

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 31, 2008
H-GAC Conference Room A
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor
Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate), Rhonda Boyer, Elena Craft, Catarina Cron, Dan Holt, Dale Kornegay (Alternate), Robert Lanham, Larry Mann, Mark McClelland (Alternate), Paul Newman (Alternate), Snehal Patel, Ronald Schultz, Matthew Tejada, G. Michael White, Beth Whitehead, Mary Ellen Whitworth, Paulette Wolfson, and Julie Woodard

STAFF PRESENT:

Lola Brown (TCEQ), Andrew DeCandis (H-GAC), Ashley Forbes (TCEQ), Zarena Post (TCEQ), Christine Smith (H-GAC), Crystal Spencer (H-GAC), Diana Sullivan (TCEQ), and Carl Young (EPA)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jed Anderson, Craig Beskid, Dana Blume, Sarah Drailing, Dee Ann Haney, Bud Karachiwala, Karl Pepple, Matthew Kuryla, Mark Peak, Sandra Pickett, Ruby Lee Sanders, Betin Santos, Ronald Schultz, Adam Smith, and Jeff Suggs

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Catarina Cron called the meeting to order and all members were welcomed for attending.

APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

May 29, 2008 and June 29, 2008 meeting summaries were motioned, seconded, and approved.

AGENCY REPORTS:

TCEQ UPDATE – Lola Brown, TCEQ

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Lola Brown began her update by reporting that TCEQ is participating in stakeholder meetings with H-GAC to support the creation of the 8-hour ozone attainment State Implementation Plan (SIP). TCEQ attended the Local Control Strategies for On-Road and Off-Road Mobile Sources Public Meeting in July. Also, TCEQ participated by phone in the First TCM/VMEP Working Group Meeting on July 22, 2008. TCEQ Small Business and Local Government Assistance Division held a SIP briefing for small local governments at H-GAC. TCEQ has a cross analysis of HRVOC Controls on Plants and Flares Project is being done by ENVIRON. The purpose of this study is to perform an analysis of the cost of controlling emissions of compounds from production plants and cost to further reduce HRVOC emissions from flaring by reducing the quantity of HRVOC's rather to the flares. The study also includes a cost analysis of HRVOCs as they relate to flares. TCEQ's designation recommendation has held informal meetings throughout the state and all comments must be submitted to TCEQ by September 05, 2008. TCEQ team will evaluate and review all comments received in accordance with EPA's guidance using the eleven factors which is tentative scheduled for October 31, 2008. The states designation recommendations regarding the New Eight-Hour Standard are due to EPA no later than March 12, 2009. Ms. Brown distributed and explained the handout of TCEQ's Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Area Eight-Hour Ozone Attainment Demonstration SIP Submission Timeline Draft. Ms. Brown noted that as of September 01, 2008 Kelly Keel will be the Division Director of the TCEQ's new Water Quality Planning Division. No questions or comments followed Ms. Brown's update report.

EPA UPDATE – Carl Young, EPA

Mr. Carl Young began his update with talking about the reclassification of the Houston area. A final decision was not made with reclassifying the Houston area regarding ozone nonattainment area in the federal register notice. EPA received input from the office of general council in Washington for document revisions and general

comments. The final document will include the final decision, reclassify the area, and set the date for submitting revised SIP condition and proposal comments. Mr. Young spoke on the advance notice of proposal for rulemaking on greenhouse gases; the published notice is available on the internet now. The comment period is open until November 28, 2008. Mr. Young also spoke on a recent court decision on the Clean Air Interstate Rule. EPA issued the Clean Air Interstate Rule to strive to produce interstate transport emissions that are contributing to nonattainment, ozone standard, and particulate standard in the eastern United States. EPA received a court decision on July 11, 2008 to vacate both the Clean Interstate Rule and also the Federal Implementation Plan. EPA is currently reviewing the court decision to determine an appropriate action. No questions or comments followed Mr. Young's update report.

PRESENTATION:

HGB OZONE SIP MODELING OVERVIEW – *Zarena Post, TCEQ*

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Zarena Post delivered her presentation "HGB Ozone SIP Modeling Overview". Ms. Post spoke on information such as: 1.) Why Model Ozone? 2.) Ozone Formation 3.) CAMx Modeling Inputs 4.) CAMx Ozone Modeling in SIP Development 5.) Base Case – Historical Episode Replication 6.) Features of 8-Hour Ozone Modeling 7.) Ozone Meteorology 8.) Houston Monitors with High Design Values 2005-2007 9.) Sources of Precursor Chemicals 10.) Emissions Inventory Categories 11.) Inputs Combined into One Model 12.) Photochemical Grid Models 13.) CAMx Modeling Domain 14.) TexAQS II Modeling Episodes 15.) Goal of Ozone Modeling. The presentation included several charts, maps and studies. No comments or questions followed Ms. Post's presentation.

