

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, June 30, 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
Dana Blume
Barbara Sprott (*Via Phone*) (*Alternate for Lisa Chisholm*)
Elena Craft
Steven Hansen
Robert Lanham

Gail Miller
Snehal Patel
Ceil Price
Ron Sandberg
Ronnie Schultz
Matthew Tejada
Charles Airiohuodion (*Alternate for Rakesh Tripathi*)
Paulette Wolfson (*Alternate for Citizens and Environmental*)

STAFF PRESENT:

Carl Young (EPA) (*Via Phone*)
Lola Brown (TCEQ) (*Via Phone*)
Claudio Galli (TCEQ)

Shelley Whitworth (H-GAC)
Ben Finley (H-GAC)
Crystal Thomas (H-GAC)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Craig Beskid
Pat Buzbee
Melissa Hagan
Jim Lester
Mark McClelland

Edmond J. Petry
Dawn Steph
Jeff Suggs
Marise Textor
Julie Woodard

CALL TO ORDER

1. Chairman Elena Craft officially called the meeting to order at 2:01P.M.
2. Chairman Elena Craft welcomed all people in attendance.
3. Approval of the May 26, 2011 meeting summary.
 - a. The May 26, 2011 meeting summary was motioned, seconded, and approved with no amendment.

AGENCY REPORTS

1. TCEQ Update – Ms. Lola Brown
 - a. Commissioners' Agenda

On June 8, 2011, the commissioners approved proposal of the following projects.

- Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) Analysis Update State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision (Project No. 2010-028-SIP-NR). Contact: Lola Brown, (512) 239-0348, Lola.Brown@tceq.texas.gov
- 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 115 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) RACT Rule Revisions (Rule Project No. 2010-016-115-EN). Contact: Francis Dowiak, (512) 239-3931, Francis.Dowiak@tceq.texas.gov.
- 30 TAC Chapter 115 VOC Storage Rule Revision (Rule Project No. 2010-025-115-EN). Contact Dr. Bob Gifford, (512) 239-3149, Bob.Gifford@tceq.texas.gov

Public hearings on these proposals will be held in Houston, Texas, on July 18, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and in Austin, Texas, on July 22, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., at the TCEQ headquarters. The public comment period will close on July 25, 2011.

For more information, including instructions on how to submit comments, please visit the TCEQ's Houston-Galveston-Brazoria: Ozone Latest Planning Web page (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/sip/hgb/hgb-latest-ozone>) or the Rules Proposals Web page (<http://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>)

At the June 22, 2011, agenda, the commissioners took the following actions.

- Approved proposal of the Lead Infrastructure SIP Revision (Project No. 2011-016-SIP-NR). A public hearing is scheduled for July 25, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., at the TCEQ headquarters in Austin. The comment period will close on July 29, 2011. Contact: Shelley Naik, (512) 239-1536, Shelley.Naik@tceq.texas.gov
- Denied a petition requesting Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (Project No. 2011-020-PET-NR). Contact: John Minter, Environmental Law Division, (512) 239-0663, John.Minter@tceq.texas.gov
- Denied a petition requesting a revision to Texas SIP to reflect the impacts of foreign pollutant transport (Project No. 2011-022-PET-NR). Contact Terry Salem, (512) 239-0469, Terry.Salem@tceq.texas.gov

More information is available on the Commissioners' Agenda Web page: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/agendas/comm/comm_agendas.html

b. Title V Air Emissions Fees

Consideration of the adoption of the Title V Air Emissions Fees (Rule Project No. 2011-006-101-EN) is scheduled for the July 20, 2011, commissioners' agenda. Contact: Kathy Pendleton, (512) 239-1936, Kathy.Pendleton@tceq.texas.gov. Documents will be available on the Agenda Meetings and Work Sessions Web page: <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/agendas/agenda.html>

c. Flare Task Force

A Flare Task Force Stakeholder Group was held June 1, 2011, at H-GAC. Informal written comments on the draft report were due June 20, 2011 and are available on the Flare Task Force Stakeholder Group Web page: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source/stationary-rules/flare_stakeholder.html

d. TERP

New legislation regarding the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Program:

- Senate Bill 527 - eliminated the New Technology Research and Development Program and provided for use of TERP funds for an Air Monitoring Program in North Texas
- House Bill 3399 changed some of the criteria for the existing grant programs
- Senate Bill 20 and SB 385 (same provisions, but numbered differently) established several new grant programs: Alternative Fueling Facilities Program; Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program; and Clean Transportation Triangle grant program for natural gas fueling stations

It may be late spring of 2012 before new grant application periods for TERP are opened. Contact: Steve Dayton, (512) 239-6824, Steve.Dayton@tceq.texas.gov.

e. South Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee

A Southeast Texas Photochemical Modeling Technical Committee (SETPMTC) meeting was held on June 29, 2011. More information is available on the SETPMTC Web page: http://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/airmod/committee/pmtc_set.html

Contact: Dick Karp, (512) 239-1462, Dick.Karp@tceq.texas.gov.

2. EPA Update – *Mr. Carl Young*

a. Recognition of H-GAC's Commuter Traffic Reduction Program

EPA honored 12 programs from across the United States for innovative efforts in achieving cleaner air with Clean Air Excellence Awards. This year's award recipients were selected from 75 applicants and represent achievements in four categories:

- clean air technology,
- community action,
- education/outreach, and
- regulatory policy innovations.

