

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, May 29, 2008
H-GAC Conference Room A
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jed Anderson, Catarina Cron, Stacie Henderson (Alternate), Robert Lanham, Paul Newman (Alternate), Karl Pepple, Betin Santos, G. Michael White, Beth Whitehead, and Paulette Wolfson

STAFF PRESENT:

Kelli Angelone (H-GAC), Lola Brown (TCEQ), Andrew DeCandis (H-GAC), Ashley Forbes (TCEQ), Graciela Lubertino (H-GAC), Christine Smith (H-GAC), Crystal Spencer (H-GAC), Diana Sullivan (TCEQ), and Carl Young (EPA)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Craig Beskid, Dana Blume, Rhonda Boyer, Dee Ann Haney, Steve Kilpatrick, Matthew Kuryla, Mark Peak, Sandra Pickett, Ruby Lee Sanders, Ronald Schultz, Jeff Suggs, and Mary Ellen Whitworth

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Betin Santos called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for attending.

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

Due to a lack of quorum, no previous meeting minutes were approved.

AGENCY REPORTS:

TCEQ UPDATE – *Lola Brown, TCEQ*

Ms. Lola Brown began her update by reporting that TCEQ had an initial Stakeholder meeting for the 8-hour ozone SIP on March 25 & 26, 2008. At this meeting, TCEQ requested informal comments on the technical, economical feasibility, and potential control strategies modifications on alternatives for specific control strategies on SEP's. TCEQ received comments are posted on the website for the stakeholder group. Also, future stakeholder meeting notices will be posted on the website. Ms. Brown continued her update by announcing the various workgroup meetings and stakeholder meetings TCEQ participated in. The immediate logical modeling and emission modeling processing had been developed for 3 exceedence episodes in 2005. Preliminary modeling and emission modeling processing had been developed for a June 2006 episode which occurred before the intensive period of the TxAQS II field study. The first round of photochemical modeling is scheduled to be presented at the stakeholder technical committee in June 11, 2008. TCEQ is currently developing and analyzing potential control strategies. Brief questions and comments followed the update.

EPA UPDATE – *Carl Young, EPA*

Mr. Carl Young began his update with mentioning that on March 27, 2008 EPA published their final notice on the revised 8-hour ozone standard from .08ppb to .075ppb and the effective date was May 27, 2008. EPA should receive state recommendations on non-attainment areas a year from March 12, 2009. EPA needs to make their final decision on destinations on the ozone standards March 12, 2010 to start a 3-year clock for the implementation plans will be due to EPA on March 12, 2013. The attainment date for each will occur between March 2013 and March 2030 depending upon the severity of the problem. Mr. Young continued his update with EPA's proposal for revised lead standard air quality was published as of May 20 in Federal Register. The final EPA decision is expected by September 15, 2008 on the proposal to revise the standard. EPA's May 20th proposal starts with a 30 day comment period. The Houston reclassification was requested by Governor Perry to reclassify the Houston area to severe ozone non-attainment. It is expected that the reclassification will be published in the Federal Register by June 30, 2008. Mr. Young concluded his presentation with stating the emission rule for

locomotive engines and marine engines was published on May 6, 2008 in the Federal Register. Brief questions or comments followed the update.

PRESENTATIONS:

THE AIR QUALITY BENEFITS OF COORDINATING LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION – Meredith Dang, H-GAC

Ms. Meredith Dang delivered her presentation “Livable Centers: a Strategy for Sustainable Mobility”. Ms. Dang spoke on topics such as: 1.) Sustainable Mobility? 2.) The 2035 Houston-Galveston Regional Transportation Plan 3.) Paradigm Shift 4.) Centers and Connections 5.) Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled per Employee 6.) Centers and Transit 7.) Types of Centers 8.) Measuring Impacts 9.) Trip Changes 10.) VMT Reductions 11.) Emissions Reductions 12.) H-GAC Livable Centers Project: 2008-2011 TIP 13.) Livable Centers: Uptown 14.) Sustainable Mobility

The presentation included several charts, maps and studies. Should you have questions regarding this presentation you can contact Meredith Dang at meredith.dang@h-gac.com or (713) 993-2443. Comments and questions followed the presentation.

THE STATE OF THE AIR REPORT – Betin Santos, Houston Clean Air for Life Campaign

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Betin Santos delivered her presentation “State of the Air: 2008 Report” on behalf of Ms. Soleil Manzo with American Lung Association. Ms. Betin Santos spoke briefly on important findings such as: 1.) 42% of US citizens are in counties that have unhealthy levels of ozone rpm. 2.) 30.4 million people live in 18 counties that has unhealthy levels of ozone and short term pm annual levels of pm. 3.) Houston ranked 4th of the 25 most ozone polluted cities in the US. 4.) The State of the Air: 2008 Report was published before the new ozone standard was activated. 5.) The Texas Harris County Report Card data information was provided from EPA’s air quality system and 2 outside consultants. 6.) The State of the Air: 2008 Report calculated years 2004, 2005 & 2006. 7.) The methodology for the report data information starts on page 51. 8.) The Ozone Grade “F” is calculated as non-attainment, quantity of red day, orange days and etc. 9.) The American Lung Association is not just looking at standards and levels; but people and environmental health.

The presentation handout included several charts, tables and studies. Comments and questions followed the presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ON-ROAD AND OFF-ROAD MOBILE CONTROL STRATEGIES UPDATE – POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – Karl Pepple, The City of Houston

Mr. Karl Pepple began the discussion with a quick overview. A lively exchange followed.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

H-GAC DIRECTION – Graciela Lubertino, H-GAC

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Graciela Lubertino began by informing the committee that H-GAC is currently working on: 1.) The Timeline Mobile Source SIP Control Strategies 2.) The 2008 Advancing the Choice Conference will be held at the Stafford Center in Stafford Texas on June 18, 2008. 3.) H-GAC is working on many different levels of conformities.

No questions and comments followed this information item.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Karl Pepple, City of Houston

Mr. Karl Pepple communicated his update and concerns previously in this meeting. No questions and comments followed this information item.

AIR QUALITY REPORT – Diana Sullivan, TCEQ

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Diana Sullivan delivered the Houston Air Quality Report.

- For year 2008 to date, the Houston/Galveston non-attainment area as experienced 6 days with at least one monitor in exceedance of the new 8 hour stand (>75 ppb) and no days in exceedance of the one hour

standard (>125 ppb). These exceedances were monitored at the 26 monitoring stations that meet the EPA regulatory requirements.

The highest eight hour average concentration (86 ppb) occurred on May 8, 2008 at the Wallisville monitor.

TCEQ Ozone data: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/data/ozone_data.html

- The calendar year 2007 and 2008 year-to-date California South Coast Air Basin Ozone Summaries are attached.
 1. 2007 8-hour >85 ppb = 79 days
 2. 2008 8-hour >75 ppb = 19 days
 3. 2008 1-hour >125 ppb = 2 days

Brief comments and questions followed the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No Public Comments announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- No Announcements.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2008 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.