

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, June 30, 2022 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBER PRESENT

City of Houston – Win Colbert
Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson
Harris County Pollution Control – Latrice Babin
Harris County, Precinct 2 – Kristen Lee
Waller County – Sid Rajmohan
Environmental Defense Fund – Grace Lewis
Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson

ALTERNATE PRESENT

Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphrey
Harris County Pollution Control – Stuart Mueller
Environmental Defense Fund – Kenneth Adler
METRO – Vincent Sanders
TxDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
City of Houston – Darryl Tate
Liberty County – David Douglas
Houston Advanced Research Center – Ebrahim Eslami
League of Women Voters – Katie Campbell

OTHERS PRESENT

Air Alliance – Melissa Beeler
Element Markets – Chris Lehmann
Harris County – Lisa Lin
Unlimited CUER Consulting – Cyrus Cormier

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Craig Raborn
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Green
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington
Houston-Galveston Area Council – James Garland
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ayo Jibowo
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vishu Lingala
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Stephen Keen
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carrie Evans
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Caroline Bailey
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Fizza Hassan
Environmental Protection Agency – Jeff Riley
TCEQ – Vanessa De Arman
TCEQ – Nate Hickman
TCEQ – Alison Stokes

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 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

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

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summary (5-26-2022)

Meeting summary approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Jeff Riley)

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

Reconsideration of the EPA's December 2020 Decision to Retain 2012 Particulate Matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

On April 14, 2022, EPA announced the availability of the "[Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter \(Final\)](#)". On May 26, 2022, EPA announced the availability of the "[Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter \(Final\)](#)". The final Policy Assessment (PA) concludes that:

- The scientific evidence and information support revising the level of the annual standard for the PM_{2.5} NAAQS to below the current level of 12 ug/m³ (and down as low as 8 ug/m³) while retaining the 24-hour standard
- The scientific evidence and information does not call into question the adequacy of the current Primary PM₁₀ Standard or PM Secondary Standards

EPA is on target to propose its decision on review of the PM NAAQS by Summer 2022 and issue a final decision by Spring 2023. 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

A virtual public meeting was originally scheduled on 6/8, 6/10, 6/13, and 6/17/22 for the CASAC Ozone Panel to peer review the agency's Draft PA for the reconsideration. On May 13, 2022, the CASAC Ozone Panel elected to pause the review of the Draft PA, and used the scheduled meetings on 6/8 & 6/10 for the panel to decide if they wanted to further discuss the science prior to reviewing the Draft PA. The meetings scheduled for 6/13 and 6/17 were cancelled.

From the June 8 & 10 meetings, the CASAC Ozone Review Panel has agreed that a fuller discussion on the science is needed before moving forward on reconsideration of this NAAQS.

July 12, 2022 Update: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office announces two public meetings of the CASAC Ozone Review Panel. A public meeting will be held for the CASAC Ozone Review Panel to receive a briefing from EPA on the 2020 Ozone Integrated Science Assessment (ISA) and to hear public comments. A second public meeting will be held for the panel to discuss scientific issues related to the 2020 Ozone ISA.

The public meeting for the panel to receive the briefing from EPA and public comments will be held on August 29, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The public meeting for the panel to discuss scientific issues related to the 2020 Ozone ISA will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, September 14, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Friday, September 16, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 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 July 12, 2022 Federal Register announcement: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-07-12/pdf/2022-14812.pdf>

Ozone Determinations of Attainment:

On April 13, 2022, EPA proposed determinations as to whether nonattainment areas under the 2008 and 2015 8-hour ozone NAAQS had attained those standards by the attainment date.

The areas addressed in the 2008 ozone NAAQS proposal are currently classified as “Serious” nonattainment and were required to attain the standards by July 20, 2021. EPA based these determinations on the most recent publicly available and certified ozone monitoring data, from the years 2018-2020. The published Federal Register (FR) proposal is here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-13/pdf/2022-07509.pdf> and a summary fact sheet is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/2008-ozone-national-ambient-air-quality-standards-naaqs-nonattainment>.

