

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 25, 2007
H-GAC Conference Room A
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Airohudion (Alternate) (Phone), Catarina Cron-Gonzales, Dale Kornegay (Alternate), Paul Newman (Alternate), Mark Peak (Phone), Karl Pepple, Betin Santos, Ronald Schultz, Jeff Suggs, G. Michael White, Beth Whitehead (Phone), and Mary Ellen Whitworth

STAFF PRESENT:

Lola Brown (TCEQ), Andrew DeCandis (H-GAC), Jason Harris (TCEQ), Kelly Keel (TCEQ), Graciela Lubertino (H-GAC), Crystal Spencer (H-GAC), Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC), and Peggy Wade (EPA-Phone)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jed Anderson, Craig Beskid, Dana Blume, Rhonda Boyer, Don Brandon, Delvin Dennis, Dee Ann Haney, Steve Kilpatrick, Matthew Kuryla, Mark McClelland, Ruby Lee Sandars, Adam Smith, and Paulette Wolfson

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Ronald Schultz called the meeting to order.

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

September 27, 2007 meeting summaries was motioned, seconded, and approved.

AGENCY REPORTS:

TCEQ UPDATE – Lola Brown

Ms. Lola Brown began her update by announcing that TCEQ is continuing to work on the modeling development and waiting on EPA's reclassification proposal. The next Photochemical Modeling Committee meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2007. No questions or comments followed the update.

EPA UPDATE – Peggy Wade

Ms. Peggy Wade began her update with announcing that EPA is working on the Houston reclassification notice to complete the process of the SIP bump-up to severe. This should be completed sometime during the month of November. Ms. Wade announced that today is her last day with EPA; Carl Young will be her replacement. No questions or comments followed the update.

AMENDED CONFORMITY FOR 2035 RTP UPDATE – Graciela Lubertino

Ms. Graciela Lubertino began her update with announcing that the 2035 RTP was amended due to changes in project listings from TxDOT. The air quality analysis shows that the 2019, 2025 and 2035 forecasts were affected by these changes. The original and updated conformity are waiting to be approved. Please go to www.2035plan.org for more information. No questions or comments followed the update.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

It was decided to postpone this election until a later meeting of RAQPC.

NO-IDLING RESOLUTION – Betin Santos

Ms. Betin Santos began her discussion by reviewing the No-Idling Resolution. This resolution was reviewed by RAQPC at the October meeting but was tabled for further discussion. Santos addressed questions and concerns regarding the No-Idling Resolution. Ms. Santos explained that the document was a "sample" resolution that

school districts can use as a basis for crafting a customized resolution for themselves. As a result, the resolution provides the most comprehensive idling reduction effort you can have where all vehicles at a school would be subject to a no-idling policy. Individual school districts would be responsible for determining the scope and method of enforcement of their individual policy. It was suggested and agreed to include a Sample No-Idling Resolution with cars and one without cars, and make the distinction in the supporting letter. The Committee will work on the letter, check the facts, and have two resolutions. Then, the Committee will approve and the executive committee will do the final approval before the next meeting. It was voted, second, all in favor to approve the subject to checking the facts, adding the second resolution as an option and clarifying the resolution sources.

PROPANE RETROFIT TECHNOLOGY FOR FORKLIFTS – Kathi Harris, Emisstar

(Please refer to handout) Ms. Harris spoke on an idea for reducing emissions through retrofitting forklifts to run on liquid petroleum gas (LPG). The focus of the presentation is Mobile Emissions Technology, Policy and Implementation. Ms. Harris spoke on the technology and implementation involved in the retrofitting of forklifts to use LPG. Additionally, she discussed the emissions benefits of the retrofits and suggested that RAQPC could assist in the implementation of funding for LPG forklift retrofits within the TERP program by submitting a letter of support on this subject to TCEQ. Several questions and comments regarding funding issues, TCEQ's response, and technicalities were discussed. Emisstar will submit a formal letter of response from TCEQ to the committee. The formal letter of response will be forwarded to the committee members for comments and the comments will be submitted to the executive committee.

PRESENTATIONS:

TOP TEN FINDINGS FROM THE TEXAQS II RAPID SCIENCE SYNTHESIS – Alex Cuclis, HARC

(Please refer to handout) Mr. Cuclis spoke on the major findings of the recent TexAQS II study. These findings include the following: 1.) background ozone can be higher than 85 ppb, but it's usually about 50 ppb; 2.) "Background ozone" may include recirculated pollution; 3.) industry should use the latest versions of both the Carbon Bond and SAPRC chemical mechanisms when testing control strategies; 4.) Industrial emissions lead to high HRVOCs and NO_x plume(s) which lead to rapid & efficient ozone formation which lead to plume(s) of high ozone which, in combination with a coastal wind shift, can lead to "transient" high ozone concentrations; 5.) power plant NO_x emissions have decreased substantially since 2000, thus it is possible to say that the CEMS-based emission estimates are accurate; 6.) there are discrepancies between observed mobile CO/NO_x and estimated mobile emissions; 7.) secondary HCHO leads to primary HCHO; 8.) for both Houston and Dallas, local contributions to eight-hour ozone exceedances equal the regional contributions to the eight-hour ozone exceedances; 9.) ethene concentrations have decreased by about 40% since 2000; and 10.) measurements of ethene emission fluxes from petrochemical facilities during TexAQS 2006 indicate that the 2004 TCEQ point source database underestimates these 2006 emissions by one to two orders of magnitude. The presentation was concluded with several charts and improving emissions estimates. Brief questions and comments followed the presentation.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

H-GAC DIRECTION – Shelley Whitworth

Ms. Shelly Whitworth began by informing the committee that H-GAC has begun working with Environ with the on-road local control strategies. Also, the outreach staff is currently working with some of the school districts regarding retrofits and replacements for school busses. The Telework Roundtable and Breakfast event was held Wednesday, October 24, 2007. The telework program is estimated at 1,500 participants; the participants are expected to increase within the next few months as new companies join the program. The SEP control strategies have meet the 2007 requirements. The control strategies for 2009 were submitted as SIP revisions to EPA, we are waiting for a response on our status. No questions or comments followed the presentation.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Karl Pepple

Mr. Karl Pepple began by stating that different groups are looking at software to help analyze the cost ratio of some of the control strategies. Environ is doing analysis in other regions of the list that should be applicable to our region as far as emissions of other pollutants. The policy subcommittee will stop meeting on the analysis until all data is compiled. No questions or comments followed the presentation.

AIR QUALITY REPORT – Jason Harris

(Please refer to handout.) Mr. Jason Harris delivered the Houston Air Quality Report.

- Thus far in calendar year 2007, the Houston-Galveston area has experienced 27 days with at least one monitor in exceedance of the eight-hour standard and 9 days with an exceedance of the one-hour standard. The highest eight-hour average concentration (112 ppb) occurred on May 15 at the Crosby Library monitor. The highest one-hour reading (166 ppb) was on May 14 at the LaPorte Sylvan Beach monitor. October 3 is the most recent day with eight hour ozone levels in excess of 105 ppb.
- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), in the Los Angeles area, has recorded 78 eight-hour exceedance days thus far in 2007 with an eight hour average of 137.8 ppb on July 1 (including a one-hour peak of 171 ppb). For the month of July, the South Coast AQMD had only 9 days which did not exceed the eight-hour standard.

Brief comments and questions followed the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Hearing on TERP Guidelines Revisions, H-GAC Room A, 1:30 PM, November 5, 2007

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.

ADJOURN

- If you have an item you wish to be added to the agenda for a future meeting, please e-mail Andrew DeCandis at andrew.decandis@h-gac.com.