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 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
Sherman Hampton called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summaries (10-31-19 and 12-12-2019)
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 these topics:

EPA action on the Houston Area Redesignation/Maintenance State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision for the Revoked 1-hour and 1997 8-hour Ozone Standards
On May 16 EPA published a proposal to:
• Determine that the Houston area is continuing to attain the 1979 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone air quality standards and has met the Clean Air Act criteria for redesignation.
• Approve the plan for maintaining the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards through 2032 in the Houston area.
• Terminate all anti-backsliding obligations for the Houston area for the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards.
• Approve the plan for maintaining the 1-hour and 1997 ozone standards through 2032 in the Houston area.
• Approve the Severe Ozone Nonattainment Area Failure to Attain Fee SIP revision to address section 185 of the CAA for the 1-hour ozone standard.

A final rule responding to the comments received on the proposal was signed on January 29. It’s been submitted for publication in the Federal Register.

Advanced Notice of Proposal Rulemaking for the Cleaner Trucks Initiative

On January 21, 2020, EPA published an Advanced Notice of Proposal Rulemaking (ANPR) soliciting pre-proposal comments on a rulemaking effort for the Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI).

This ANPR describes EPA’s plans for establishing new emission standards for oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and other pollutants for highway heavy-duty engines. It also describes opportunities to streamline and improve certification procedures to reduce costs for engine manufacturers. The comment period for the ANPR closes February 20, 2020.

More information is available on the regulations.gov website under docket EPA-HQ-QAR-2019-0055.

Request for Applications for Diesel Emission Reduction Projects

Nationally, EPA is soliciting applications for projects that significantly reduce diesel emissions and exposure, especially from fleets operating at goods movements facilities in areas designated as having poor air quality. Applicants may request funding to upgrade or replace diesel-powered buses, trucks, marine engines, locomotives and nonroad equipment with newer, cleaner technologies. Priority for funding will also be given to projects that engage and benefit local communities and applicants that demonstrate their ability to promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project has ended.

Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through the grants.gov website (www.grants.gov) no later than Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 10:59 pm (CT) to be considered for funding. Nationally, EPA anticipates awarding approximately $44 million for these projects.

More information on more information on the National Clean Diesel campaign is available at: www.epa.gov/cleandiesel.

ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Alison Stokes)

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

1. 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Emissions Inventory (EI) SIP Revision for the HGB, DFW, and Bexar County Nonattainment Areas
   • On November 20, 2019, the commission approved the proposal of the 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS EI SIP Revision for the HGB, DFW, and Bexar County Nonattainment Areas (Non-rule Project No. 2019-111-SIP-NR).
   • The public comment period closed on January 10, 2020.
   • The SIP revision is currently scheduled for adoption on June 10, 2020.
   • All SIP revision documents are available on the TCEQ’s Air Pollution from Ozone webpage (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/criteria-pollutants/sip-ozone). Keep updated by visiting the Hot Topics webpage (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/Hottop.html).
2. **Emissions Banking and Trading (EBT)**
   - Allowance trades for 2019 compliance with the Mass Emissions Cap and Trade (MECT) and Highly Reactive Volatile Organic Compounds CAP and Tract (HECT) Programs must be submitted no later than January 30, 2020. Trade requests submitted after this date will not be accepted. Trades must be submitted electronically through the [Ste of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System](https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/).

3. **Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property**
   - Tax Relief Applications for pollution control property use determination are due at the end of January in order to submit the use determinations to the appropriate county appraisal district for a tax exemption for 2020. More information can be found on the Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property website ([https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/taxrelief](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/taxrelief)). Questions can be directed to Elizabeth Sartain at (512) 239-3933 or Elizabeth.sartain@tceq.texas.gov or Nikki Clark at (512) 239-3931 or frances.clark@tceq.texas.gov.

4. **Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program**
   - Eastern Research Group, Inc will be conducting the 2020 I/M Program Fee Analysis beginning in January. A survey will be available to vehicle emissions inspections stations beginning in March 2020.
   - On January 1, 2020, tailpipe vehicle emissions inspections are no longer required as a part of the I/M program. On Board Diagnostics inspections are the only inspections type required as a part of the program going forward.

