

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

<u>MEMBER'S PRESENT</u> Harris County – Winifred Hamilton City of Houston–Nguyen Ly ECHMA–Mary Jane Mudd Waller County–Brooke Bacuetes American Lung Association–Charlie Gagen Harris County Precinct 2–Douglas Peterson	<u>ALTERNATE PRESENT</u> City of Houston–Darryl Tate Port Houston–Kennth Gathright Air Alliance Houston–Inyang Uwak METRO–Vincent Sanders LWVH–Katie Campbell City of LaPorte–Johnny Morales
<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u> TxCEF – Matthew Carney	<u>STAFF PRESENT</u> Houston-Galveston Area Council – Pharr Andrews Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vinny Polignano Houston-Galveston Area Council –Ebrahim Eslami Houston-Galveston Area Council –Andrew DeCandis Houston-Galveston Area Council –Madeline Statkewicz Houston-Galveston Area Council –Jamila Owens Houston-Galveston Area Council –Ayo Jibowu Houston-Galveston Area Council –Mary Schneider Houston-Galveston Area Council –Ben Finley Houston-Galveston Area Council –Carlos Lugo Houston-Galveston Area Council –Bennie Chambers Houston-Galveston Area Council –Heather Meyers Houston-Galveston Area Council –Jaqkolbi Wesley TERP– Ron Heiser TCEQ – Vanessa De Arman TCEQ – Emily Wagoner TCEQ – Alison Stokes TCEQ – Denine Calvin

BRIEFING

Overview

- RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (TCEQ Update, TERP Update, and Regional Air Quality Monitoring update), and the meeting concluded with information items and 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

Pharr Andrews called the meeting to order, and members were introduced.

ITEM 2A. Approval of Meeting Summary (1/29/2026, 02/26/2026,03/26/2026, 04/30/2026 05/28/2026 and 06/25/2026)

Meeting summaries held for quorum.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 3A. EPA Update – (Jeff Riley, EPA)

None

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

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

Emissions Banking and Trading of Allowances (EBTA) Program Annual Reports

Annual reports for 2025-2026 compliance with EBTA program are due by June 30, 2026. Submit reports electronically through the [State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System \(STEERS\)](https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/) (<https://www3.tceq.texas.gov/steers/>).

Guidance on how to complete annual reports in STEERS is available on the [EBT](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/banking/) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/banking/>). For questions, please contact EBT at ebt@tceq.texas.gov.

The 2027 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA)

TCEQ is currently accepting applications for the 2027 TEEA. Awarded by the Governor's Office and TCEQ for more than 30 years, the TEEA is an annual awards program that honors achievements in environmental preservation and protection. Applications will be accepted through August 28, 2026.

For additional information and details on how to apply, please visit the [TEEA](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/>). For assistance or have questions, please contact Awards@tceq.texas.gov

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

Terp Staff announced that the program will participate in two upcoming outreach events to share grant program information and resources. The first is the annual regional trucking trade show at the Energy Center on July 25-26, followed by the 2026 Red River Crossroads Expo and Conference on August 8 at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, where TERP will represent TCEQ and provide information to industry stakeholders through an exhibit booth. Staff concluded the update by noting that event details would be posted in the meeting chat.

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

The meeting included a regional air quality monitoring update showing that June experienced low ozone levels due to rainy weather, with no ozone exceedance days after seven occurred in May, while PM2.5 concentrations increased across the region and tentative design values remained subject to completion of 2026 monitoring and EPA validation of 2025 data. Conroe recorded the highest average June ozone levels, Finnegan Park was among the highest PM2.5 monitors, and unusual AQI spikes on May28-29 prompted further investigation. Staff presented an analysis of the late May ozone event, explaining that very unhealthy AQI readings at Galveston and Deer Park resulted from stagnant, marine-influenced air masses rather than a specific emissions source, and noted that similar event analyses will be shared as they become available.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. Rider 7 Project Update- (Ebrahim Eslami, H-GAC)

Ebrahim Eslami, presented an update on the TCEQ funded initiative supporting regional PM 2.5 air quality planning, monitoring, modeling, and emissions inventory development. He reported that Phase 1 was completed at the end of 2025 and established a technical foundation through emissions inventories, trend analyses, source apportionment, and modeling, while identifying recurring PM2.5 concentration outliers that require further evaluation. Phase 2, scheduled for completion by the end of 2026, will build on these findings by incorporation the 2023 emissions inventory,

conducting seasonal PMF sensitivity analyses, assessing monitoring network gaps, and developing a comprehensive PM2.5 management and monitoring plan. The presentation also highlighted that regional PM 2.5 concentration has declined over time but have leveled off since 2018-2019, with spatial differences influenced by local emissions, transported pollution, meteorology, and secondary pollutant formation. He noted that the recently released Rider 7 request for proposals will support additional regulatory grade monitoring equipment, expanded speciated monitoring with meteorological measurements, and implementation of an advanced regional modeling framework.

H-GAC INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 5A. H-GAC Update - (Pharr Andrews, H-GAC)

The meeting concluded with a question and answer session before transitioning to agency updates. During the update, staff announced an organizational leadership change, noting that the Chief Transportation Officer had been appointed as the organization's new Executive Director.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A. Updates from Members

During the discussion, attendees requested presentation improvements, including larger wind-rose graphics, and sought clarification on PMF source categories such as local urban core. It was explained that the category primarily represents residential emissions and gasoline powered mobile sources and noted that PMF is limited to chemical composition data and cannot directly incorporate variables such as temperature. However, staff explained that analyzing the data by season can account for temperature related influences on PM 2.5 concentrations. In response to questions about public health, it was stated that while Rider 7 program does not fund health impact assessments, its monitoring and PMF results are intended to support future studies evaluating the relationship between air quality and health outcomes.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7A.

Next meeting: August 27, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:09 A.M.