

# **REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

---

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

Thursday, February 25, 2021 – 10:00 A. M.  
Houston-Galveston Area Council  
Virtual Teams Meeting

---

### **MEMBER PRESENT**

City of Houston – Win Colbert  
City of Texas City – Gary Scoggin  
Harris County – Kristen Lee  
Waller County – Siddarth Rajmohan  
Harris County Pollution Control – Latrice Babin  
Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson  
Houston Advanced Research Center – Mustapha Beydoun  
EXXON– Sherman Hampton  
Port Houston – Trae Camble  
City of LaPorte – Kristen Gauthier  
Environmental Defense Fund– Grace T. Lewis

### **ALTERNATE PRESENT**

Harris County – Aresha Davwa  
METRO – Vincent Sanders  
TXDOT– Charles Airiohuodion  
EHCMA – Steve Smith  
HARC – Ebrahim Eslami  
Greater Houston Partnership – Steven Will  
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright  
Associated General Contractors of America – Marc Anderson

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Qing Li  
Jackie Ploch  
Bradley Flowers  
Ken Adler  
Melanie Magee  
Tracy Hester  
Matt Van Vleck  
J. Kuzila

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley  
Houston-Galveston Area Council– Veronica Green  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Craig Raborn  
Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young  
TCEQ – Alison Stokes  
TCEQ TERP – Nate Hickman  
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 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 (12-10-20)**

Approval of minutes held for quorum.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Carl Young)**

**A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) briefed the committee on a few topics:**

### *Final Decisions on Review of the Ozone and Particulate Matter Standards.*

EPA reached final decisions for the review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM). EPA is retaining the current standards, without revision. The final decision on the ozone standard was published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2020.

The final decision on the PM standard was published December 18, 2020. Court Decision on the Implementation Rule for the 2015 Ozone Air Quality Standard. 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.

The Court vacated:

- Allowing interprecursor trading for emission offset requirements.
- Use of an implementation-based option for milestone compliance demonstrations that is found in the implementation regulations.
- Use of already implemented measures to meet the contingency measure requirement for failure to attain or failure meet a reasonable further progress milestone.

The court's mandate has not yet been issued, and the decision is not yet final. EPA is continuing to assess the decision.

### **ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Graham Bates)**

**TCEQ staff gave an update on the following:**

#### **Update on the El Paso County Oxygenated Gasoline and Texas Low Emission Diesel (TxLED)**

##### **Programs:**

On February 19, 2021, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued: temporary waivers effective immediately for compliance with the oxygenated gasoline requirements that apply in El Paso County and the Texas Low Emission Diesel (TX LED) requirements that apply in 110 Texas counties in response to a fuel supply emergency caused by refinery and distribution terminal disruptions resulting from the unusually severe temperatures and frozen precipitation throughout the state of Texas. The fuel waivers will continue through March 5, 2021.

Retail outlets and wholesale purchaser-consumers that receive gasoline or Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel under these waivers may continue selling or dispensing this fuel after March 5, 2021, until their supplies are depleted.

Please contact Guy Hoffman at 512-239-1981 or [guy.hoffman@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:guy.hoffman@tceq.texas.gov), or Michael Regan at 512-239-2988 or [michael.regan@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:michael.regan@tceq.texas.gov) with questions.

##### **Emissions Inventory Update:**

The 2021 Emissions Inventory (EI) Workshop was hosted online on January 21, 2021. Three presentations covered updates for the 2020 reporting year, basic terms, and concepts, guidance for estimating emissions from storage tanks, and Web-EI reporting. The presentations in PDF format are located at

<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/implementation/air/ie/pseiforms/2021presentations.pdf>.

The 2020-point source air emissions inventories are due Wednesday, March 31, 2021 unless otherwise directed by the commission, per the emissions inventory reporting rule 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 101.10. Resources and guidance on point source emissions inventories are located at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/psei.html>.

