

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, May 28, 2026 – 10:00 A. M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Virtual Teams Meeting

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| <p><u>MEMBER'S PRESENT</u> Harris County – Winifred Hamilton Environmental Defense Fund– Grace Lewis City of Houston–Nguyen Ly TXDOT–Qing Li Waller County–Brooke Bacuetes American Lung Association–Charlie Gagen</p> | <p><u>ALTERNATE PRESENT</u> Harris County Pollution Control–Stuart Mueller City of Houston–Darryl Tate Port Houston–Kennth Gathright Air Alliance Houston–Inyang Uwak METRO–Vincent Sanders LWWH–Katie Campbell</p> |
| <p><u>OTHERS PRESENT</u> Harris County – Jesse Dickerman TXDOT – Shixin Gao</p> | <p><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 –Sara Delroshan Houston-Galveston Area Council –Rania Mohamed Houston-Galveston Area Council –Celeria Washington Houston-Galveston Area Council –Ben Finley Houston-Galveston Area Council –Joshua Phillips Houston-Galveston Area Council –Carlos Lugo Houston-Galveston Area Council –Brandon Mosley Houston-Galveston Area Council –Rosa Steptoe Houston-Galveston Area Council –Wendy Almanzan Houston-Galveston Area Council –Bennie Chambers TERP– Ron Heiser TCEQ – Vanessa De Arman TCEQ – Rachel Melton TCEQ – Emily Wagoner TCEQ – Alison Stokes TCEQ – Denine Calvin TCEQ – Bonnie Evridge EPA – Jeff Riley</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

Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee
May 28, 2026

ITEM 1A. Introduction

Grace Lewis 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 and 05/28/2026)

Meeting summaries held for quorum.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

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

An update was provided on ongoing federal air quality regulatory and legal developments. The group was informed that litigation concerning the 2020 PM2.5 standard remains pending, with EPA's motion to vacate the standard still under consideration by the D.C. Circuit Court.

Additionally, legal action has been filed regarding EPA's failure to meet the February 2026 deadline for completing area designations under the revised standard, and these matters will continue to be monitored for further developments. The group also received an update on EPA's recent proposal to delay implementation of the Tier 4 light-duty and medium-duty vehicle emissions standards from model year 2027 to model year 2029. If finalized, the proposal would extend the applicability of the current Tier 3 standards for an additional two years while EPA undertakes a broader reconsideration of the Tier 4 requirements. The proposed rule is currently open for public comments through July 6, 2026.

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

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

State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS) Reporting Deadline

The STEERS reporting deadline for annual air emissions and inspection fees is June 2, 2026.

For more information, please visit the [Annual Air Emissions and Inspection Fees](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/air-fees.html) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/airquality/point-source-ei/air-fees.html>).

Texas Environmental Excellence Awards (TEEA) Banquet

TCEQ is honored to host the TEEA on June 9, 2026, at the Bullock Texas State History Museum to recognize the TEEA winners and finalists. For more information, please visit the [TEEA Banquet](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/texas-environmental-excellence-awards-banquet) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/texas-environmental-excellence-awards-banquet>).

TEEA is an annual awards program that honors achievements in environmental preservation and protection. There are ten diverse award categories that provide citizens, communities, businesses, and organizations an opportunity to obtain the state's highest environmental honor and be recognized for their environmental projects.

1. For information on TEEA winners and finalists or how to apply for next year, please visit the [TEEA](https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/about-teea) webpage (<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/events/teea/about-teea>).

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

Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) successfully launched six grant programs: the Alternative Fueling Facilities Program (AFFP), the Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program (LDPLIP), the Texas Clean School Bus Program (TCSB), the Rebate Grants Program (Rebate), Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG), and the New Technology Implementation Grant Program (NTIG). Of these six grant programs, AFFP, LDPLIP, TCSB, and Rebate have closed the application submission periods.