H-GAC's commuter traffic reduction program was recognized under the education/outreach category. More information is available at: www.epa.gov/air/cleanairawards

b. Proposed Rules for Power Plants

The proposed rule of controlling mercury and other toxic air emissions from power plants that burn coal or oil would replace the Clean Air Mercury Rule that was vacated by the courts. The proposal was published in the May 3 Federal Register. In response to requests from members of Congress and to encourage additional public comment the comment period for this proposal is being extended 30 days till August 4. More information is available at:

www.epa.gov/airquality/powerplanttoxics.

c. Rule on Interstate Transport for the Ozone and PM2.5 Air Standards

EPA proposed a rule to address interstate transport for the ozone and PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Texas was proposed to be in the rule for the ozone standard, though EPZ took comment on including Texas for the PM2.5 standard. EPA is expecting a final decision on the rule soon. A response to the received comments will be included with the final decision.

d. Additional Air Toxics Monitoring at San Jacinto Elementary School in Deer Park

EPQ is working with TCEQ and San Jacinto Elementary School in Deer Park to conduct additional monitoring to better understand potential exposure to air toxics. Earlier monitoring was conducted as part of the Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Initiative. The monitoring results did not exceed short term screening levels, but did find a potential long term concern with levels of butadiene. Levels of other air toxics, such as benzene, were below levels of concern for both short and long-term exposure. The additional monitoring is expected to begin later this summer and last about six months. In addition to butadiene we plan to again measure other air toxics.

More information on the Schools Air Toxics Monitoring Initiative is available at

<http://www.epa.gov/schoolair/schools.html>.

3. Regional Ozone Update – *Mr. Claudio Galli*

a. The June 2011 monthly report indicates the HGB area has had 6 days of exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations, and 2 days of exceeding the 1-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations.

b. The June 2010 monthly report indicated the HGB area has had 3 days of exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations, and did not exceed the 1-hour ozone standard.

c. The 2011 year to date report indicated the HGB area has had 15 days of exceeding the 8-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations, and 2 days of exceeding the 1-hour ozone standard at the regulatory stations.

4. Legislative Update – *Mr. Ben Finley*

- a. RAQPC has tracked the following Legislature Bills:
 - i. Legislature Bills signed by the Governor
 - HB 630 (Pickett) Environmental Review
 - HB 2938 (Strama) / SB 20 (Williams) TERP
 - SB 527 (Fraser) TERP
 - SB 1420 (Hegar) TxDOT Sunset
 - SB 1719 (Williams) Grand Parkway
 - ii. Legislature Bills that did not pass
 - SB 336 (Gallegos) Regional Planning Commissions
 - SB 136 (Wentworth) County Development Authority
 - HB 1 (Pitts) / SB 1 (Ogden) General Appropriations
 - SB 102 (Davis) Texas Emission Reduction Program (TERP)
 - HB 1145 (Geren) Projects Funded Through TERP
 - SB 135 (Wentworth) Transportation Funding
 - HB 1131 (Larson) Transportation Funding
 - SB 1007 (Williams) Comprehensive Development Agreements
- b. TERP – Funds will be allocated as follows:
 - \$2.2 Million – Clean School Buses Program
 - \$2.8 Million – Clean Fleet Program
 - \$1.2 Million – Diesel Emission Reduction Program
 - \$8 Million – Other TERP Projects

PRESENTATIONS

1. RAQPC 101 – *Mr. Ben Finley*

- a. Mr. Ben Finley with H-GAC provided a presentation to the members discussing RAQPC 101. Overview of the presentation includes:
 - History
 - Duties
 - Process
 - Membership

2. RAQPC Goals – *Chairman Elena Craft*

- a. Chairwoman Elena Craft priority for the committee is to establish better coordination and working relationship between all of the members. Chairwoman Craft would like to pursue and generate support in securing additional TERP and DERA funds for the region.

ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Review of Comment on New Performance Standards (NSPS) on Electrical Utility Steam Generating Units (EGU) – *Mr. Ben Finley*

- a. The comment letter has the suggested structure with additional verbiage from the original background letter stating that MACT would be available and financially affordable.

2. H-GAC Update – *Ms. Shelley Whitworth*

- a. Awards
 - ii. Mr. Alan Clark received a national award on behalf of the Commute Solutions Program.

- b. H-GAC Grants
 - i. EPA recommended full funding of \$991,041 for Tug and Tow main engines.
 - ii. TERP expenditures is approaching deadline and TCEQ may reallocate the remaining \$1 million back to the region in the next fiscal year.
 - iii. H-GAC is amending the EPA Work Program to result in the buyoff and signoff of all the involved federal and state agencies.
 - iv. The Drayage Lone Program provides assistance to a marginal industry that benefit from the breakdown of the loan cost, making it more affordable for buyers. Staff is documenting very significant emission reductions. Last quarter reported a total of 43 approved loans with adjacent grants.
 - v. H-GAC proposed to submit an application to calibrate Regional Alternative Refueling Stations, and possible Public Alternative Refueling Stations.
 - vi. H-GAC submitted an application for the Electric Plug-In Technology Planning grant for electrical vehicles.
- a. H-GAC Board
 - i. H-GAC Board approved to committing \$80,000 for the development of the State of Congestion Report.
 - ii. H-GAC Board approved \$1,292,059 of various funds to replace 12 engines for a NO_x reduction of 12.94 tpy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. July 18, 2011 – SIP Revision for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard Hearing at 6:30 P.M.
H-GAC: Conference Room C

NEW BUSINESS

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

ADJOURN

The RAQPC Meeting was adjourned at 3:37 P.M.