### **ITEM 2C. TERP Update (Nate Hickman)**

**TERP staff gave an update on available TERP programs.**

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP)

- The Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program is open through February 26, 2021, with \$6.4 million in grant funds available to replace or upgrade heavy and medium-duty on-road vehicles.
- This spring, TCEQ will open the Governmental Alternative Fuel Fleets program to assist eligible applicants in purchasing or leasing new motor vehicles that operate primarily on compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, hydrogen fuel cells, or electricity. The program will also provide grants to assist eligible applicants in the installation of refueling infrastructure for grant-funded vehicles.
- Keep updated on all programs by visiting the TERP website at [www.terpgrants.org](http://www.terpgrants.org). Questions about any of the TERP programs can be e-mailed to [terp@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:terp@tceq.texas.gov).
- Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) Program
- The TxVEMP program for the purchase of Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Level 2 charging stations remains open until September 9, 2021. Eligible projects must provide charging services to public places, workplaces, or multi-unit dwellings. This grant round will provide up to \$2,500 per ZEV level 2 dual pedestal charging station.
- This is a statewide program with **approximately** \$10.3 million in available funding remaining.
- Eligible projects will be processed for approval on a first-come, first served basis.

Visit [www.txvwfund.org](http://www.txvwfund.org) to stay updated on future grant rounds and to find eligibility requirements, grant materials, and project summary reports. Contact TxVEMP staff by phone at (833) 215-TXVW (8989) or by email at [VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov).

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

Andrew DeCandis gave an update since the last meeting in December, there have been no exceedances for the 2008 75 ppb ground level ozone standard as well as no exceedances of the 2015 70 ppb standard. The final design value for the region last year is 75 ppb at the Houston Aldine Monitor. So far, this year the 2019-2021 year is 66 ppb, which has been measured at several location with the exception of Houston Aldine Monitor.

Since our last meeting a new regulatory ozone has come online, which is located at 160 Harbor street. Near the intersection of Heights Blvd and Katy Freeway in Houston. We anticipate over the next year we will start to integrate that into our design value.

The final PM 2.5 average for January is 10.05 ug/m3. So far, in February the average has been 8.74. Additionally, you can see the monitoring average PM 2.5 concentration at a 7.0. Local regulatory monitors of the region as well as the average for those same seven stations. The newest PM 2.5 station came along in January. Co-located with Houston West Hollow located on 333 Highway 6 South between West Park Tollway and the Katy Freeway on Highway 6. We are interested to see what type of measurements will come from there in the next year or more.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM 3A.** (Andrew DeCandis)

None

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**ITEM 4A. Overview of the Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project (Trae Camble and Ken Gathright)**

The committee members were given an update on the Houston Ship Channel expansion project. The port of Houston is made up of eight operating facilities. They support 200 locations as well as keep local, state, and national economy moving similar to transportation. The improvements of the Ship Channel will focus on widening and straightening of the Ship channel., This alone will make navigation safer and easier. Specifically, the two-way traffic.

The environment will also benefit from the improvements. Habitats will be built for birds and oyster to provide wetlands on the Ship Channel. As discussion continued the final improvements will provide space for bigger ships to carry more and have shorter wait times. As well as, ships will not have to go down as far to turn around.

#### **ITEM 4B. Bonnet Technology for the Reduction of Maritime Emissions (Ken Adler)**

Ken Adler gave an overview to the committee on how bonnet technology helps to reduce emissions. Discussion continued on Marine emissions for ocean growing vessels. Majority of the Marine emissions reduction has come from highways and the amount of reduction being received is declining. Within the new regulations, we are receiving less of emissions reduction. The requirement is to receive less in the light duty in order to meet the new standard.

Discussion continued surrounding NOX emission increase from 3,000 tons to 10,000 tons. The data is based from a statistical increase. The numbers used are official from TCEQ and EPA. NOX, VOC, and PM 2.5 removes pollution from boilers. Boilers are primarily used from tankers to pump cargo to shore. The pollution is being controlled from the boiler, which is similar to what is used in stationary sources. The EPA estimates that in Houston there are about 2805 tons of NOX from ocean growing vessel that are at the terminals.

Bonnet technology has been operating in California for years. We expect them to become more frequent.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Andrew DeCandis introduced Craig Raborn the new Director of Transportation.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **ITEM 6A.**

Sam Gammage will be joining RAQPAC for the next upcoming meeting.

Next meeting: March 25, 2021

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:12A.M.