

# **REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, March 27, 2008  
H-GAC Conference Room A  
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor  
Houston, Texas 77027

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate), Jed Anderson, Roben Armstrong (Alternate), Dana Blume, Catarina Cron, Steve Kilpatrick, Robert Lanham, Mark McClelland (Alternate), Paul Newman (Alternate), Karl Pepple, Betin Santos, Ronald Schultz, G. Michael White, Beth Whitehead, Mary Ellen Whitworth, and Paulette Wolfson

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Kelli Angelone (H-GAC), Andrew DeCandis (H-GAC), Graciela Lubertino (H-GAC), Rebecca Rentz (TCEQ), Diana Sullivan (TCEQ), and Carl Young (EPA)

### **MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Craig Beskid, Dee Ann Haney, Matthew Kuryla, Mark Peak, Sandra Pickett, Ruby Lee Sanders, Adam Smith, and Jeff Suggs

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Ms. Dana Blume called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

### **APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY**

February 21, 2008 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

#### **TCEQ UPDATE – Rebecca Rentz**

Ms. Rebecca Rentz began her update by reporting briefly on recent State Implementation Plan (SIP) meetings that have occurred within the region. TCEQ held a stakeholder meeting at the City of Houston City Council Chambers on March 25 and 26, 2008. The stakeholder meeting explained the modeling process, current SIP status, information about the course of the next year. TCEQ has already evaluated some control strategies internally over the past few months. Informal comments are due by the end of April 2008. Ms. Rentz requested to know what stakeholder groups, specific control strategies, and general topics the committee would like to see go forward over the next year. An Air Quality Forum was held in Jacinto City on March 26, 2008. Brief questions and comments followed the update.

#### **EPA UPDATE – Carl Young**

Mr. Carl Young began his update by mentioning that this has been a busy month for EPA. EPA's administrator, Steven Johnson, signed a rule establishing a new 8-hour rule ozone standard on March 12, 2008. The rule was published in the Federal Register and you can view it at [www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone](http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone). Mr. Young read part of the Federal Register regarding Implementation Relating to Control Requirements (Page 16,503). EPA's administrator, Steven Johnson, signed a rule regarding diesel emissions and marine engines from local divisions on March 14, 2008. The rule was published in the newspapers and fact sheets can be seen at [www.epa.gov/otaq](http://www.epa.gov/otaq). Brief questions or comments followed the update.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **LETTER IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR THE MICKEY LELAND NATIONAL URBAN AIR TOXICS RESEARCH CENTER – Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC**

Mr. Andrew DeCandis began the discussion with a quick overview of the action to date. The RAQPC committee is requested to endorse a Letter of Support of Funding for the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center, and then H-GAC Board of Directors will endorse the letter. The RAQPC committee members think the

Letter of Support is a great idea; this is a win-win opportunity. Concerns regarding endorsement procedures and independent actions were questioned. The committee made minimum revisions to the Letter of Support.

The Letter of Support of Funding for the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center was motioned and all were in favor.

### **PRESENTATION:**

#### **A FUEL ECONOMY STUDY FOR HARRIS COUNTY – *Graciela Lubertino, H-GAC***

*(Please refer to handout.)* Ms. Graciela Lubertino delivered her presentation with a PowerPoint Presentation. Ms. Lubertino spoke on topics such as: 1.) Reason for Study 2.) Calculation Methodology-Inputs 3.) Relation between 16 Composite and 28 Disaggregated Vehicle Classes 4.) Methodology 5.) Hourly VMT and Fuel Economy 6.) Fuel Consumption and Fuel Economy for the Four Time Periods 7.) Daily Fuel Consumption by Time Period 8.) Daily Fuel Consumption and Fuel Economy for Each of the Aggregated Roadway Types 9.) Daily Fuel Consumption by Roadway Type 10.) Daily Fuel Consumption by Aggregated Vehicle Classes 11.) Daily Fuel Consumption by Vehicle Type 12.) Conclusions 13.) Conclusions on 2002 and 2009 Results 14.) further Conclusions 15.) Recommendations

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

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **H-GAC DIRECTION – *Graciela Lubertino, H-GAC***

Ms. Graciela Lubertino began by informing the committee that H-GAC is currently working on: 1.) The amendment to their conformity due to METRO alignment adjustments. 2.) The Air Quality Report to advertise all of the Air Quality Projects with the agency. 3.) Control strategies for on-road and off-road for the next coming up SIP. 4.) Conforming a 2008 TCM/VMEP Developing Working Group. On March 26, 2008, the Commute Solution group was recognized by Commissioner Adrian Garcia at the Air Quality Forum in Jacinto City for their hard work. No questions and comments followed the presentation.

#### **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – *Karl Pepple, City of Houston***

Mr. Karl Pepple began his report by informing the committee that the next Policy Subcommittee is scheduled for immediately after this current RSQPC meeting. The committee is in the process of going through the list of 630 control measures to make sure the P, Q, S & E status haven't changed, and see if any of them needs to be put forth as of recommendation for a short list to submit to H-GAC Board. The committee is currently addressing on-road, then next off-road. No questions and comments followed the presentation.

#### **AIR QUALITY REPORT – *Diana Sullivan, TCEQ***

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

- In calendar year 2007, the Houston/Galveston non-attainment area has experienced 26 days with at least one monitor in exceedance of the eight hour standard and 9 days in exceedance of the one hour standard. These exceedances were monitored at the 26 monitoring stations that meet the EPA regulatory requirements.
- The Houston/Galveston area has not experienced any exceedances of either of the eight hour or one hour standard so far this year.
- In 2007, the South Coast Air Basin AQMD (Los Angeles area) has recorded 20 eight hour exceedance days over the national eight hour standard and 33 days over the one hour state standard.
- In 2008, the South Coast Air Basin AQMD (Los Angeles area) has recorded 2 eight hour exceedance days over the national eight hour standard and no days over the one hour state standard.

Brief comments and questions followed the report.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- No Public Comments announced.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Advanced notice of propose role making regarding the Greenhouse Gas Regulations.
- Steve Kilpatrick will soon retire and step down from the RAQPC committee.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 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](mailto:andrew.decandis@h-gac.com).