Summary of 2008 ozone NAAQS proposal:

- Deny 1-year extension for Houston attainment date
- Find Houston did not attain by attainment date, reclassify to Severe, SIP revisions due to EPA no later than 18 months after effective date of reclassification to Severe

The areas addressed in the 2015 ozone NAAQS proposal are currently classified as “Marginal” nonattainment and were required to attain the standards by August 3, 2021. EPA based these determinations on the most recent publicly available and certified ozone monitoring data, from the years 2018-2020. The published FR proposal is here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-13/pdf/2022-07513.pdf> and a summary fact sheet is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/proposed-determinations-attainment-attainment-date-extensions-0>.

Summary of 2015 ozone NAAQS proposal:

- Find Houston did not attain by attainment date, reclassify to Moderate, SIP revisions due to EPA no later than January 1, 2023

The comment period for each proposal closed on June 13, 2022. EPA received relevant adverse comments on each proposed action & is currently working to respond to comments and take final action.

EPA Clean School Bus Program: 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates

\$500 million is now available for 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates, EPA is conducting webinars in advance of the August 19, 2022 application deadline:

- July 13 @ 1PM ET – Office of the Inspector General: Fraud Prevention & Best Practices
- July 17: [Green Bus Summit](#) - Peppermill Resort, Reno NV.
- July 27 @ 1PM ET – How to Apply with Live Q&A
- August 10 @ 1PM ET – U.S. Department of Agriculture: Rural Electric Cooperatives Infrastructure Funding

ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Vanessa De Arman)

TCEQ staff notified members on the latest information:

HGB air quality technical information meeting HGB TEM will be held virtually on July 28 from (1-5 p.m.). The purpose of the meeting is to inform stakeholders of air quality modeling and other technical information relevant to the HGB Ozone non-attainment area. Information is available on TCEQ SEP hot topics webpage.

TCEQ staff will give technical presentation and updates about the state implementation plan the SEP requirements, air quality modeling and other related topics, additional updates and technical presentations may also be provided by other stakeholders.

The meeting agenda and details on how to participate will be provided closer to the date of the meeting and made available on the HGB AQ webpage. Details on how to sign up for meeting notifications are also available at the webpage.

ITEM 2C. TERP Update (Nate Hickman)

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

Texas Clean Fleet Program

This program targets the large fleets in Texas so fleets of 75 or more who are looking to replace at least 10 of their fleet vehicles with those that run on alternative fuel, natural gas, hydrogen, electric or hybrid and that will be open for the clean transportation zone in Texas. We look forward to posting notice through our website and hosting a workshop for this. Possibly webinars once we open.

Alternative Fueling Facility Program

This program is now open and accepting applications. This is the program that accepts applications to construct/reconstruct alternative fueling facilities within an area called the clean transportation zone and that can include compressed natural gas liquefied natural gas, propane, electric charging/fast charging, and level two as well as hydrogen and other possible biodiesel fuel facilities. \$12million available for program. Held a webinar to explain at this time we are dividing the funds into two separate funds-\$6 million CNG/LNG component/ \$6 million electric and hydrogen biodiesel. It was basically discussed that the scoring really involves around the area that the proposed facilities will be located. Looking primarily at facilities proposed locating in an area that is not near a facility of similar fuel type. Really trying to fill in the gaps for alternative fuels. Also looking at areas that propose to construct along clean transportation zone. Near high traffic, highway, US highway, and state highway. We are very excited to get this program off the ground. Will accept applications until July 12, 2022. The applications will be compared based on scoring criteria and then rank them and offer grant awards once were able to finalize scoring criteria.

Light Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase Release Incentive Program

Statewide program that offered a \$2500 rebate for one purchase of a light duty electric vehicle or a \$5000 rebate back on the purchase of a natural gas-powered light duty vehicle. The program is still open. We have seen a lot of demand for the electric vehicle. Possibly more than we even have grants available for. Check our website for what we do with this program. Potentially suspending applications acceptance early just because of the demand there. We do anticipate continuing to accept application for the natural gas light duty vehicles because we do have many more grants available for that category.

