

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 30, 2025 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

<u>MEMBER PRESENT</u> Harris County – Winifred Hamilton Harris County – Doug Peterson EHCMA – Mary Jane Mudd Environmental Defense Fund– Grace Lewis City of Houston–Nguyen Ly City of Houston–Loren Hopkins TXDOT–Qing Li HARC–Carlos Gamarra Waller County–Brooke Bacuetes	<u>ALTERNATE PRESENT</u> METRO–Kenneth McGaughey Air Alliance Houston–Inyang Uwak Harris County Pollution Control–Stuart Mueller City of LaPorte–Johnny Morales City of Houston–Darryl Tate Port Houston–Kenneth Gathright
<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u> Stephanie Ma Madeline Statkewicz TCEQ – Holly Landuyt Carlos Gamarra	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u> Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis Houston-Galveston Area Council – Pharr Andrews Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley Houston-Galveston Area Council – Matthew Williams Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vinny Polignano Houston-Galveston Area Council – Yetunde Oyewale Houston-Galveston Area Council – Althea Edwards Houston-Galveston Area Council –Brandon Mosley Houston-Galveston Area Council –Dillon Marsh Houston-Galveston Area Council –Florence Buaku TERP– Ron Heiser TCEQ – Vanessa De Arman TCEQ – Denine Calvin TCEQ – Emily Wagoner TCEQ – Alison Stokes

BRIEFING

Overview

- RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA Update, TCEQ Update, and Regional Air Quality Monitoring update), and the meeting concluded with information items and no announcements.
- 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. Introduction

Grace Lewis called the meeting to order, and members were introduced.

ITEM 2A. Approval of Meeting Summary (09/25/2025)

Meeting summary approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. EPA Update – (Jeff Riley, EPA)

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

2024 PM NAAQS litigation: The case was being held in abeyance until October 20th – on October 8th, the DC Circuit Court granted a motion for stay due to the shutdown. Parties to the litigation are directed to file motions to govern further proceedings in the case within 10 days of the date that appropriations are restored, and the Department of Justice attorneys are permitted to resume their usual civil litigation functions.

ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update – (Vanessa DeArman, TCEQ)

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

New Guidance Document for the Credit and Allowance Registry

The Emissions Banking and Trading (EBT) team released a guidance document for the Credit and Allowance Registry available on the [EBT webpage](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/banking) (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/banking>). The new guide provides detailed instructions for how to navigate the [Credit and Allowance Registry](https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/airperm/index.cfm?fuseaction=ebt_dpa.start) (https://www2.tceq.texas.gov/airperm/index.cfm?fuseaction=ebt_dpa.start) so that users may gain the most benefit from this resource.

For additional information, please visit the [EBT webpage](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/banking). For questions, please contact the EBT team at ebt@tceq.texas.gov.

Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA), Section 185 Penalty Fee for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

On October 22, 2025, the commission adopted the [Section 185 Penalty Fee program](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/23131101_aex.pdf) (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/23131101_aex.pdf) specific to the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS as required by the federal Clean Air Act (FCAA). The adoption creates new [30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 101, General Air Quality Rules, Subchapter K, Failure to Attain Fee for the 2008 Eight-Hour Ozone Standard](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/23131101_ado-clean.pdf) (https://www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/rules/adoptions/23131101_ado-clean.pdf) and corresponding revisions to the State Implementation Plan.

The eight-county 2008 HGB severe ozone nonattainment area, which includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties, will be subject to the FCAA, Section 185 fee if the area fails to attain the 2008 eight-hour ozone NAAQS by July 20, 2027.

For more information on the FCAA, Section 185 penalty fee, please visit the [Stakeholder Group: Federal Clean Air Act Section 185 Fee](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/185-fee) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/185-fee>).

TCEQ Updates to Permit Search Portal (PSP)

Last April, TCEQ launched a map-based search portal for customers to find regulated facilities and their permits.

TCEQ has since launched improvements to the interface of the [Permit Search Portal](https://permit-search.tceq.texas.gov/) (<https://permit-search.tceq.texas.gov/>) and added application information of interest to the general public.

Coming Soon: TCEQ will also launch a document management system called PSP-Docs. TCEQ permit programs will begin loading application-related documents for applications subject to public notice requirements. These documents will then appear in the portal as they are loaded.

If users find any issues or wish to provide feedback on the new search portal and/or documents management system, please contact:

1. Report Data Errors: registry@tceq.texas.gov; or
2. Other Feedback: info@tceq.texas.gov

ITEM 2C. TERP Update (*Ron Heiser, TERP*)

TERP staff gave an update to the members on the latest information:

