

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, August 27, 2026 – 10:00 A.M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

<u>MEMBER'S PRESENT</u> Harris County – Winifred Hamilton City of Houston–Nguyen Ly Environmental Defense Fund–Grace Lewis ECHMA–Mary Jane Mudd Waller County–Brooke Bacuetes American Lung Association–Charlie Gagen Houston Advanced Research Center–Carlos Gamarra Harris County Precinct 2–Douglas Peterson TxDOT–Qing Li METRO–Vincent Sanders	<u>ALTERNATE PRESENT</u> Port Houston–Kennth Gathright Air Alliance Houston–Inyang Uwak City of LaPorte–Johnny Morales Harris County Pollution Control–Stuart Mueller METRO–Kenneth McGaughey
<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u> LungOrg – Maddie Blair LungOrg – Hannah Kochen Nopetro– Kevin Hyatt LWV Houston– Sabine Hodge Port Houston– Mustapha A. Beydoun Erin Connolly Xueying Zhang	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u> Houston-Galveston Area Council – Pharr Andrews Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall Houston-Galveston Area Council – Rania Mohamed Houston-Galveston Area Council –Ebrahim Eslami Houston-Galveston Area Council –Andrew DeCandis Houston-Galveston Area Council –Madeline Statkewicz Houston-Galveston Area Council –Jamila Owens Houston-Galveston Area Council –Ayo Jibowu Houston-Galveston Area Council –Keehren Baah Houston-Galveston Area Council –Brandon Mosley Houston-Galveston Area Council –Carlos Lugo Houston-Galveston Area Council –Bennie Chambers Houston-Galveston Area Council –Heather Meyers Houston-Galveston Area Council –Florence Buaku Houston-Galveston Area Council –Alan Rodenstein Houston-Galveston Area Council –Joshua Phillips Houston-Galveston Area Council –Kieu-Vi Vu Houston-Galveston Area Council –Delaney Nelson Houston-Galveston Area Council –Sara Delroshan Houston-Galveston Area Council –Thomas Koon Houston-Galveston Area Council –Jamik Alexander TERP– Ron Heiser TCEQ – Emily Wagoner TCEQ – Alison Stokes TCEQ – Vanessa De Arman TCEQ – Denine Calvin EPA – Jeff Riley

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (TCEQ Update, TERP Update, and Regional Air Quality Monitoring update), and the meeting concluded with information items and 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. Introduction

Grace Lewis called the meeting to order, and members were introduced.

ITEM 2A. Approval of Meeting Summary (1/29/2026, 02/26/2026, 03/26/2026, 04/30/2026, 05/28/2026 and 06/25/2026)

Meeting summaries were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 3A. EPA Update – (Jeff Riley, EPA)

Jeff Riley reviewed two legal matters involving EPA’s 2024 PM2.5 standard. The D.C. Circuit upheld the standard, while a Northern California District Court ordered EPA to complete area designations by February 6, 2027; potential appeal deadlines were identified for September 26 and September 17, respectively.

ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update – (Vanessa DeArman, TCEQ)

TCEQ staff gave an update to the members with the latest information:

Section 179B(b) Demonstrations for the HGB Ozone Nonattainment Area under the 2008 and 2015 Eight-Hour Ozone NAAQS Submitted to EPA

TCEQ submitted federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), §179B(b) demonstrations to EPA on July 2, 2026, for the HGB ozone nonattainment area under the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS.

TCEQ’s demonstrations present data and analyses to support the conclusion that the HGB ozone nonattainment area would have attained both the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS by the 2021 attainment dates “but for” emissions emanating from outside the U.S. Also, the area would have continued attaining the 2015 standard by the 2024 attainment date “but for” emissions emanating from outside the U.S.

For additional information and to access the demonstration documents, please visit the [TCEQ International Transport Demonstration](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/airmod/docs/international-transport) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/airmod/docs/international-transport>).

Senate Bill (SB) 2102 and SB 1729 Implementation and Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) SIP Revision and Rule Adopted by the Commission

On August 26, 2026, the commission adopted the SB 2102 and SB 1729 Implementation SIP and corresponding 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 114 rule revision. The I/M SIP revision (2026-004-SIP-NR) and rulemaking (2026-003-114-AI) fully implement the statutory requirements added by SB 2102, 88th Regular Session, and consolidated by SB 1729, 89th Regular Session.

For additional information, please visit the [Vehicle I/M Program](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/mobilesource/im.html) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/mobilesource/im.html>).

Proposed Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Guidance Document Revisions Rescheduled to September 23, 2026, Commissioners’ Agenda

SEPs are environmentally beneficial projects that a respondent agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action. Dollars directed to TCEQ-approved environmental projects may be used to offset assessed penalties in enforcement actions. The SEP Program’s Guidance Document was last revised in October 2015.