SeaPort Rail Yard Area Emission Reduction Program

Is still open we have at least \$10 million available. So, we are targeting the heavy-duty trucks, drayage trucks, fork equipment, and anything that work in and around the Sea Port and Rail yard of Texas. Still money to replace those vehicles and equipment with newer equipment of various fuel types.

For more information visit our website www.terpgrants.org.

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

Since our last meeting in May, there have been three exceedances of the 2008 75 ppb ground-level ozone standard and six exceedances or of the 2015 70 ppb standard.

So far, this year, the region's maximum 4th highest value has risen by 10 ppb over the last month to 77 ppb located at the Houston Harvard Street monitor. This monitor does not yet contribute to the regional design value as it has not yet been operating for three years. Despite that, it's worth considering how this will affect our regional design value once it is fully incorporated into the regional monitoring regime. Moving on, the current regional design value for the 2020 Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee

through 2022 period has risen to 72 ppb as measured at the Houston Bayland Park monitor. Compared to previous years, the current design value continues to run lower than what we have seen at this time.

Moving on to PM, you can see our current annual average for all of our regional regulatory monitors for this year and going back to 2001. We also have the most recent 12 months of PM2.5 concentrations for these stations within the region. Note the significant increase in monthly average PM2.5 concentrations during the last month. This appears to be largely the result of Saharan dust beginning on June 12th. All of the charts can be found on the RAQPAC meeting materials website under today's meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. (Andrew DeCandis)

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 4A. Industry and Community-Based Zero Emission Drayage Supply Initiative (Cyrus Cormier, & Ken Adler)

Ken Adler gave an overview to the members regarding the objective to identify \$100 to \$250 million in infrastructure, and TCEQ HGAC Funding. This was set up for zero emission drayage routes, and zero emissions truck operations. Discussion continued with how they wanted as a group to demonstrate viability of ZEV drayage trucks, and to adopt 100% ZEV drayage truck goal by 2050. Also, how to identify where the hot spots were and how to create community standards to mitigate truck impacts.

In further discussion, the Port of Houston announced it will become carbon neutral by 2050. Port Houston will award \$120 million DOT infrastructure grant application to support ZEV drayage trucks and anti-idling campaign in EJ neighborhoods. This is a combination of stop the idling as well as the waste. The creation of the heavy-duty ZEV workshop steering committee to plan the fall 2022 heavy duty ZEV ride and drive event. It was noted that one was previously held in Dallas and we are going to replicate one in Houston.

Overall, reports found that more than 4 to 10 Americans are living in places with unhealthy levels of air pollution. It was pointed out that particularly people of color are more likely to live in a county with 3 failing grades more likely than white people. In closing, a chart of everyone's risk factor was presented. The goal is to bring awareness to put air pollution in everyday language, give public local information, focus attention on ozone and particle pollution.

ITEM 4B. A Conversation with Harris County-Director of Sustainability (Lisa Lin, Harris County)

Lisa Lin gave an overview on the clean energy strategy which details how contracts will be renewed, building a new energy asset, structuring flexibility at county facilities, and create energy resilience hubs. Discussion continued with how to ensure these buildings are functioning as designed. At the same time, share the strategy benefits to residents through energy programs. It was pointed out that there are some upcoming projects coming soon that are currently in the works with consultants.

Moving forward, electric vehicles initiative is in operation. She mentioned, Dr. Babin, group was one of the first to purchase a vehicle. Harris County and Toll Road Authority recently partnered to identify fleets that can be electrified. Another 19 vehicles will be announced when they arrive. Also, in further discussion, in terms of deploying stations with the AFA grant and looking into other opportunities around county assets to see what make sense for public needs and potentially what kind of secondary charting areas for our fleet that we will bring on.

Another issue discussed is climate justice plan. Scanning what is out there, and what other countries have been doing. Looking at all our natural gas consumption, fleet fuel consumption. Also, to get an understanding for waste data and any other kind of data for internal county operations.

Overall, the goal is the make sure we streamline our own internal carbon practices while ensuring that the county maintain its' bond ratings.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- It was discussed that the next RAQPAC PM 2.5 advanced subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 1pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

None

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7A.

Next meeting: July 28, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.