

H-GAC, TCEQ Short List SIP Public Meeting #2

MEETING SUMMARY

January 8, 2008
6:00pm to 8:00pm
H-GAC
3555 Timmons Lane,
2nd Floor, Room A
Houston, Texas 77027

Persons Present:

Brandt Mannchen (HSC), Chuck Moss (Oxid L.P.), Tricia Clark (Skaugen), Susan Sharp (Emisstar), Shareen Larmond (WGMA), James Patterson (Fort Bend County), Catarina Cron (Harris County Judge), Mary Shine (Brazoria County), Lanie Platt (DOW-Freepport), Ken Gathright (PoHA), Dana Blume (PoHA), Russell Lehrman, Marcie Anderson, Elvia Cardinal (TxDOT), Charles Airiohoudion (TxDOT), Madonna Lorraine (TxDOT), Charles Stillman (Texas Climate Emergency), Matthew Tejada (GHASP), Donna Huff (TCEQ), Theresa Pella (TCEQ), Lola Brown (TCEQ), Helen Vollmer (Vollmer PR), Lori Martin (Vollmer PR), Chris Lindjhem (Environ)

Staff Present:

Shelley Whitworth, Graciela Lubertino, Kelli Angelone, Connie Chao, Mary Schuwerk, J. Ben Finley, Andrew DeCandis, Gina Mitteco, Veronica Baxter-Lamb, Jeff Taebel, Alan Clark, Steve Howard

H-GAC Presentation: Overview of SIP Process and Control Strategy Discussion

H-GAC reviewed the health effects and costs of air pollution, progress that had been made by H-GAC in cooperation with regional stakeholders, the 2005-2018 projections for emissions, possible local government measures, and the on-road and off-road control strategies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- 1) Brandt Mannchen, Houston-chapter Sierra Club (HSC)
 - a. HSC appreciates that H-GAC recognized that small emission reductions when put together can make for effective control measures.
 - b. HSC would still like to see the EPA criteria 'PQSE' defined in the Short List document.
 - c. For control measure, "Public Agency Clean Fleet Programs", HSC would like companies to commit to the lowest-emission vehicles available in California.
 - d. For control measures #63-66, HSC is disappointed that adequate law enforcement is not emphasized because speed enforcement would be good for the environment and for safety.
 - e. HSC recommends that H-GAC monitor emissions as vehicles are going down the road [a study] because they may show very different results than Mobile6.

- f. They also recommend studies to monitor emissions inside vehicles for health reasons. There may be higher doses of emissions inside vehicles than we know.
 - g. As for control measure #13, HSC does not favor this one and would like to see dedicated trucking lanes on highways as they have in many other states.
 - h. Regarding measures #19 and #139 which refer to smoking vehicles, HSC finds these contradictory and would like to see a program which increased compliance because even with an estimated 4% of vehicles out of compliance, that equals 100,000 smoking vehicles on the road.
 - i. HSC is disappointed that #39-62 do not include employer trip-reduction programs, which should be some kind of voluntary control measure.
 - j. HSC supports control measure #92, rail expansion, mass transit projects, #124, #5a, #5b, and #45.
 - k. HSC expressed concern about TERP information and would like to have more facts about the penetration of the program into industrial sectors so that the public would be better equipped to decide what should be done.
- 2) Russell Lehrman, resident of Houston, northeast of downtown
- a. Mr. Lehrman was concerned that #60, travel-based taxes, would not apply to idling vehicles, which he thought it should. He thought it might be a good idea to have idling-based taxes because of the 65 vehicles at the dairy plant near his home which idle 24 hours a day.
 - b. Mr. Lehrman supports limits on idling heavy-duty vehicles.
 - c. Mr. Lehrman mentioned that the dairy plant near his home does have one or two APUs, but it is still expanding the 'parking lot', so it is not having enough of an effect.
 - d. Mr. Lehrman and his friend, Ms. Anderson, have met with city council and the city attorney, and many residents have fallen ill from the pollution. Doctors have told many people that they should not spend time immediately outside their homes due to the health risks.

ACTION ITEM: H-GAC

- 1) **HGAC will continue to integrate comments into the short list.**

ACTION ITEM: Public

- 1) **Public should continue to review and comment on draft Short List documents.**