

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, March 31, 2011 – 2:00P.M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Room A, Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Beskid (Via Phone)

Laura Blackburn

Arturo Blanco

Dana Blume

Pat Buzbee

Mike Lindsey (Pat Buzbee's Alternate)

Lisa Chisholm (Via Phone)

Elena Craft

Steven Hansen

Robert Lanham

Mark McClelland

Stuart Mueller

Edmond J. Petry (Via Phone)

Ceil Price

Cynthia Redwine

Paulette Wolfson (Cynthia Redwine's Alternate)

Ron Sandberg

Bob Allen (Michael Schaffer's Alternate)

Ronnie Schultz

Dawn Steph (Via Phone)

Matthew Tejada (Via Phone)

Marise Textor (Via Phone)

Charles Airiohuodion (Alternate for Rakesh Tripathi)

Julie Woodard

STAFF PRESENT:

Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)

Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)

Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)

Ben Finley (H-GAC)

Crystal Thomas-Spencer (H-GAC)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Catarina Gonzales-Cron

Melissa Hagan

Jim Lester

Jeff Suggs

CALL TO ORDER:

1. Chairman Robert Lanham officially called the meeting to order at 2:06 P.M.
2. Chairman Robert Lanham welcomed all people in attendance.
3. Approval of the January 27, 2011 meeting summary.
 - a. The January 27, 2011 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved with no amendment.

AGENCY REPORTS:

1. TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown

a. TCEQ Commissioners' Agenda Web Page

i. At the February 23, 2011, commissioners' agenda, the following items were approved:

- Rule Project No. 2011-006-101-EN - Title V Air Emissions Fees rulemaking proposal. Public hearings are scheduled on April 4, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the Houston-Galveston Area Council and April 7, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. at the TCEQ's central office. The comment period will close April 11, 2011. Contact: Kathy Pendleton, (512) 239-1936, Kathy.Pendleton@tceq.texas.gov.
- Docket No. 2010-1983-MIS –Withdrawal of 30 Texas Administrative Code Sections 101.380, 101.382, 101.383, and 101.385 from consideration by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as revisions to the state

implementation plan (SIP). Contact: Shantha Daniel, (512) 239-3930, Shantha.Daniel@tceq.texas.gov.

- ii. On April 6, 2011, the commission will consider proposal of the Lead Transport SIP Revision for the 2008 lead National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). This SIP revision would meet the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), §110(a)(2)(D)(i), relating to the interstate transport of lead under the 2008 lead NAAQS. Contact: Shelley Naik, (512) 239-1536, Shelley.Naik@tceq.texas.gov.
- iii. The following items are scheduled for the April 20, 2011, commissioners' agenda:
 - Proposal of the General Conformity Rule Repeal (Project No. 2010-047-101-EN) and the General Conformity SIP Revision (Project No. 2011-002-SIP-NR). Contact: Amy Muttoni, (512) 239-6351, Amy.Muttoni@tceq.texas.gov.
 - Texas area designation recommendations for the 2010 primary sulfur dioxide NAAQS. Contact: Mary Ann Cook, (512) 239-6739, MaryAnn.Cook@tceq.texas.gov. More information is available on the Air Pollution from Sulfur Dioxide Web page: www.tceq.texas.gov/implementation/air/sip/texas-sip/criteria-pollutants/sip-so2

Further information is available on the [Commissioners' Agenda Web page](http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/agendas/comm/comm_agendas.html).
http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/agendas/comm/comm_agendas.html

b. TCEQ Oil and Gas Permit-by-Rule (PBR) and the new Air Quality Standard Permit for Oil and Gas Handling and Production

The new TCEQ Oil and Gas Permit-by-Rule (PBR) and the new Air Quality Standard Permit for Oil and Gas Handling and Production facilities were adopted with amendments by the commission on January 26, 2011. The applicability of these authorizations is currently limited to the counties contained in the Barnett Shale Region in North Texas and the commission is considering expanding the applicability to all counties in Texas. The TCEQ held five stakeholder meetings to help the agency update the Oil and Gas Industry Air PBR and Standard Permit. The sixth and last stakeholder meeting will be held in Fort Worth on April 4, 2011.

The stakeholder meetings are open to the public. Registration is required to attend the sessions to ensure that enough seats are available. (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/industry/oil-gas/oil-gas-stkhdr.html>) Contact: Blake Stewart, Air Permits Division, (512) 239-6931, Blake.Stewart@tceq.texas.gov. More information on these stakeholder meetings is available on the Oil and Gas Stakeholder Group Web page. www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/air/announcements/advisory/Current/sp_oilgas_sg.html

c. Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee

Presentations and a summary of the February 24, 2011, Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee (SETPMTC) meeting is available on the SETPMTC Web page: http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/committee/pmtc_set.html

The next SETPMTC meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2011. Contact: Dick Karp (512) 239-1462, Dick.Karp@tceq.texas.gov.
http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/airmod/committee/pmtc_set.html

d. Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Program

The Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Program expects to open a new Rebate Grant application period in early April. This rebate round will have between \$10 and \$15 million available to award. Further information is available on the TERP Web site: www.terpgrants.org

2. EPA Update – Mr. Carl Young

a. Proposed Rules for Power Plants

On March 16 EPA proposed a rule to control mercury and other toxic air emissions from power plants that burn coal or oil. This proposed rule would replace our Clean Air Mercury Rule which was vacated by the courts. The proposed rule would reduce emissions of heavy metals, including mercury, arsenic, chromium, and nickel, and acid gases, including hydrogen chloride and hydrogen fluoride.

