

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, March 31, 2022 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

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| <p><u>MEMBER PRESENT</u> City of Houston – Win Colbert METRO – Edmund Petry Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson Harris County, Precinct 2 – Kristen Lee Exxon Mobil Corporation – Sherman Hampton American Lung Association – Charlie Gagen EHCMA – Mary Jane Mudd City of Texas City – Gary Scoggin</p> | <p><u>ALTERNATE PRESENT</u> Port Houston– Kenneth Gathright Environmental Defense Fund – Ken Adler Harris County Pollution Control – Stuart Mueller METRO – Vincent Sanders TxDOT– Charles Airiohudion City of Houston – Darryl Tate</p> |
| <p><u>OTHERS PRESENT</u> TCEQ – Janet Hamilton AECOM – Bradley Flowers</p> | <p><u>STAFF PRESENT</u> Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley Houston-Galveston Area Council – Craig Raborn Houston-Galveston Area Council – Jim Mahood Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gregory Seal Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shixin Gao Houston-Galveston Area Council – Brandy George Houston-Galveston Area Council – Diane Domagas Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Waller Houston-Galveston Area Council – Mike Burns Houston-Galveston Area Council – Daniel Brassil Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carrie Evans Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shirley Li Environmental Protection Agency – Jeffrey Riley Environmental Protection Agency – Erik Snyder TCEQ – Jamie Zech TCEQ – Nate Hickman TCEQ – Alison Stokes TCEQ – Michael Honeycutt TCEQ – Kenneth McGaughey</p> |

BRIEFING

Overview

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

Win Colbert called the meeting to order, and members were introduced.

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summary (9-30-21, 12-09-21, 01-27-22 & 02-24-22)

Quorum not met. The summary approval meeting will be postponed until the next RAQPAC meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Jeffrey Riley)

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

Reconsideration of the Decision to Retain 2012 Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

On March 18, 2022, the Chartered Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) PM Panel transmitted two reports to the EPA Administrator. The two reports provide the CASAC PM Panel's advice on EPA's scientific and technical documents supporting the Agency's reconsideration of the PM NAAQS.

For more information, see CASAC Review of the EPA's Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2021) [ISA Supplement report](#), and CASAC Review of the EPA's Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2021) [PA report](#)

For more information on EPA's reconsideration of the Decision to Retain the 2012 PM NAAQS, please visit <https://casac.epa.gov>.

Reconsideration of the Decision to Retain 2015 Ground-level Ozone NAAQS

On October 29, 2021, EPA announced it will reconsider the 2020 decision to retain the 2015 ozone NAAQS. EPA is targeting December 2023 to complete the reconsideration.

A virtual public meeting will be held for the CASAC Ozone Panel to receive a briefing from EPA on the draft policy assessment that will support the agency's reconsideration of the 2020 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). A second virtual public meeting will be held for the panel to peer review the agency's draft policy assessment for reconsideration.

The virtual public meeting for the panel to receive the briefing from EPA will be held on April 29, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

The virtual public meeting for the panel to peer review the draft policy assessment document will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Friday, June 10, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Monday, June 13, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and Friday, June 17, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. All times listed are in Eastern Time.

Please refer to the CASAC website at <https://casac.epa.gov> for details on how to access the meetings.

For more information regarding these meetings, please refer to the April 4, 2022, Federal Register announcement: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-04/pdf/2022-07014.pdf>

TEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Alison Stokes)

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

Environmental Trade Fair and Conference (ETFC)

The ETFC will be held May 10-11, 2022, at the Austin Convention Center. During the two-day ETFC, Agency staff will lead over 100 courses and discussions. Topics include air and water permitting, oil and gas, industrial and solid waste management, compliance and enforcement, and remediation programs.

Attendee and exhibitor registration is now open. For more information, please visit the Environmental Trade Fair and Conference webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/etfc>).

Senate Bill (SB) 604 Rulemaking

On March 30, 2022, the commission adopted an Inspection and Maintenance program rulemaking that implements revisions to the Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 504, as required by SB 604, 86th Texas Legislature.

Contact I/M staff by phone at (512) 239-4905 or by email at nicholas.landuyt@tceq.texas.gov.