TERP Updates: The New Technology Implementation Grant Program (NTIG) officially opened on May 20 and is now accepting grant applications for funding. The NTIG program provides grants on a competitive basis statewide for eligible projects that reduce emissions from facilities and stationary sources, new technologies for oil and gas projects, and electricity storage projects. The NTIG program is accepting applications for funding through September 25.

The Rebate Grants Program (Rebate) announced last week that it will officially suspend the acceptance of applications today, May 28, at 5 p.m. Since opening on April 29, the Rebate program has received more than 3,200 hundred applications totaling over \$500 million. As mentioned in previous meetings, the Rebate Grants Program (our biggest program) is a first come/first served program that provides grants in the Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties to upgrade or replace on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles and select heavy-duty diesel non-road equipment.

The Emissions Reduction Incentive Grants Program (ERIG), which opened at the same time as the Rebate program will continue accepting applications for funding through September 4. ERIG is a specialized program that provides grants on a competitive basis in the Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties for locomotives, marine vessels, stationary equipment, or select non-road equipment. The Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grants Program (TNGVGP) is expected to open mid- to late-July, 2026. TNGVGP provides funding to cover up to 90% of the cost to replace or repower heavy-duty vehicles with vehicles and engines powered by CNG, LNG, or LPG. The Seaport and Rail Yard Areas Emissions Reduction Program (SPRY) is expected to open early- to mid-August, 2026. The SPRY program provides grants for upgrading or replacing older drayage and container handling equipment operating in seaports and rail yards in eligible Texas counties. The Texas Hydrogen Infrastructure, Vehicle, and Equipment Grant Program (THIVE) is expected to open late-August or early-September, 2026. THIVE will provide grants in Texas nonattainment areas and affected counties for hydrogen vehicles, equipment, and refueling infrastructure. More projected grant openings will be announced in the coming RAQPAC meetings as the rollouts become clearer. Visit the main TERP website to view Project Summary Reports (by grant program) dating back to 2001. Also view the most recent Annual and Biennial Reports to the Texas Legislature. All reports can be found under the Reports & Publications dropdown menu at the top of the page; • Visit the main TERP website to see all TERP Grant Programs and their respective eligibility requirements by selecting the 'Explore Grants' dropdown at the top of the page and choosing 'By Program Name'; • Sign up for the TERP Hot Topics email list to get the latest information on new program openings and other announcements by visiting the main TERP website and scrolling to the bottom of the page and selecting Subscribe. Contact TERP staff by phone at (800) 919-TERP (8377) or by email at terp@tceq.texas.gov. Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Plan (TxVEMP) Program (No updates since last meeting) The TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program application period has been extended to August 31, 2026: Air Grants Division/TCEQ • The TxVEMP All-Electric Grant Program still has approximately \$30 million in available funding to upgrade or replace qualifying vehicles and equipment operating in eligible areas with new electric models. Grants can reimburse up to: 100% of the cost for government entities o 75% of the incremental cost for non-government entities • Eligible project categories include the replacement or repower of: o Class 8 Local Freight Trucks and Port Drayage Trucks o Class 4-8 School Bus, Shuttle Bus, or Transit Bus o Class 4-7 Local Freight Trucks o Airport Ground Support Equipment o Forklifts and Port Cargo Handling Equipment o Applicants purchasing on-road vehicles or non-road equipment may request additional funding for electric charging or hydrogen refueling infrastructure. Sign up for TxVEMP updates to learn more about this program. Please contact us at 1-800-919-8377 or VWsettle@tceq.texas.gov with any questions. Visit www.txvwfund.org for the latest information and other announcements, as well as program requirements, application forms, and project summary reports. Texas Voluntary Marginal Conventional Well Plugging Program (TxMCW) (No updates since last meeting) • Background in May 8, 2024: TCEQ received \$134 million in grant funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP) for Mitigating Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells (MCWs), overseen by the Department of Energy (DOE) / National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL). • Program Description of TCEQ is implementing the MERP grant through TxMCW, a program that will cover the costs of measuring methane emissions at participating well sites and plugging those wells. At an estimated \$60,000 and \$120,000 per well, TCEQ may award between 1,000 and 2,000 grants for qualifying wells in Texas over a four-year program period. TxMCW program development is still underway. • Upcoming Events TxMCW Presentation at the TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference, May 19, 2026, held at the Henry B. Gozalez Convention Center, 900 E. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205. The TxMCW is hoping to release their Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) as well as their Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a vendor to do the methane measurements for potential eligible projects. Visit the TxMCW webpage for the latest program information and sign up for updates to learn more about this program, or contact us directly via email, at TxMCW@tceq.texas.gov.

