

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 27, 2011 – 2:00 p.m.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Room A, Houston, Texas 77027

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stuart Mueller (*Alternate for Bob Allen*)
Laura Blackburn
Arturo Blanco
Lisa Chisholm
Steven Hansen (Via Phone)
Robert Lanham
Gail Miller
Snehal Patel

Carole Lamont (*Snehal Patel's Alternate*)
Edmund J. Petry (Via Phone)
Ron Sandberg (Via Phone)
Ronnie Schultz
Jeff Suggs
Marise Textor (Via Phone)
Paulette Wolfson (*Alternate for Environmental Sector*)

STAFF PRESENT:

Carl Young (EPA) (Via Phone)
Lola Brown (TCEQ) (Via Phone)

Melissa Bain (H-GAC)
Isaac Ramirez (H-GAC)
Crystal Thomas (H-GAC)
Ben Finley (H-GAC)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Craig Beskid
Dana Blume
Pat Buzbee
Elena Craft
Melissa Hagan
Jim Lester

Ceil Price
Dawn Steph
Matthew Tejada
Rakesh Tripathi
Julie Woodard

CALL TO ORDER

1. Vice Chair Arturo Blanco officially called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. Vice Chair Arturo Blanco welcomed all people in attendance.
3. Approval of the September 29, 2011 meeting summary.
 - a. The September 29, 2011 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved with an amendment.
 - i. Attendance – Paulette Wolfson attended as an alternate for the Environmental Sector.

AGENCY REPORTS

1. TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown

a. Projects Approved by Commission on October 18, 2011

At the October 18, 2011 agenda, the commission approved proposal of the following projects. A public hearing for these proposals is scheduled in Austin on November 29, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCEQ's headquarters.

- i. House Bill (HB) 3399: Emissions Reduction Incentive Program Rules
- ii. HB 3399: Texas Clean Fleet Program Rules
- iii. Senate Bill (SB) 385: Alternative Fueling Facilities Program Rule

iv. SB 385: Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program

These documents are available on the Rule Proposals and Adoption Web page at: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/propose_adopt.html.

Please contact Steve Dayton, (512 239-6824), Steve.Dayton@tceq.texas.gov for further information.

b. HGB Reasonably Available Control Technology Update SIP and Chapter 115 Rule Revisions

Consideration of the adoption of the HGB Reasonably Available Control Technology Update SIP Revision and associated Chapter 115 rule revisions has been rescheduled to the December 7, 2011, commissioners' agenda.

These documents will be available on the Agenda Meetings and Work Sessions Web page at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/agendas/agenda.html>, on November 18, 2011.

Please contact Lola Brown, (512) 239-0348, Lola.Brown@tceq.texas.gov, or Frances Dowiak, (512 239-3931), Frances.Dowiak@tceq.texas.gov, for further information.

c. Reconsideration and Stay of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR)

On September 12, 2011, the TCEQ requested informal comment on whether there is a need for the TCEQ to revise the allocation methodology established in CSAPR, if there is a need to revise the CSAPR allocation methodology via a SIP revision, and whether this is a near (i.e., the 2014-2015 control periods) or long-term need (i.e. the 2016-2017 control period or later). Based on the nine responses received, a decision was made not to proceed with a CSAPR SIP revision at this point.

The TCEQ requested a hearing on the EPA's proposed technical adjustments to the final CSAPR. The TCEQ will provide comments at the public hearing on October 28, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., at EPA headquarters in Washington D.C. Written comments are due to EPA by November 28, 2011. More information is available on the Final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Web page at: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/the-epas-transport-rule>.

d. Texas Low Emission Diesel (Txled) Stakeholder Group

A Texas low emission diesel (TxLED) Stakeholder Group meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2011, at the TCEQ headquarters in Austin. The meeting agenda and presentation are available on the TxLED Stakeholder Group Web Page AT: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/mobilesource/TxLED_Adv_Grp.html#topic5.

Please contact Morris Brown, (512) 239-1438, Morris.Brown@tceq.texas.gov, for further information.

e. HGB Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) Update SIP Revision

The executive director approved a concept memo to begin working on an HGB MVEBs Update SIP Revision. This SIP revision would update the March 2010 HGB attainment demonstration (AD) and reasonable further progress SIP revisions to replace the on-road mobile source emissions inventories for nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds based on the EPA's MOBILE 6.2 model with those based on the EPA's MOVES model.

The MVEBs would also be updated using the MOVES-based emissions inventories. This SIP revision would also include technical analyses updating the corroborative analysis in the March 2010 AD SIP revision adequate to support the modification of the HGB on-road MVEBs. A letter was sent to the EPA on October 13, 2011, outlining the proposal and requesting input on the plan. This revision is tentatively scheduled for proposal in October 2012 with adoption in April 2013.

