, 2020.

5. **Quadrennial Rule Review**—On October 9, 2019, the commission will consider for adoption the Rule Review of 30 TAC Chapter 112, Control of Air Pollution from Sulfur Compounds. This action is required by Texas Government Code, S2001.039, which requires a state agency to review and consider its rules for re-adoption, re-adoption with amendments, or repeal every four years. For further information, please contact, Graham Bates, Air Quality Division, at (512) 239-2606 or graham.bates@tceq.texas.gov.

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

Andrew DeCandis gave an update since the last meeting, there have been one exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb standard and two exceedances of the 2015 70 ppb standard. At present, our regional design value is 81 ppb as measured at the Houston Aldine monitor. In addition to the 8-hour standards, since the August meeting there were no one-hour exceedances and so far in 2019 there have been two exceedances of the 1-hour standard. One in June and one in August.

Moving on, the PM2.5 average at the Clinton Road monitor in September was 7.72ug/m3. Finally, you can see the monthly average PM 2.5 concentrations at the six local regulatory monitors.

You will notice that the Houston Deer Park 2 monitor has been showing anomalously high values in August, and September have decreased to a normal expected value. As mentioned last month, this was a result in a change in sensor. I anticipate they will adjust the high numbers from August and September sometimes before the alterations are...
certified next year. Once this has been completed, the reported values will be adjusted to be comparable to the previous monitor.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM 3A. RAQPAC Officer Elections** (Loren Hopkins)
Chair, Loren Hopkins, entertained a motion to nominate officers by a vote.
1. Sherman Hampton-Chairman
2. Bakeyah Nelson-Vice Chairman

**ITEM 3B. 2019 PM2.5 Path Forward Report Approval Request** - (Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC)
Andrew DeCandis gave an update to the committee members on the final version PM 2.5 report, they started in May to put together a subcommittee of people, who would be willing to assist with updates to P.M. 2.5 path forward report. This report is done every year as part of our participation in EPA PM advance program. Its’ purpose is to help us better understand what is going on within our region. In efforts to help reduce particular matter pollution and other forms of pollution. Volunteers helped throughout the summer. We received updates from our major contributors, and I believe we made some good changes to this report.

In order to submit this report to the EPA, our request is for RAQPAC to accept this report and forward it to the Board of Directors and H-GAC Management for submittal to EPA. We need a motion to approve the report and recommend the report be submitted to EPA as part of the regions continued participation in PM 2.5 path forward program.

The Chair, Loren Hopkins, entertained a motion to approve the PM 2.5 path forward report and recommend the report be submitted to the EPA. The motion was approved with no corrections.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ITEM 4A. Overview of Harris County Pollution Control Plans** (Latrice Babin, Harris County Public Health)
Latrice Babin gave an overview to the committee on the history of Harris County pollution control. In 1953, as a mandate of commissioner’s court, because it had some environmental issues in the county. Harris County did not have any environmental rules as we do now, because those did not come into play until when the EPA was established in 1970. Harris County did use the English common law nuisance statute in the 1945 Texas sanitation law, which focused mainly on Health and comfort, and the well being of the citizen.

In 1970, we became an independent department called Harris County Pollution Control. About 1998, we were integrated into the health department as a division with environmental public health. In 2011, we became a stand-alone department again.

Latrice briefed the committee on the organizational structure, which as of now consist of:
- Administration-handles complaints
- Technical Service-review of permits
- Laboratory(handles analysis
- ER-Emergency Response
- Field-Air, Water, Complaints, and Solid Waste inspections
- Stormwater
- Compliance-Looks at all violations to move them forward if need to be in county attorney or district attorney’s office.

