

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, September 30, 2021 – 10:00 A. M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBER PRESENT

City of Houston – Win Colbert
Port Houston – Trae Camble
Environmental Defense Fund – Grace Lewis
Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson
Exxon – Sherman Hampton
ECHMA – MaryJane Mudd
Harris County Pollution Control – Latrice Babin
Harris County, Precinct 2 – Kristen Lee
Houston Advance Research Center – Mustapha Beydoun
American Lung Association – Charlie Gagen
City of Texas City – Gary Scoggins

ALTERNATE PRESENT

Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphreys
Houston Advanced Research Center – Ebrahim Eslami
METRO – Vincent Sanders
TxDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
City of Houston – Nguyen Ly
Associated General Contractors of America – Marc Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sandra Holliday
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Mike Burns
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Waller
Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young
Environmental Protection Agency – Melanie Magee
TCEQ – Graham Bates
TCEQ – Katie Campbell

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA update, TCEQ update, and Regional Air Quality Monitoring update); and the meeting concluded with no announcements.
- b. Go to <http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-material.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 1A. Introductions

Win Colbert called the meeting to order and members were introduced.

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summary (8-26-21)

Meeting summary approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Carl Young)

A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) briefed the committee:

Final Rule to Phasedown Hydrofluorocarbons with a Cap and Trade Program

Hydrofluorocarbons are used as replacements for ozone-depleting substances. They are used primarily for air conditioning and refrigeration. Hydrofluorocarbons are also highly potent greenhouse gases. The American Innovation and Manufacturing Act, enacted in December 2020, mandates the phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons by 85 percent over a period ending in 2036. To implement the phasedown a final rule was signed on September 23 by EPA Administrator Regan which establishes a cap and trade program for producers and importers of hydrofluorocarbons. The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register next week.

More information, including a question and answer document, is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/final-rule-phasedown-hydrofluorocarbons-establishing-allowance-allocation>

ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Graham Bates)

TCEQ staff gave an update to the members regarding the latest information:

Request for Reasonably Available Control Measures Ideas

In August, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) received and is evaluating ideas for potential reasonably available control measures (RACM) that could be implemented in the Dallas Fort Worth (DFW), Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB), and San Antonio nonattainment areas. RACM is a requirement under the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), §172(c)(1) and is required for nonattainment area with an ozone classification of moderate nonattainment and above. Potential RACM measures submitted to the TCEQ will be used to assist in nonattainment area planning for the 2008 and 2015 eight-hour ozone national ambient air quality standards.

Information about this request and RACM idea submissions should be directed to Joseph Thomas at Joseph.Thomas@tceq.texas.gov and Anthony DeJesus at Anthony.Dejesus@tceq.texas.gov.

ITEM 2D. Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update (Andrew DeCandis)

Since our last meeting in August, there have been three exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb ground-level ozone standard and eight exceedances of the 2015 70 ppb standard. So far this year, the region's maximum 4th highest value remains 81 ppb at the Houston Croquet monitor and the design value for the 2019 through 2021 period remains at 77 ppb as measured at the Bayland Park monitoring station.

Moving on to PM, the final PM_{2.5} average at the Clinton Road monitor in August was 11.88 µg/m³ and so far in September, we have seen an average of 14.61. Additionally, here are the charts of Annual PM_{2.5} concentrations over the last 20 years for our regulatory monitors and the monthly average for each of those monitors over the past year. This set of charts as well as all of the materials from today's meeting can be found and downloaded from the RAQPAC website

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. (Andrew DeCandis)

The Subcommittee members unanimously approved the following position:

Vice Chair-Grace Lewis

ITEM 3B.

Request for approval 2021 PM 2.5 Path forward Draft Report

The subcommittee members unanimously approved to submit the 2021 PM 2.5 report to EPA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 5A. H-GAC Update (Andrew DeCandis)

- There will be a public meeting of the CASAC Scientific Advisory Committee Particulate matter panel for the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 PM NAAQS on October 14, 2021, from 1pm to 5pm Eastern. You can find more information at casac.epa.gov
- On April 21, 2022 the City Efficiency Leadership Council Gulf Texas Virtual Roundtable Sponsored by the South Central Partnership energy efficiency as a resource better human as Spear by the State Energy Conservation office and Hark. It's going to focus on strategies for using energy efficient climate adaptation to adapt to a changing climate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

None

Next meeting: October 28, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:49A.M.