North Wayside PM2.5 Meeting Updates

On March 24, 2022, TCEQ staff held a meeting with local industry representatives to update them on the findings of the North Wayside monitor.

TCEQ is working to acquire speciated PM data for the monitor to better understand the source of the high values. We will continue to provide updates as this matter develops.

Contact SIP staff by phone at (512) 239-2606 or by email at graham.bates@tceq.texas.gov

ITEM 2C. TERP Update (Nate Hickman)

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

Programs that are still available:

- **Light Duty Motor Vehicle Incentive Program**-This program is currently open and accepting applications. \$2500 for Light duty powered vehicles/\$5000 for Natural gas-powered vehicles.
- **Seaport Rail Yard Area Emission Reduction Program**-To replace heavy duty drayage rail yard equipment offer upgrades around seaport rail yards. This program has \$11 million available.
- **Texas Clean School Bus Program**-There is a lot of interest in this program. We are working with a lot of school districts to help promote funding. This is open until October 2022 or until funding is no longer available.

Programs that are available for the new fiscal year:

- **Alternative Fueling Facilities Program**-This program will offer \$12million. This will include all hydrogen, natural gas, and electric charging fast and level 2 vehicles. Opens in April.
- **Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Program**-This program will replace medium and heavy-duty vehicles that operate on natural gas and this season will be an opportunity to replace used natural gas vehicles under this plan.
- **Emission Reduction/Sims Grant Program**-This program will have \$106 million available. It will replace anything heavy duty on/off road in and around non-attainment area in Texas.
- **New Technology Implementation**-Grant program reduces emission from stationery sources.
- **Governmental Alternatives fuel facilities Program**
- **Port Authority Studies and Pilot Program**
- **Seaport and Rail Yard will be hosting Spry Pop-Up Workshops in English and Spanish**

Community and Family Center

7504 Avenue E, Houston, Texas 77012-(9-11am/12-2pm)

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

Since our last meeting in January, 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 this year, the region's maximum 4th highest value is 65 ppb located at the Conroe Relocated monitor and the current regional design value for the 2020 through 2022 period is 70 ppb as measured at both the Houston Bayland Park and Conroe Relocated monitors which is consistent with recent years.

Moving on to PM, this month things will be done differently. On this chart you can see the most recent 12 months of PM_{2.5} concentrations within the region. Rather than showing a simple annual average of PM_{2.5} concentrations over the last couple of decades, the focus will be instead on the actual design value of PM_{2.5} for our region. This data has been gathered from EPA and TCEQ. For the four newest PM_{2.5} monitors, the design values for the 12 micrograms per meter cubed annual standard from 2019 to 2021 can be found in this chart. These are partial counts and do not count against our attainment status. Finally, this chart shows the design values for the 35 micrograms per meter cubed 24-hour standard.

Additionally, all information from today's meeting can be found and downloaded from the RAQPAC website.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. (Andrew DeCandis)

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. Ambient Air Monitoring Following Natural Disasters and Industrial Accidents (Dr. Janet Hamilton)

Dr. Janet Hamilton gave an overview to the members on natural disasters and industrial accidents regarding how they have the potential to lead to the release of excess emissions of chemicals into the air. Discussion continued that these emissions can be caused by facility shut down, facility start up, or by damage to the facility.

It was further discussed that chemical emissions have the potential to affect air quality in a way that could adversely affect human health and lead to nuisance odor conditions. Discussion continued that on air quality TCEQ monitors the air after natural disasters and industrial accidents will be used to help ensure protection of the environment.

In closing, the overall goal is how to better aid in discussion surrounding agency resources after natural disaster to inform TCEQ's responses to future events that negatively impact air quality.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

- A. PM 2.5 Advance Subcommittee Meeting: April 12, 2022, at 1:00pm
- B. CELC/H-GAC Roundtable April 14, 2022, at 9:00am-10:00am
- C. Zero Emission Vehicle Workshop, Monday, April 25, 2022-8:30am-5:00pm
Ruthe Jackson Center -313 South Carrier Pkwy, Grand Prairie, Tx 75052

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7A.

Next meeting: April 28, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.