MOBILE SOURCE CONTROL MEASURES (DRAFT) – *Chris Lindhjem, ENVIRON International*

(Please refer to handout.) Mr. Chris Lindhjem delivered his presentation "Mobile Source Control Measures (Draft)". Mr. Lindhjem spoke on information such as: 1.) Purpose of Study 2.) Study Initiation 3.) Qualitative Evaluation 4.) Measures Evaluation. The presentation included several studies. Comments and questions followed Mr. Lindhjem's presentation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

RECOMMENDATION TO H-GAC BOARD REGARDING ON- AND OFF-ROAD MOBILE CONTROL STRATEGIES LIST – *Shelley Whitworth, H-GAC*

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Shelley Whitworth began the discussion with informing the committee that the next H-GAC Board meeting is August 19, 2008, but the items must be posted on the agenda within the next week. It was recommended for the committee to review the draft material then arrange a conference call to discuss all decisions. The handout material consists of the long list and the long list will produce the short list. The recommendation to submit the Final Draft Mobile Source Master Control Strategy List and qualitative analysis to the H-GAC Board of Directors for acceptance and submittal to TCEQ. The recommendation was motioned, seconded, and approved.

COMMENTS ON TCEQ PROPOSED HGB NON-ATTAINMENT AREA EXPANSION – *Shelley Whitworth, H-GAC*

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Shelley Whitworth began the discussion with stating that TCEQ mentioned that they are seeking comments on the geographic designation for the new 2008 Eight-Hour Standard. Based on EPA guidance, the geographic designation for nonattainment areas is to include an entire census consolidated metropolitan area including all of our eight-hour eight-counties nonattainment, plus Austin and San Jancinto Counties. Staff has drafted a position paper for your consideration to recommend submitting to the H-GAC Board for comment to TCEQ. The committee was asked to consider adopting the paper as RAQPC's position or offer comments on how they would like to see it changed, the request was motioned, seconded, and approved. Questions and comments followed Ms. Whitworth's discussion item.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

H-GAC DIRECTION – *Shelley Whitworth, H-GAC*

Ms. Shelley Whitworth began H-GAC's Direction by informing the committee that H-GAC is currently working on: 1.) H-GAC is approaching their Commute Solutions Month. The Van Pool Program has 8,000 rider participants equaling over 5 million miles traveled reductions. The NuRide Program has 10,000 rider participants equaling 162,145 shared rides. The Telework Program has 15,000 participants. The "Best in Motion" Award

Luncheon will be on August 14, 2008. 2.) The Commuter and Transit Pilot Program: The Woodlands and Township Circulator started in July 2007 have 9,000 rider participants. Baytown Express Park and Ride started in October 2007 have 3,088 rider participants. The Sterling Ridge Park and Ride started in January 2008 have 9,000 rider participants. 3.) The Clean Vehicle Program has accumulated a contract deferred initial 208 engines and brings an accumulation of the entire program to 1,341 engines. The Clean School Bus Program has replaced 63 engines or entire school bus and brings an accumulation of 333. The Drive a Clean Machine had over 1,300 repairs, over 5,000 vehicle replacements, and issued vouchers for almost 1,800. No questions or comments followed Ms. Whitworth's information item.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Karl Pepple, City of Houston

No report available. Mr. Karl Pepple was not present.

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 has experienced 13 days with at least one monitor in exceedance of the new eight hour standard (>75 ppb) and one days in exceedance of the one hour standard (>125ppb). These exceedances were monitored at the 26 monitoring stations that meet the EPA regulatory requirements.

The highest eight hour average concentration (107 ppb) occurred on July 17, 2008 at the Norwest Harris County monitor.

The highest one hour average concentration (134 ppb) occurred on June 18, 2008 at the Wallisville monitor.

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

The 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 = 76 days
3. 2008 1-hour > 125 ppb = 17 days

No comments or questions followed this Air Quality Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No Public Comments announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The September meeting will hold elections for executive committee, committee chair, and vice chair.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 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.