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

- TCEQ has successfully opened 3 grant programs in the month of October, and is now accepting applications under the [Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program \(LDPLIP\)](#), the [Alternative Fueling Facilities Program \(AFFP\)](#), and the [Texas Clean School Bus Program \(TCSB\)](#).
 - The **Light Duty Program** offers incentives on a first-come, first-served basis statewide for persons who purchase, or lease new vehicles powered by electric drive, hydrogen fuel cell, compressed natural gas (CNG), or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). Available funding depends on the amount of revenue received into the TERP Trust Fund but cannot exceed the statutory limit of 2,000 awards for vehicles powered by hydrogen fuel cells or other electric drives, and 1,000 awards for vehicles powered by CNG or LNG.
 - **AFFP** offers grant funding on a competitive basis in the 88 counties of the Clean Transportation Zone to construct or expand alternative fueling facilities. Preference is given to facilities that are open and available for public access and use. Available funding will be no more than \$12 million.
 - **TCSB** offers grant funding on a first-come, first-served basis statewide for public school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and transportation systems provided by a countywide school district to replace or retrofit diesel-fueled school buses to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust in and around diesel-fueled school buses. Available funding depends on the amount of revenue received into the TERP Trust Fund. The initial allocation is expected to be \$16 million.
- Coming Soon:
 - TCEQ Plans to open the [Texas Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicle, and Equipment Grant Program \(THIVE\)](#) in January 2026. THIVE will provide grants in Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties for hydrogen vehicles, equipment, and refueling infrastructure.
 - TCEQ Plans to open the [Rebate Grants Program](#) in March 2026. Rebate will provide grants in Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties to upgrade or replace on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles and select heavy-duty diesel non-road equipment.
 - TCEQ plans to open the [Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program \(ERIG\)](#) in March 2026. ERIG will provide grants in Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties for locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, or non-road equipment.
- All TERP grant program opening dates will be announced one month in advance of the opening date. Announcements go out via GovDelivery and Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD).

Sign up for TERP updates by visiting www.terpgrants.org, and get the latest information on new program openings and other announcements, as well as program requirements, application processes, and project summary reports. Contact TERP staff by phone at (800) 919-TERP (8377) or by email at terp@tceq.texas.gov.

Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) Program (No updates since last meeting)

The TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program application period has been extended to August 31, 2026:

- The [TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program](#) still has approximately \$30 million in available funding to upgrade or replace qualifying vehicles and equipment operating in eligible areas with new electric models. Grants can reimburse up to:
 - 100% of the cost for government entities
 - 75% of the incremental cost for non-government entities
- Eligible project categories include the replacement or repower of:
 - Class 8 Local Freight Trucks and Port Drayage Trucks

- Class 4-8 School Bus, Shuttle Bus, or Transit Bus
- Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks
- Airport Ground Support Equipment
- Forklifts and Port Cargo Handling Equipment
- Applicants purchasing on-road vehicles or non-road equipment may request additional funding for electric charging or hydrogen refueling infrastructure.

Sign up for TxVEMP updates to learn more about this program. Please contact us at 1-800-919-8377 or VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov with any questions. Visit www.txvwfund.org for the latest information and other announcements, as well as program requirements, application forms, and project summary reports.

Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW) (No Updates since last meeting)

- **Background**

- May 8, 2024: TCEQ received \$134 million in grant funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) for Mitigating Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells (MCWs), overseen by the Department of Energy (DOE) / National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL).

- **Program Description**

- TCEQ is implementing the MERP grant through TxMCW, a program that will cover the costs of measuring methane emissions at participating well sites and plugging those wells.
- At an estimated \$60,000 and \$120,000 per well, TCEQ may award between 1,000 and 2,000 grants for qualifying wells in Texas over a four-year program period.
- TxMCW program development is still underway.

- **Upcoming Events**

- The TxMCW team will present at the 2025 University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Oil & Gas Conference, December 2-3, 2025. Conference will be held at the Hilton Americas, 1600 Lamar St., Houston, TX 77010.

Visit <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/txmcw/well-plugging-grants> for the latest program information, and [sign up for updates](#) to learn more about this program, or contact us directly via email, at TxMCW@tceq.texas.gov.

ITEM 2D. Regional Air Quality Monitoring Update– (Vinny Polignano, H-GAC)

Vinny Polignano reported on the regional air quality monitoring, highlighting a decrease in ozone exceedance days from 13 in September to six in October. He noted that, year-to-date, there have been 43 exceedance days in 2025, compared to 54 at the same time in 2024. The highest mean ozone concentration was recorded at the Croquette monitor.

Vinny presented data on PM 2.5 monitors in the region, showing a slight increase in annual averages and a potential exceedance of the current standard. He also provided an overview of the Air Quality Index (AQI), noting elevated air quality issues in recent months, with ozone becoming a significant pollutant as the season changes. October data remains incomplete, with final numbers expected next month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A.

A. TCEQ's Ambient Air Monitoring in the Houston-Galveston Area - (Holly Landuyt, TCEQ)

Holly Landuyt from TCEQ provided an update on the Houston area air monitoring network, highlighting recent evaluations, changes, and planned improvements. Key actions included relocating the Houston Bayland Park monitor to Houston East to better meet monitoring needs, deactivating the Smith Point meteorological site due to redundancy, and preparing two new community focused sites at Finnegan Park and Pleasantville Elementary.

The division also proposed changes to the Park Place SO₂ monitor, which was scored low in recent five-year assessments and is under consideration for relocation to optimize resources. The adjustments reflect ongoing efforts to ensure compliance with federal air monitoring requirements while making strategic use of limited funding.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Andrew provided an update on the transportation conformity process. Following last month's presentation on the topic, the conformity determination was submitted to the Transportation Policy Council last Friday and received approval. The next step is to send the determination to conformity partners for their review and approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

None

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7A.

Next meeting: December 11, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 A.M.