5. **Point Source Emissions Inventories**
   - The reporting year (RY) 2019-point source emissions inventories are due March 31, 2020.
   - In calendar year 2019, the EPA finalized nonattainment designations with a serious classification for the eight county Houston-Galveston Brazoria (HGB) area for the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS. This lowered the potential to emit (PTE) major source thresholds from 100 tons per year (tpy) to 50 tpy. If a site in the eight-county HGB area has the PTE 50 tpy of NOx for VOC, then the EI reporting thresholds are met and the 2019 EI is due March 31, 2020.
   - A [RY 2019 Emissions Inventory Reporting Requirements Map and Table](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/implementation/air/ie/pseiforms/reporting_map.pdf) is available online. Additional information on emissions inventories, including the 2019 Emissions Inventory Guidelines, 2020 Emissions Inventory Workshop presentations, status of the 2019 EI, and YouTube videos on web reporting are located on the TCEQ Point Source Emissions Inventory website ([https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/psei.html](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/psei.html)).

6. **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) opened on November 22, 2019. This is a competitive grant round with approximately $12 million in grant funds available. The grant round will remain open until March 18, 2020.
   - The Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY) is planning to open in February 2020. This is a first-come, first-served grant round with approximately $9.2 in grant funds available.
   - Keep updated on all programs by visiting the TERP website at [www.terpgrants.org](http://www.terpgrants.org).

7. **Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) Program**
   - The TxVEMP program opened a grant round for the repower or replacement of class 7 and 8 refuse vehicles on October 8, 2019. The grant round will close on October 8, 2020. Vehicles eligible for funding 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 or refueling all-electric or hydrogen-fuel cell vehicles in the project.
  o The Houston area has approximately $6.9 million in available funding.
  o Eligible projects will be processed for approval on a first-come, first-served basis.
• The TxVEMP program is planning to open a grant round for freight vehicles in early 2020. Vehicles eligible for funding this grant round include class 4 thru 7 local freight trucks and class 8 local freight trucks and port drayage trucks that transport freight. Electric and hydrogen infrastructure may also be included in a grant application for charging or refueling all-electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in the project.
  o Approximately $33 million in grant funds will be available under this round of funding.
  o 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 fined eligibility requirements, grant materials, and project summary reports.
• Contact TxVEMP staff by phone at (833) 215-TXVW (8989) or by email at VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov.

ITEM 2C. Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update (Andrew DeCandis)
Andrew DeCandis gave an update since the last meeting in December, there have been zero exceedances of both the 2008 75 ppb standard as well as the 2015 70ppb standard. Our final design value for 2019 was 81 ppb as measured at the Houston Aldine monitor. At present, the regional design value is 69 ppb as measured at the Houston Aldine monitor. In addition to the 8-hour standards, since the October meeting there were no one -hour exceedances. The final count for one-hour exceedances for 2019 was limited to two exceedances of the 1-hour standard. There have been no one -hour exceedances yet in 2020.

Moving on, the PM 2.5 average at the Clinton Road monitor in December was 10.28 ug/m3 and 9.04 so far in January. Additionally, you can see the monthly average PM 2.5 concentration at the six local regulatory monitors here within the region.

ACTION ITEMS
ITEM 3A. None

DISCUSSION ITEMS
ITEM 4A. Deep Learning for Air Quality Forecasting (Yunsoo Choi, University of Houston)
Dr Yunsoo Choi associated professor in the department of earth and atmospheric Sciences at University of Houston, discussed his work to apply artificial intelligence and deep learning to improve air quality forecasts in the Houston region. In his discussion of deep learning, the committee was made aware that if the ozone is high deep learning can focus on what contributed to this. As well as, deep learning can predict hurricanes and air quality. Without the data, deep learning cannot work.

INFORMATION ITEMS
ITEM 5A. H-GAC Update (Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC)
1. Andrew DeCandis updated the committee on Air Quality initiatives report that will talk about the works that have been done internally at H-GAC. As well as, how they have improved Air Quality. Discussion continued that the process would likely get started next week and the results from the report will be communicated to the committee in a couple of months.
2. The committee was notified that the P.M. 2.5 report was submitted and accepted by the EPA. This year report will begin in May.
3. The committee was informed that Houston-Galveston Area Council is in the process of doing the Annual Clean Cities questionnaire. All interested fleet operators that work with alternative fuels such as:
   • CNG
   • Compress natural gas

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• Propane
• Liquid natural gas
• Hydrogen
• Electric vehicles

H-GAC is interested in talking with fleet operators. Their feedback will allow H-GAC and Daily Sponsored Part Energy to have a better outlook for alternative fuel in the Houston region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ITEM 6A.

There were none.

Next meeting will be held on February 27, 2020

ADJOURNMENT
Meeting adjourned at 3:31 P.M.