

# REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 26, 2023 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

<p><b><u>MEMBER PRESENT</u></b> City of Houston – Win Colbert Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson Waller County – Brooke Bacuetes City of Houston – Nguyen Ly Port Houston – Trae Camble Harris County Precinct 2 – Kristen Lee City of Texas City – Gary Scoggin Environmental Defense Fund – Grace Lewis DOW – Sherman Hampton Baylor College Medicine – Winifred Hamilton American Lung Association – Charlie Gage</p>	<p><b><u>ALTERNATE PRESENT</u></b> TxDOT – Charles Airiohuodion City of Houston – Darryl Tate Air Alliance Houston– Harrison Humphreys League of Women Voters– Katie Campbell Harris County Pollution Control– Stuart Mueller Houston Advanced Research Center – Ebrahim Eslami METRO –Vincent Sanders Port Houston –Kenneth Gathright</p>
<p><b><u>OTHERS PRESENT</u></b> Houston – Caroline Wylie Texas Electrical School Bus – Jessica Keithan</p>	<p><b><u>STAFF PRESENT</u></b> Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis Houston-Galveston Area Council – Stephen Keen Houston-Galveston Area Council – Caroline Bailey Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ayo Jibowu Houston-Galveston Area Council – Pharr Andrews Houston-Galveston Area Council – Susan Jaworski Houston-Galveston Area Council – Eric Belmar Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sydni Ligons Houston-Galveston Area Council – Qun Zhao Houston-Galveston Area Council – Craig Raborn TCEQ – Vanessa DeArman TERP – Nate Hickman EPA – Jeffrey Riley TCEQ – Alison Stokes TCEQ – Denine Calvin</p>

## **BRIEFING**

### **Overview**

- a. 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.
- 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. Introduction**

Joel Patterson called the meeting to order, and members were introduced.

## **ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summaries (9-28-2023)**

Meeting summary approved.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### **ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Jeff Riley)**

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

#### **Webinar: EPA's Clean Ports Program – First Look!**

October 31, 2023, from 12-2 PM CT ([register](#)) / ([more info](#)) – The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides EPA with \$3 billion to fund zero-emission port equipment and technology and to help ports develop climate action plans to reduce air pollutants at U.S. ports. The Clean Ports Plan builds on EPA's Ports Initiative to further some of those goals. The webinar will be an update on key program design elements including anticipated eligible activities and equipment, evaluation criteria, program structure, timeline, and more. EPA anticipates this new funding opportunity will become available for application through a notice of funding opportunity released in late winter 2024 (late next Feb/Mar). The webinar will be recorded for those that can't attend.

#### **Webinar: Quantified Climate Action Measures Directory**

November 2, 2023, at 2:30 pm CT ([register](#)) / ([more info](#)), EPA will offer a webinar on the Quantified Climate Action Measures Directory, a technical assistance resource designed to help state, local, tribal, and territorial government officials identify examples of quantified greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures in climate action plans published within the last five years.

The webinar will describe the research methods used to develop the directory, present summary findings about the examples within the directory, and demonstrate how to use the directory.

The directory identifies approaches that existing plans have used to quantify GHG reduction measures and links to more detailed information in state and local planning documents. Planning award grantees under EPA's [Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program](#) can use the directory to identify tools related to the program's GHG quantification requirements for both priority climate action plans and comprehensive climate action plans and identify other jurisdictions with related quantification expertise.

#### **Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant Competitions**

General Competition [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) / Tribes and Territories [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) ([more info](#)) – On September 20, 2023, EPA issued two Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) announcing competitions for \$4.6 billion in implementation grant funding under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants or CPRG program. The \$4.3 billion general competition is open to states, municipalities, tribes, and territories, and the \$300 million tribes and territories competition is available only to eligible tribes and territories. Eligible applicants will compete for CPRG implementation grants to fund measures in applicable Priority Climate Action Plans. As part of its evaluation of applications, EPA will prioritize measures that achieve the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emission reductions. The NOFOs further describe how the agency intends to score applications and award the competitive funds. The deadline to apply to the general competition is April 1, 2024. The deadline to apply to the Tribes and Territories competition is May 1, 2024.

## **ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Vanessa DeArman)**

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

### **Quadrennial Review**

The TCEQ is conducting a review of agency rules in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC). This process is undertaken to comply with statutory requirements at Texas Government Code, Section 2001.039, and the regulations at 1 TAC Chapter 91, Subchapter D. The purpose of rule review is to determine if the need for TCEQ's rules continues to exist and is limited to consideration of its rules for re-adoption, re-adoption with amendments, or repeal every four years. During this review, the commission will assess whether the reasons for initially adopting its rules continue to exist. Recommended changes to the rules in each applicable chapter of the TAC will not be considered for rule amendments as part of this review. Any such changes may be considered in a future rulemaking action by the commission.