Please contact Lola Brown, (512) 239-0348, Lola.Brown@tceq.texas.gov, or Angela Kissel, (512) 239-0707, Angela.Kissel@tceq.texas.gov, for further information.

2. EPA Update – *Mr. Carl Young*

a. Proposed Regulations for Oil and Natural Gas Industry

On August 23, 2011, EPA published a proposal to further regulate emissions for the oil and natural gas industry. EPA is proposing:

- i. a new source performance standard for volatile organic compounds
- ii. a new source performance standard for sulfur dioxide;
- iii. an air toxics standard for oil and natural gas production; and
- iv. an air toxics standard for natural gas transmission and storage.

The comment period was scheduled to close October 24, 2011. EPA is granting requests for a 30 day extension to the public comment period. The public comment period will now close on November 30, 2011. For more information, please the EPA website at: www.epa.gov/airquality/oilandgas/.

b. Draft Guidance on SIP Implementation of the 1-Hour Sulfur Dioxide Air Quality Standard

In June 2010, EPA promulgated a new 1-hour Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) air quality standard of 75 parts per billion. On October 3 EPA published a Federal Register notice requesting comment on draft guidance on how to meet the Clean Air Act requirements for a SIP to implement the 1-hour SO₂ standard. The comment period for the draft guidance is being extended to December 2, 2011.

The draft guidance contains EPA's preliminary SIP recommendations to implement the 1-hour SO₂ standard. The SIPs are due in June 2013. For more information, please the EPA website at: www.epa.gov/air/sulfurdioxide/implement.html.

c. Proposal to Revise the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) for the Ozone and PM_{2.5} Air Standards

In August, EPA published the CSAPR to address interstate transport of air pollution for the ozone and fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The rule covers power plant emissions in 27 States. Texas was included in the rule for both the ozone and PM_{2.5} standards.

On October 14, 2011, the EPA published proposed technical adjustments to the rule to account for updated information recently received. The proposal would increase emission allowance budgets and ease limits on market-based compliance options in Texas and nine other states. The comment period for the proposal is scheduled to close

November 14, 2011. For more information, please the EPA website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/crossstaterule/actions.html>.

3. Regional Ozone Update – Mr. Claudio Galli

- a. In October, the HGB area had 4 days that exceeded the 8-hour ozone standards at regulatory monitors. Please find a summary table of current and historical ozone exceedence data below (data from all monitors, not just regulatory monitors).

	Number of high ozone days				
	Oct 2011- MTD	Oct 2010	Jan to Sept 2011	Jan to Sept 2010	2010 - total
8 hr	6	8	45	39	47
1 hr	0	1	8	8	9

PRESENTATIONS

1. Review of EPA Exceptional Events Rule Regarding Ozone – Mr. Mark Sather and Mr. Erik Snyder

- a. Mr. Mark Sather and Mr. Erik Snyder with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided a presentation to the members discussing the review of EPA’s Exceptional Event Rule Regarding Ozone. The presentation focused on the ozone and modeling aspects of the rule. In briefing, the presentation included the current rule; rule summarization; flagging of data and demonstration submission; review in Region 6; and modeling analyses considerations.

2. The Impact of Asthma in Hispanic Populations – Ms. Paulette Wolfson

- a. Ms. Paulette Wolfson with the American Lung Association (ALA) provided a presentation to the members discussing the Impact of Asthma in Hispanic Populations. The ALA presentation reported studies and research regarding asthma statistics within the Hispanic community. In addition, the presentation included an overview of ALA and the various programs provided to the region.

ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Idling Policy Taskforce Review – Mr. Ben Finley

- a. Mr. Ben Finley conveyed that staff researched and gathered language from Regional Idling Policies that is used throughout the nation. Ms. Dana Blume will infuse the complied language to complete the draft letter. The draft letter will be presented to the committee once it’s approved by the Taskforce.

2. H-GAC Update – Mr. Ben Finley

- a. H-GAC Board
 - i. H-GAC Board approved \$6,654,143 of various funds to replace 51 heavy duty engines for a NO_x reduction of 32.0 tpy.
 - ii. H-GAC Board is negotiating with Gulf Coast Center to operate a proposed Transit Service Pilot Project.
 - iii. H-GAC Board is negotiating with Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) for support and assistance with Travel Demand Modeling and Development.
- b. H-GAC Activities
 - i. Clean Fleet Technologies Conference will be held at the Humble Civic Center on October 19, 2011

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Houston Bar Association Luncheon will be held at the Petroleum Club on November 09, 2011
- b. Galveston Bay Organization Fundraiser will be held at the Sundance Theater on November 27, 2011
- c. 2012 Flight for Air Climb will be held at the First City Tower on March 24, 2012

NEW BUSINESS

1. **The next RAQPC meeting is scheduled for December 01, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.**

ADJOURN

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.