In addition, Latrice gave an overview of the routine tasks that are carried out by Harris County Pollution Control:
- Respond to citizen complaints
- Carry out routine and complaint investigations
- Review air quality permit applications and submit comments to TCEQ
- Conduct site reviews as part of the permit review process
- Conduct emission event investigations
- Make comments on TCEQ rule makings
- Make comments on proposed legislation and provide subject matter expert testimony as needed
- Participate on regional committees
- Harris County operates twelve (12) ozone monitoring networks as part of TCEQ’S statewide monitoring network
- Civil and criminal enforcement

So, how did some of the new initiatives come about? As a result, of some recent activities in the area, we had several events that have heightened the awareness of the community and our public officials. The ITC Fire, KMCO Explosion, Kirby Barge Collision, Exxon Explosion, Canal Barge Collision, and ITC Spill. The environmental community has become acutely aware there is something else that needs to be done.

We have been mandated through the Pensa Gap Report to manage monitoring capabilities and work with some other departments within Harris County. The goal is to make some of our responses better. Moving forward, there is a community monitoring plan that is being developed in pollution control and it is not just focusing on air, but also water and soil exposure as well.

To go into this, the appropriation of funds to utilize over the next 24 months, the commissioners court in September, granted Pollution Control $5.9 million to move forward on some of these projects. We noticed over the years we did not have a lot of growth nor funding available. This gives us the opportunity to increase our staffing by 29 staff members, which gives us 62 percent growth in a very short time. Three positions will be for monitoring and surveillance team, four new emergency response specialists, a team of communication specialist to assist with our activities, a toxicologist and Harris County lab staff is increasing.

Going into the monitoring strategy, one of the things we were asked to do is have a centralized area of current data. When citizens called to inquire, they will be sent to a centralized area to pull their data. This will also include our dash boards. Harris county toxicologist will focus on identifying prevailing toxins. We will also engage the Stakeholders to get their input and learn from them. Looking at the monitoring plan, we want to know what is going on during non-emergency days in order to prepare for emergency days to know the different exposures, to tell what they need to be concerned about. All of this is going to come with educating and talking with our community groups, and homeowner’s association. Our public relation person will detail a little more information sharing and get the message out.

Some of the new initiative are strengthening some of the things we already do. Looking at permits and increase facility inspections. Also, increase paperwork of facility inspections for waste dispositions. We have already completed comments on two Title V permits. The inspections are to she how the tanks are being maintained. This will help to decipher what might be escaping that is adding to our air quality issues. Additionally, there is a lot of concern about concrete batch facilities in the area. We are initiating a pilot to increase our inspections. We are placing PM monitors in those areas to see what is near those facilities. Then we are creating the compliance profile on some of those facilities.

To talk a little bit about our efforts, with unauthorized emissions, we are looking at a timely response to emerge notifications. We know that emergency notifications come out and then there may be something that is notified later that we need to go out and do an inspection or air quality monitoring. So, we are looking at those a little closer to see if there is something, we can do a little more proactively to cut the time we might need to respond.

Also, on the authorized emissions the Title V permits, we are increasing our facility visits before we move into enforcement. TCEQ usually has a meeting with subjects before actions are recommended. The meetings are monthly with CAO and DA office. Sometimes criminal charges and civil suit will be pursued, if needed.

In regard to compliance, if a subject is not coming into compliance, they are sent a violation notice. In 2018, the county attorney’s office had 6 referrals and 14 in 2019. The District attorney’s office had 2 in 2018 and as of September 30, we had 8 in 2019.
INFORMATION ITEMS
ITEM 5A. H-GAC Update (Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC)
Andrew DeCandis updated the committee on TCEQ second round of Volkswagen funding. It is available, if you need any assistance or have any questions about this, we will be glad to assist.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ITEM 6A.
H-GAC staff has been working with EVolve Houston, a new organization to help further the adoption of electrical vehicles here in the region. EVolve is hosting a fleet electrification workshop at University of Houston on Wednesday, November 6. The one day event will help fleet managers, suppliers, and stakeholders learn about electrical vehicle conversions. Attendees will be able to connect with suppliers as well as other organizations developing electrification activities. There will be speakers discussing topics such as: experiences and testimonials from electrified fleets, an environmental briefing, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, electric vehicle financing, and pilot project planning.

Next meeting will be held on December 12, 2019

ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.