The [proposed revisions](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/compliance/enforcement/sep/gi-352-agenda-backup.pdf) to the SEP Guidance Document, originally scheduled for August 26, have been rescheduled to be considered at the September 23, 2026, Commissioners’ Agenda

(<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/compliance/enforcement/sep/gi-352-agenda-backup.pdf>).

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For additional information, please visit TCEQ's [SEP](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/compliance/enforcement/sep) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/compliance/enforcement/sep>).

Registration is Open for the Advanced Air Permitting Seminar on October 6, 2026

Registration has opened for the biennial Advanced Air Permitting Seminar. The Seminar will be held at the Commons Conference Center in Austin on October 6, 2026. It will be a hybrid event, giving attendees the option to attend virtually with the latest on EPA guidance, rules, and reporting topics.

For additional information and to register, please visit the [Advanced Air Permitting Seminar](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/air-permitting.html) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/air-permitting.html>).

Submit 2027 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA) Applications by September 4, 2026

TCEQ is currently accepting applications for the 2027 TEEA through September 4, 2026. Awarded by the Governor's Office and TCEQ for more than 30 years, the TEEA is an annual awards program that honors achievements in environmental preservation and protection.

For additional information and details on how to apply, please visit the [TEEA](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/>). For assistance or have questions, please contact Awards@tceq.texas.gov.

ITEM 2C. TERP Update- (*Ron Heiser, TERP*)

Since October 2025 (the past 10 months), TCEQ has successfully launched eight (8) grant programs: the Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (LDPLIP), the Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFP), the Texas Clean School Bus Program (TCSB), the Rebate Grants Program (Rebate), the Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG), the New Technology Implementation Grant Program (NTIG), the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP), and the Seaport and Rail Yard Area Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY). Of these eight grant programs, LDPLIP, AFFP, TCSB, and Rebate have closed the application submission periods.

Updates: The latest on new grant round openings and programs still accepting applications o The Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program (TNGVGP) is now open and accepting applications for funding on a first come/first served basis through October 20, 2026. The TNGVGP provides funding to cover up to 90% of the cost to replace or repower older heavy-duty vehicles with vehicles and engines powered by CNG, LNG, or LPG (\$30 million in funding is projected). The Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY) is now open and accepting applications on a first come/first served basis through March 12, 2027. The SPRY program provides grants for upgrading or replacing older drayage trucks and container handling equipment operating in seaports and rail yards in eligible Texas counties (\$24 million in available funding). o The Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG) will be closing soon. The program opened April 29 and will continue accepting applications for funding through September 4, 2026. ERIG is a specialized program that provides grants on a competitive basis in the Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties for locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, or select non-road equipment (\$62.8 million in available funding). The New Technology Implementation Grant Program (NTIG) will be closing soon. The program opened on May 20 and will continue accepting applications for funding through September 25, 2026. The NTIG program provides grants on a competitive basis statewide for eligible projects that reduce emissions from facilities and stationary sources, new technologies for oil and gas projects, and electricity storage projects (\$16.5 million in available funding). • **Coming Soon:** Update: The Texas Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicle, and Equipment Grant Program (THIVE) is expected to open late September 2026. THIVE will provide grants in Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties for hydrogen vehicles, equipment, and refueling infrastructure. TCEQ announced yesterday it will host a webinar for the THIVE program on Wednesday, September 16 at 2:00 PM. This informative webinar will include everything you need to know about the THIVE program. The webinar is free and open to the public. Registration is required to attend. Follow the link above to register for the webinar. More projected grant openings will be announced in the coming RAQPAC meetings as the rollouts become clearer. • Please visit the main TERP website to view Project Summary Reports for all grant programs, dating back to 2001. Also view the most recent Annual and Biennial Reports to the Texas Legislature. All reports can be found under the Reports & Publications dropdown menu at the top of the page; • Please visit the main TERP website to see all TERP Grant Programs and their respective eligibility requirements by selecting the 'Explore Grants' dropdown at the top of the page and choosing 'By Program Name'; • Sign up for the TERP Hot Topics email list to get the latest information on new program openings and other announcements by visiting the main TERP website and scrolling to the bottom of the page and selecting Subscribe. Contact TERP staff by phone at (800) 919-TERP (8377) or by email at

