

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, May 27, 2021 – 10:00 A. M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBER PRESENT

City of Houston – Win Colbert
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

Houston Advanced Research Center – Ebrahim Eslami
City of Houston – Nguyen Ly
METRO – Vincent Sanders
TXDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright

OTHERS PRESENT

Sam Gammage

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sanford Klanfer
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Catherine Kato
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cameron Stawicki
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Susan Jaworski
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Alan Rodenstein
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Patrick Mandapaka
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Waller
Environmental Protection Agency – Carl Young
Environmental Protection Agency – Melanie Magee
TCEQ – Graham Bates

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. The RAQPAC Members and Alternates were presented with agency reports (EPA update, TCEQ update, and 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 Summaries (1-28-21, 2-25-21, 3-25-21, 4-29-21, 5-27-21)

Approval of minutes held for quorum.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. Legislative Update (Sam Gammage)

Sam Gammage informed the Stakeholders on the Legislative Update.

The final days of the legislative session is set to end on Monday. We are past the point of hearing general bills in both the House and Senate. The Senate worked until 2 or 3am passing their final bills on second and third reading. However, the lieutenant governor is threatening to force session. He has held Commission on Law Enforcement standards. He has not passed their sunset bill.

We are now in a stand off between the House, Senate and Governor. Potentially going into special session before September to finalize the sunset bill. This is a move he has done before.

One of the largest bills the budget was finalized in the Senate. We are hoping it will be finalized in the House and agreed to conference report.

Relevant to this group is the TCEQ budget. TCEQ did well on their budget:

- Target Safety Increase 5.8 million will help TCEQ regional offices to get and retain employees. Updates for emergency response reports.
- TERP is doing well in the legislature. HB4472 is funding for congestion mitigation. SB1263 in conference committee stage to undue funding carrousel. SB900 passed chambers for above ground tanks, for protection overfill, and design and spacing on new tanks.

ITEM 2B. EPA Update (Carl Young)

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

- Listening Sessions and Docket for Pre-proposal Comments on Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule Proposal
- The President's Executive Order 13990 is "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis". It calls for EPA to consider issuing a proposed rule by September 2021 to strengthen standards for methane emissions from new, reconstructed, and modified oil and natural gas sources and to address methane emissions from existing sources.
- As a result of the Executive Order, EPA is developing a proposed rule to reduce methane and other air pollutants from sources in the oil and natural gas industry. To begin this effort EPA will be gathering pre-proposal input.
- Next month on June 15, 16, and 17 EPA will hold virtual public listening sessions from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. central time. During the listening sessions, registered members of the public will have the chance to provide their views on the oil and natural gas industry as it relates to climate change, health, and EPA's upcoming proposed rule.
- EPA has also opened a non-rulemaking docket for people who wish to provide written comments in advance of the September proposed rulemaking.

- For information on registering to attend a listening session or submitting input to the docket visit <https://www.epa.gov/controlling-air-pollution-oil-and-natural-gas-industry/epa-announces-public-listening-sessions>. EPA expects to post additional outreach opportunities to this website as they are scheduled.
- Listening Sessions and Docket on Updates to the Risk Management Program Rule
- Clean Air Act section 112(r) requires regulations and guidance for chemical accident prevention at facilities that use certain hazardous substances. These regulations and guidance are contained in the RMP rule, which requires facilities using extremely hazardous substances to develop a Risk Management Plan that:
 - Identifies the potential effects of a chemical accident,
 - Identifies steps the facility is taking to prevent an accident, and
 - Spells out emergency response procedures should an accident occur.
- These plans help local fire, police, and emergency response personnel to prepare for and respond to chemical emergencies in their community.
- EPA is considering improvements to the RMP rule and is hosting two virtual public listening sessions:
 - June 16, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. central time.
 - July 8, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. central time.
- Those interested in speaking can sign up for a 3-minute speaking slot. EPA also opened a docket open for people who wish to provide written comments until July 15, 2021. Written comments may be submitted independent of attendance or statements at either public listening session.
- Information on the listening sessions and submitting written comments is available at:
- <https://www.epa.gov/rmp/forms/virtual-public-listening-sessions-risk-management-program-rule>.