To view the TAC chapters the commission is currently taking comment on, please visit the [Comment Online with TCEQ Public Comments](#) link on TCEQ's [Rules and Rulemaking](#) webpage. Thirty-day public comment periods for the chapters being reviewed open as notices are published in the *Texas Register*. To view the complete rule review schedule, please visit the [View TCEQ's Rule Review Plan](#) link on TCEQ's Rules and Rulemaking webpage.

### **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, school or junior college district, 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 accepted applications for potential advisory committee members from the following affiliations: three industry representatives, one taxing unit representative, one environmental group representative, and one representative from a school or junior college district in which property is located that is or was previously subject to an exemption under Texas Tax Code §11.31. The TCEQ is considering the nominations received and is planning to present recommendations to the commission at the December 13, 2023, Commissioner's Agenda.

For additional questions or information about the committee, please contact Elizabeth Sartain of the Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property Program at [Elizabeth.Sartain@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Sartain@tceq.texas.gov).

Please visit the [Tax Relief for Pollution Control Property](#) webpage for information on the program (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/taxrelief>).

### **Toxicology: A 90-day Public Comment Period for the Carbon Tetrachloride Proposed Development Support Document (DSD)**

A 90-day public comment period (ending January 12, 2024) has begun for the [Carbon Tetrachloride Proposed DSD](#).

To submit comments: e-mail: [tox@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:tox@tceq.texas.gov) or mail (must be received at the TCEQ no later than 01/12/2024) to: Toxicology Division, MC 168, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 (or mail delivery services: Toxicology Division, MC 168, TCEQ, 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. F, Austin, TX 78753)

## **Emissions Inventory (EI) Workshop**

The TCEQ is virtually hosting the EI Workshop on January 25, 2024. The workshop will cover updates for the upcoming 2023 reporting year, basic terms and concepts, guidance for estimating emissions from equipment leak fugitive emissions sources, and Web-EI reporting.

Registration opens November 7, 2023. Workshop details and instructions for registration, are available on the [TCEQ Events](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/industrialemissionsinventoryworkshop) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/industrialemissionsinventoryworkshop>).

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

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

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

Since our last meeting in September, there have been no exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb ground-level ozone standard and one exceedance of the 2015 70 ppb standard.

So far for 2023, the region's maximum 4<sup>th</sup> highest value is 90 ppb as measured at the Houston East Monitor. Also, for the year the partial year regional design value for the 2021 through 2023 period is 83 ppb as measured at the Houston Bayland Park monitor followed by 79 ppb at the Houston East Monitor.

Moving on to PM conditions, you can see the annual average concentrations for all the region's regulatory PM 2.5 monitors region going back to 2001 as well as the readings for those same stations over the most recent 12 months.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **ITEM 3A.**

None

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **ITEM 4A. Environmental and Sustainability Updates at Port Houston – (Trae Camble, PA Houston)**

Trae Gamble gave an overview to the members on Environmental and Sustainability updates at Port Houston.

Discussion continued with Project 11 and their mission to drive regional prosperity. Currently, as the nations busiest waterway we support eight public facilities. With the largest project, cargo, and steel port we are seeing 7000 different trucks a day at the terminal. This has opened 3.4 million jobs nation wide over \$900 billion in economic impact.

Discussion continued with decarbonization challenge. The focus is on the energy and transportation sector. The main goal is to try to decrease the emissions from greenhouse gas standpoint.

### **ITEM 4B. Electric School Bus Presentation – (Jessica Keithan, Texas Electric School Bus Project)**

Pharr Andrews gave an update to the members on climate pollution reduction act program some of the benefits of the program and how the region can benefit from implementing this program. Discussion continued with the primary goal for this program is to reduce greenhouse gases while supporting the creation of jobs, delivering cleaner air, and lowering energy costs for families. As well as looking into emissions produced from buildings and energy production industry, agriculture, and waste. The program will be implemented in two phases by the EPA. There are many benefits to incorporating this program in our region. It was further discussed this program will strengthen regional collaborations and help build a platform to have conversations about climate related issues. Also, we can accelerate existing planning efforts by mirroring strategies in this planning process.

In closing, the end is to get ahead so these projects will help to build resiliency in our workforce development and stimulate the economy.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **ITEM 5A.**

None

Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee  
October 26, 2023

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ITEM 6A.**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM 7A.**

Next meeting: December 14, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:27 A.M.