terp@tceq.texas.gov. Air Grants Division/TCEQ The TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program application period has been extended to August 31, 2026: Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) Program (No updates since last meeting) • The TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program still has approximately \$30 million in available funding to upgrade or replace qualifying vehicles and equipment operating in eligible areas with new electric models. Grants can reimburse up to: o 100% of the cost for government entities o 75% of the incremental cost for non-government entities • Eligible project categories include the replacement or repower of: o Class 8 Local Freight Trucks and Port Drayage Trucks o Class 4-8 School Bus, Shuttle Bus, or Transit Bus o Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks o Airport Ground Support Equipment o Forklifts and Port Cargo Handling Equipment o Applicants purchasing on-road vehicles or non-road equipment may request additional funding for electric charging or hydrogen refueling infrastructure. Sign up for TxVEMP updates to learn more about this program. Please contact us at 1-800-919-8377 or VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov with any questions. Visit www.txvwfund.org for the latest information and other announcements, as well as program requirements, application forms, and project summary reports. Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW) (New Updates Available below in the Upcoming Events section) • Background o May 8, 2024: TCEQ received \$134 million in grant funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) for Mitigating Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells (MCWs), overseen by the Department of Energy (DOE) / National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). • Program Description o TCEQ is implementing the MERP grant through TxMCW, a program that will cover the costs of measuring methane emissions at participating well sites and plugging those wells. o At an estimated \$60,000 and \$120,000 per well, TCEQ may award between 1,000 and 2,000 grants for qualifying wells in Texas over a four-year program period. • Upcoming Events o The TxMCW will soon release the Request for Grant Applications (RFGA). o The Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a vendor to do the methane measurements for potential eligible projects will be closing Monday, August 31, 2026, at 2:00 PM. o The TxMCW will be hosting a webinar that will include everything you need to know about participating in the Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW). Registration and attendance for this webinar is free and open to the public. Follow this link to register for the webinar: [registration link](#) Visit the TxMCW webpage for the latest program information, and sign up for updates to learn more about this program, or contact us directly via email, at TxMCW@tceq.texas.gov.

ITEM 2D. Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update– (Ebrahim Eslami, H-GAC)

Ebrahim Islami presented regional ozone conditions for July and August. August had higher ozone concentrations and more exceedances, which he associated with lower wind speeds, high temperatures, and increased traffic; Conroe and Erin were identified among the highest-monitoring locations. Ebrahim reported that August PM_{2.5} levels were about 10% lower than July levels, while some background monitors continued to show increases. He cautioned that the full-year trend remains uncertain because fire, prescribed-burning, and October seasonal effects have not yet been fully observed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. a. Uncovering Emissions in Complex Petrochemical Environments: Lessons from the Gulf Coast – B.H. Baek¹, Chi-Tsan Wang¹, Jia Xing^{1,2}, Marc Serre³, and William Vizueté³ (1George Mason University, 2 University of Tennessee, 3 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

The meeting focused on emerging research in environmental epidemiology, particularly the use of geospatial modeling and automated sensor technologies to better characterize pollen and air toxic exposures. The presenter discussed ongoing work using automated pollen sensors and dispersion, phenology, and machine learning models to generate high resolution pollen predications, as well as efforts to validate sensor measurements against traditional monitoring approaches. Potential applications include improving studies of pediatric respiratory health by addressing gaps in traditional pollen monitoring and developing community pollen alert systems. The presenter also highlighted ongoing modeling of air toxics such as benzene and related compounds in Harris County, with models providing higher spatial and temporal coverage than existing regulatory monitors. Overall, the work is still in an early stage, with future priorities focused on additional field measurements, validation, exposure assessment, and translating these models into tools that can support epidemiologic research and community health.

ITEM 4B. Air State of the Air report and our Houston air quality lung health initiative – (Charlie Gagen, Director, Advocacy Texas and Oklahoma American Lung Association)

The meeting included a presentation from the American Lung Association on its 2026 State of the Air report, highlighting Houston's continued challenges with ozone and particulate pollution and the associated health risks, particularly for children and individuals with chronic lung concerns. The presenters also introduced a Houston focused climate and lung health project supported by the CVS Health Foundation, which aims to improve community awareness and response to poor air quality through education, deployment of air quality sensors, and partnerships with community organizations and healthcare providers. Current efforts include placing sensors in high need Houston communities, educating patients and caregivers, developing air quality action plans and alerts, and expanding access to telehealth during unhealthy air days. The project is still developing in Houston, with opportunities for additional organizations to participate through the stakeholder committee and healthcare quality improvement activities.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ITEM 5A. Port Houston Sustainability Update

Will be given next meeting.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A. Updates from Members

None

H-GAC Information Items

ITEM 7A.

It was highlighted that the second upcoming annual Air Quality Summit, which will be held on October 8 at the University of Houston. The team expressed excitement about the event and noted that registration is currently open.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 8A.

Next meeting: September 24, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.