EPA also proposed to revise the new source performance standards for fossil-fuel fired power plants. This proposal would revise the standards new power plants that burn coal, oil or natural gas must meet for particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides.

Publication in the Federal Register will start a 60 day comment period. More information is available at www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplanttoxics.

b. Emission Standards for Boilers and Process Heaters and Commercial / Industrial Solid Waste Incinerators

In the March 21 Federal Register EPA published regulations on emissions from boilers and solid waste incinerators. The regulations will limit emissions of air toxics and particulates. Because of differences between the final action and the proposal, EPA intends to implement a reconsideration process to solicit further comment on certain aspects of the boiler and commercial/industrial solid waste incinerator rules.

More information is available at www.epa.gov/airquality/combustion.

c. Revision of the Fine Particulate National Ambient Air Quality Standards

EPA was intending to propose revised ambient air standards for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) in February. They will be issuing a proposal at a later time, possibly this summer. Currently the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards is working to complete a policy assessment for the PM_{2.5} standards. When completed this will be released to the public.

d. Carbon Monoxide Standards and Monitoring

In the February 11 Federal Register EPA proposed to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide (CO). EPA also proposed changes to the ambient air monitoring requirements to add CO monitors near highly trafficked roads. Under the proposal the Houston-Galveston area would need two CO monitors near major roads. Comments on the proposal are due by April 12, 2011.

The proposed rule and a fact sheet can be found at www.epa.gov/airquality/carbonmonoxide.

e. **Greenhouse Gas Reporting Extension**

In the February 11 Federal Register EPA proposed to retain the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide (CO). EPA also proposed changes to the ambient air monitoring requirements to add CO monitors near highly trafficked roads. Under the proposal the Houston-Galveston area would need two CO monitors near major roads. Comments on the proposal are due by April 12, 2011.

More information on the extension can be found at www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/extension.html.

3. Regional Ozone Update – Mr. Ben Finley

- a. An update is not available as a result of the first ozone day will occur late April.

4. Legislative Update – Mr. Ben Finley

- a. H-GAC is currently tracking forty-two Legislature Bills. RAQPC is keeping an account of the following Legislature Bills:
- i. Regional Planning Issues
 - SB 336 (Gallegos) – Regional Planning Commissions (Referred to Intergovernmental Relations Committee)
 - SB 136 (Wentworth) – County Development Authority (Referred to Intergovernmental Relations Committee)
 - ii. Environmental
 - SB 102 (Davis) – Texas Emission Reduction Program (Referred to Natural Resources Committee)
 - HB 571 / SB 160 (Huberty) – Aggregate Production (Passed through Committee)
 - HB630 (Pickett) – Environmental Review (Passed through Committee)
 - HB 1131 (Larson) – Transportation Funding (Referred to Transportation Committee)

PRESENTATIONS:

a. Toxic Air: The Case for Cleaning Up Coal-Fired Power Plants – Ms. Cynthia Redwine

Ms. Cynthia Redwine with the American Lung Association of the Central States provided a presentation to the members discussing the Toxic Air: The Case for Cleaning Up Coal-Fired Power Plants from the health perspective. Information contained in the presentation was distributed to the form of Toxic Air Report, which is the American Lung Association’s recent Executive Summary Extensive Report. Overview of the presentation includes:

- Coal Reduction Across the United States
- Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) Health and Environmental Effects
- Lung Disease in Diverse Communities
- EPA Standards Timeline

ACTION ITEMS:

None

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Possible Subcommittee Opportunities – Mr. Ben Finley

- a. RAQPC proposed to create two separate taskforces to generate comments specifically geared to EPA regarding Power Plant Rules and Regional Anti-Idling.
- b. Comments to EPA regarding Power Plant Rules must be submitted within sixty days from March 07, 2011. Comments have to be posted by the end of the first week of May 2011. Voting and correspondence circulation will be processed through membership email to expedite time.
- c. Power Plant Rules Subcommittee – Ms. Cynthia Redwine will Chair and Ms. Laura Blackburn will assist.
- d. Regional Anti-Idling Subcommittee – Ms. Dana Blume will Chair and Ms. Paulette Wolfson will assist.

2. H-GAC Update – Ms. Shelley Whitworth

a. Grant Opportunities

i. H-GAC is currently accepting proposals for the following programs:

- Pilot Transit Projects
- Telework Program
- Clean Vehicle Program
- Drayage Program

b. H-GAC Board

i. H-GAC Board approved \$1,913,638 of SEP, CMAQ, Drayage, and TERP funding to replace 22 diesel engines for a NO_x reduction of 9.17 tpy.

ii. H-GAC Board approved to select a consultant to generate an electronic traffic data study from March 2011 – May 2011 of forty-five external stations.

iii. H-GAC Board approved to select a consultant to advise transportation planning outreach, marketing, communications, and creative consulting.

c. Clean Vehicles

i. Air Quality is generating a reduction of 52% in NO_x emission from the heavy diesel trucks of on-road mobile sources.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comment given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. April 08, 2011 – Fresh Air Friday at Jones Plaza (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.)
- b. April 12, 2011 – “Marsha Hill” Memorial Golf Tournament
- c. April 16, 2011 – Drayage Truck Fair at the Port of Houston (10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.)
- d. April 25, 2011 – Freight Movement Plan in Pasadena
- e. April 26, 2011 – Freight Movement Plan in Jersey Village
- f. April 27, 2011 – Freight Movement Plan in Kendleton
- g. April 28, 2011 – Freight Movement Plan in Texas City
- h. May – H-GAC will send out request for RAQPC Re-Appointments

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2011 at 2:00 P.M.**

ADJOURN:

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned at 3:30P.M.