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

The May Regional Monitoring update highlighted the start of ozone season, with six ozone exceedance days recorded through May 26 compared to none in April and ten at the same time last year. Regional ozone concentrations increased as expected, with Northwest Harris County recording the highest average readings despite periods of monitor maintenance. Most monitors experienced at least one exceedance event, and the region’s projected ozone design value increased notably over the past month. PM2.5 results were mixed, with several monitors showing lower concentrations than in April, while Finnegan Park continued to record some of the highest readings in the region. Preliminary PM2.5 design values remain below the current federal standard, although potential future standards could have significant implications. Air Quality Index conditions worsened during mid -May, including several days classified as unhealthy for sensitive groups or worse, driven by ozone. Overall, the data reflects the expected seasonal rise in ozone levels as the region enters the summer months, while PM2.5 trends remain stable with modest improvements at several monitoring locations.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. Regional Air Permitting Update- (Bonnie Evridge, TCEQ-Air Permits Division)

Bonnie Everidge, Manager of the Mechanical Coding section in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Air Permits Division, provided an overview of TCEQ’s authority to regulate air emissions and the various air permitting mechanisms available in Texas. She explained the hierarchy of authorizations, including the facilities, permits by rule, standard permits, and case by case new source review permits, with a focus on standard permits for concrete batch plants. The presentation outlined the requirements for permanent, temporary, specialty, and public works concrete batch plant authorizations, including operational limitations, renewal requirements, public notice obligations, and opportunities for public participation through comments, meetings, and contested case hearings. She also discussed the protectiveness reviews used to develop standard permits, the role of air dispersion modeling, and the circumstances under which facilities must instead seek case by case permits. Finally, she reviewed the case-by-case permitting process, including administrative and technical reviews, best available control technology requirements, air quality impacts analysis, public notice procedures, and the process for submitting and responding to public comments.

ITEM 4B. H-GAC Air Quality Programs Update- (Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC)

Staff gave an update of the Unified Planning Work Program for 2025-2027, explaining how it guides the region’s transportation and air quality planning activities. Staff highlighted ongoing responsibilities such as committee support, coordination with state and regional air quality partners, public outreach, SIP support, air quality reporting, and development of performance measures. The team also provided updates on current initiatives, including the regional air quality data hub, Climate Pollution Reduction Grant activities, transportation conformity analyses, emissions reduction strategy evaluations, the Clean Vehicles Program, and plans for a regional zero-emission vehicle strategy and EV-ready building code. Staff noted that many of these efforts are ongoing and emphasized their commitment to engaging stakeholders as planning begins for the next UPWP cycle in 2028-2029.

H-GAC INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Staff provided an update on the planning of the second annual Regional Air Quality Summit, which is scheduled for October 8 at the University of Houston Alumni Center. The summit will continue the successful format of the inaugural event, featuring panel discussions, networking opportunities, and community engagement activities. This year’s theme, “moving from Planning to Action,” will focus on advancing implementation of the regions Clean Air Action Plan through collaboration and practical strategies. Staff indicated that keynote speakers and panelists will highlight actions related to various components of the plan and noted their intentions to keep RAQPAC informed as planning progresses, including updates on registration and event details.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A. Updates from Members

None

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7A.

Next meeting: June 25, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.