

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, April 29, 2021 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBER PRESENT

Air Alliance Houston – Bakeyah Nelson
City of Houston – Win Colbert
City of LaPorte – Kristen Gauthier
Environmental Defense Fund – Grace T. Lewis
Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson
Harris County, Precinct 2 – Kristen Lee
Harris County Pollution Control – Latrice Babin
Houston Advanced Research Center – Mustapha Beydoun
Waller County – Siddharth Rajmohan

ALTERNATE PRESENT

Associated General Contractors of America – Marc Anderson
Environmental Defense Fund – Ken Adler
Houston Advanced Research Center – Ebrahim Eslami
League of Women Voters – Katie Campbell
METRO – Vincent Sanders
TXDOT – Charles Airiohudion
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright

OTHERS PRESENT

Bradley Flowers
Trent Berger
Qing Li
Sam Gammage
Johnny Morales

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Brandy George
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Anita Hollmann
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sandra Holliday
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Susan Jaworski
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Patrick Mandapaka
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Craig Raborn
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Diane Domagas
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Mike Burns
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Lucinda Martinez
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shirley Li
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Green
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shixin Gao
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Jim Mahood
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington
Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young
Environmental Protection Agency – Melanie Magee
TXDOT – Jackie Ploch
TCEQ – Katie Campbell
TCEQ – Jamie Zech
TCEQ – Graham Bates

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. The RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA update, TCEQ update, TERP Update, 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

Bakeyah Nelson called the meeting to order and members were introduced.

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summaries (1-28-21, 2-25-21, 3-25-21,4-29-21)

Approval of minutes held for quorum.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. Legislative Update (Sam Gammage)

Sam Gammage informed the Stakeholders on the Legislative Update.

ITEM 2B. EPA Update (Carl Young)

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

Court Decision Disallowing Interprecursor Trading for Emission Offset Requirements in Ozone Nonattainment Areas

Previously EPA reported that in late January the D.C. Circuit Court issued an opinion on a challenge to EPA's implementation rule for the 2015 ozone air quality standard in nonattainment areas. Among other things the Court vacated the allowance of interprecursor trading of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) for emission offset requirements. The court's mandate was issued in March.

The EPA approved SIP for Texas allows for interprecursor trading of NOx and VOC with prior approval from TCEQ and EPA if photochemical modeling demonstrates that overall air quality and the regulatory design value in the nonattainment area will not be adversely affected by the substitution. Given the Court decision, EPA will not be approving requests for interprecursor trading.

Janet McCabe Sworn in as EPA Deputy Administrator

On April 29 Janet McCabe was sworn in as Deputy Administrator of EPA. Previously she served as Assistant Administrator in the EPA Office of Air and Radiation.

ITEM 2C. TCEQ Update (Graham Bates)

TCEQ staff gave an update on the following:

Rules for United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Oil and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guidelines (CTG)

- On January 13, 2021, the commission approved the proposed Chapter 115 volatile organic compounds (VOC) reasonably available control technology (RACT) Rules for EPA's Oil and Natural Gas CTG (Rule Project No. 2020-038-115-AI). The proposed rulemaking would incorporate rules to address the emissions sources in the
- EPA's CTG and ensure RACT is implemented for each of these emission sources as required under the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA).

The public hearing was held on February 23, 2021 at 10 a.m. CST. Because of Winter Storm Uri, the public comment period was extended from March 2, 2021 to March 16, 2021.

Backup for the adoption is scheduled for June 11, 2021, and the adoption will be considered at Commission Agenda on June 30, 2021.

Additional information on the rulemaking is available at <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/prop.html>.

For additional questions or information about the proposed rulemaking, please contact Frances Nikki Clark of the Stationary Source Programs Team at Frances.Clark@tceq.texas.gov.

Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Advisory Committee Nominations

- The Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Advisory Committee provides recommendations to the TCEQ on matters relating to use determinations for pollution control property/equipment and the implementation of Texas Tax Code Section 11.31. The advisory committee is made up of members selected to represent the following groups: industry, appraisal districts, taxing units, environmental groups, and members who are not representatives of any of those groups but have substantial technical expertise in pollution control technology and environmental engineering.

Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Advisory Committee members serve four-year staggered terms. One of the advisory committee members, an appraisal district representative, whose term expires on December 31, 2021, has resigned his position effective December 31, 2020. On April 14, 2021, the TCEQ appointed Hugh L. Landrum, Jr, P.E. to complete unexpired term.

For additional questions or information about the nominations, please contact Elizabeth Sartain of the Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Program at (512)-239-3933 or Elizabeth.Sartain@tceq.texas.gov.

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Update on the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles' (TxDMV) temporary waiver of vehicle title and registration requirements

On April 14, 2021, the temporary waiver of TxDMV's vehicle title and registration requirements ended. After April 14, police can start ticketing motorists operating a vehicle without a current registration sticker or current registration receipt.

Please contact David Serrins at david.serrins@tceq.texas.gov with questions.

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

Since our last meeting in February, there has been one exceedance of the 2008 75 ppb ground-level ozone standard and three exceedances of the 2015 70 ppb standard. So far this year, the design value for the 2019 through 2021 period is 71 ppb as measured at the Conroe monitoring station.

Moving on to PM, the final PM_{2.5} average at the Clinton Road monitor in March was 10.02 µg/m³ and so far in April, we have seen an average of 10.71. Additionally, here are the charts of Annual PM_{2.5} concentrations over the last 20 year for our seven regulatory monitors and the monthly average for each of those monitors over the past year

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. (Andrew DeCandis)

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. H-GAC Livable Centers Call for Sponsors- (Anita Hollmann-Houston-Galveston Area Council)

Anita Hollmann gave an overview to the members on the livable centers program. It reports on vehicle mile trip reduction. Livable centers are areas where people can live, work, and play. It helps to reduce less miles on their vehicles. It was also mentioned, these areas include things to make communities more walkable, and accessible by multiple mode of transportation.

The discussion continued with focus on people origin. Where are they starting, where are they going, and where are they having lunch. How does their origin and destination change in our target area? How do we make it more fluid without needing to get in our car for every one of our trips?

In further discussion she mentioned, it is a two-step application process. Traditionally, they request a twenty percent cash match. The Livable Centers Program is funded through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding and services the eight county HGB nonattainment region.

ITEM 4B. PM 2.5 Subcommittee Convening- (Andrew DeCandis, Houston-Galveston Area Council)

Andrew gave an overview to the Stakeholders of how the process began to develop the PM 2.5 path forward report. We participate in the PM 2.5 advance program from UPA. We have been participating about eight years. It helps to show that we are trying to make an effort to stay in attainment. This is a voluntary program between EPA and local government.

Discussion continued that the program is for areas that meet attainment for NO_x criteria pollutants. The monthly interaction with EPA staff at the stakeholder meeting is useful to get further details and receive feedback. In further discussion, it was mentioned the report is not a quantitative report. It is detailed by qualitative information. Our goal in the region, is to make sure all the issues are accounted for. Things that are not implemented but are upcoming due to various planning activities. Working on these projects helps to understand what is going on in the region.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Staff gave an update on the following information:

Question was raised how to get quorum met in order to be able to vote on action items if needed. Staff responded that quorum will be looked into for the next upcoming meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

None

Next meeting: May 27, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:03A.M.