ITEM 2C. TCEQ Update (Graham Bates)

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

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. The TCEQ will soon be accepting applications for potential advisory committee members from the following affiliations: three industry representatives, two appraisal district representatives, one

taxing unit representative, and one independent technical expert. The nomination period is expected to open in early July, and full details will be available for the next meeting.

- For additional questions or information about the nominations, please contact Elizabeth Sartain of the Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Program at Elizabeth.Sartain@tceq.texas.gov.
- 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.
- Update on June 23rd Technical Information Meeting for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Ozone Nonattainment Area
- An air quality technical information meeting (TIM) for the HGB ozone nonattainment area is scheduled for June 23, 2021, from 1-5 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide stakeholders air quality modeling and other technical information relevant to the HGB nonattainment area. The June air quality TIM will be conducted virtually through Microsoft Teams. More information will be available soon. Sign up for updates regarding the Air Quality TIM at the following link: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXTCEQ/subscriber/new> and make sure to select the "Air Quality Technical Information Meetings" on the website.
- Please contact Beata Czader at beata.czader@tceq.texas.gov if you have any questions

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

Since our last meeting in April, there has been no exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb standard or the 75ppb ground-level ozone standard and the 2015 70 ppb standard. So far this year, the design value for the region through 2021 period is 71 ppb as measured at the Conroe relocated station and the Bayland Park monitoring stations.

Moving on to PM, the final PM_{2.5} average at the Clinton Road monitor in April was 11.08 µg/m³ and so far in April, we have seen an average of 9.31. Additionally, here are the charts of Annual PM_{2.5} concentrations over the last 20 year for our regulatory monitors and the monthly averages are the same.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. (Andrew DeCandis)

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. H-GAC Congestion Mitigation Plan Process- Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Alan Rodenstein gave an overview to the members regarding the congestion management process. It's required by the federal highway administration. Originally written in 2007 and updated in 2013 and 2015. In 2021, it required updates for recertification as metropolitan planning organization based on objectives at regional transportation plan, which develops metrics and identified problems

Discussion continued which showed the process how congestion management develops objectives to find the network, develop measures, collect performance evaluation, analyze, modify strategies, program strategies, and evaluate the effectiveness and start all over. It mentioned three key elements: identify congestion and cause in region. Apply variety of mitigation strategies. Evaluate strategies effectiveness and adjust accordingly.

In final discussion, a draft report was prepared and had a 45-day comment period that started on November 22 thru January. Seventy- three comments were received from groups and individuals.

Overall, positivity was received towards overall approach of CMP. Additional comments were encouraging with greater emphasis on multimodal.

ITEM 4B. Review of TCEQ 2021 Annual Monitoring Plan-Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC

Andrew gave an overview to the Stakeholders of how the process began to develop the PM 2.5 path forward report. 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 comment period ended on May 2. The requirement by TCEQ needs to be submitted every year to the EPA by July 1. There is a three- fold purpose to review and evaluate the statewide air quality monitoring network to make sure it meets the requirements by EPA and the federal regulations.

In further discussion they provide an updated on the status of changes that were recommended in previous years reports and then recommend future changes to the statewide network moving forward. The report is set up to go pollutant by pollutant. They require one area wide monitor.

In closing, they hope to report all the PM 2.5 data that they have access to in the future.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- Staff notified the members the call is ongoing if you would like to participate in the Anita Hollman presentation from H-GAC for livable centers. The deadline is today, May 27, 2021. You must submit a notice of intent by the deadline today and apply with a complete application by July 29, 2021. Anyone that would like for me to put you in contact with Anita, please send an email or call Andrew DeCandis.
- The first meeting was held for the PM2.5 subcommittee this year. We reviewed the report and discussed the needs and possible changes for this year report. The second meeting will be held on June 8, at 10:00am to check on progress. Calendar notices have gone out already for this meeting to everyone who participated in the first meeting. Anyone else interested, please contact me and I will send out an invite to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

Susan Jaworski announced Travel Demand Management (TDM) will be hosting a free online bicycle safety course at cycling savvy. The course is free. Everyone within the service area can sign up at Houston.cyclingsavvy.org

Next meeting: June 24, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:00A.M.