

REGIONAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, May 26, 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
American Lung Association – Charlie Gagen
Environmental Defense Fund – Grace Lewis
EHCMA – Mary Jane Mudd
Fort Bend County – Joel Patterson

ALTERNATE PRESENT

Port Houston– Kenneth Gathright
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphrey
Associated General Contractors of America– Marc Anderson
Harris County Pollution Control – Stuart Mueller
METRO – Vincent Sanders
TxDOT– Charles Airiohuodion
City of Houston – Darryl Tate
Houston Advanced Research Center – Ebrahim Eslami
League of Women Voters – Katie Campbell
City of Houston – Nguyen Ly

OTHERS PRESENT

TXDOT – Michael Chamberlain
Air Alliance – Alex Spike
Air Alliance – Melissa Beeler
Alondra Torres

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 – Veronica Waller
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ayo Jibowo
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Daniel Brassil
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carrie Evans
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Callie Barnes
Environmental Protection Agency – Carrie Paige
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 information items and 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, 3-31-22, & 04-28-22)

Meeting summaries approved.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 2A. EPA Update (Carrie Paige)

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). In October 2021, EPA developed and released draft Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2021).

ISA Supplement report and Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (External Review Draft – October 2021) PA report.

The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) became involved in the reconsideration process to provide independent advice to the EPA Administrator on the technical bases for EPA's NAAQS. On March 18, 2022, the Chartered CASAC PM Panel transmitted two reports to the EPA Administrator.

The two reports provide the CASAC PM Panel's independent expert advice on EPA's scientific and technical documents supporting the Agency's reconsideration of the PM NAAQS.

Summary of CASAC PM Panel recommendations to the Administrator:

- Annual avg. PM 2.5: Current level of 12.0 ug/m³ is not protective; majority supported range of 8-10 ug/m³ minority supported 10-11 ug/m³ 24-hour avg. PM 2.5: Majority recommended current 35 ug/m³ std. not protective, recommend level of 25-30 ug/m³; minority recommend current std. is protective. 24-hour primary PM 10 and secondary PM 10 stds: Recommended retaining (agreed with EPA's conclusions in policy assessment). However, not very prescriptive on secondary std; Administrator could consider revising secondary standard with respect to visibility on April 14, 2022, EPA announced the availability of the "Supplement to the 2019 Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter (Final)". In today's FR (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-05-26/pdf/2022-10972.pdf>), EPA announced the availability of the final PA document.
- EPA is on target to propose its' decision on review of the PM NAAQS by Summer 2022 and final decision by Spring 2023. Upon that proposed decision, we'll have a better representation of the Agency's consideration of the CASAC PM Panel recommendations. 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.
- On April 29, 2022, EPA released the public draft document Policy Assessment for the Reconsideration of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, External Review Draft (Draft PA), prepared as part of the reconsideration of the 2020 decision to retain the ozone NAAQS. Comments must be received on or before May 31, 2022/

Link to the April 29, 2022, Federal Register announcement, which provides information on how to submit comments: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-04-29/pdf/2022-09214.pdf>

Link to the Draft PA: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-04/o3_reconsideration_draft_pa-v_final-compressedfinal.pdf

The CASAC Ozone Review Panel previously scheduled meetings on June 8, 10, 13, and 17, to conduct a peer review of the Policy Assessment (PA) for the Reconsideration of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (External Review Draft – April 2022). One of EPA’s charge questions asks about the Panel’s views on “EPA’s evaluation of

Newer studies and its conclusion that they do not materially change the findings of the 2020 ISA or warrant reopening. The air quality criteria. In order to answer this question, it seems that a fuller discussion of the science would first be needed. Additionally, several panel members raised concerns during the meeting on April 29, 2022, about some of the casual determinations made in the 2020 ISA. Therefore, at this stage, the CASAC has decided to pause the review of the PA and use the scheduled meeting on 06/08/22 (and 06/10/22, if needed) for the panel to decide if they would like to have further discussion of the science prior to reviewing the PA. If so, this discussion of the science would take place at a future meeting. So, the meetings on 06/13 and 06/17 are cancelled. For information on how to listen to the meeting, please see <http://casc.epa.gov> and click on “upcoming meetings”. For more information on EPA’s reconsideration of the Decision to Retain the 2012 PM NAAQS, please visit <http://epa.gov/naaqs> 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 2019-2020. 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>).

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 closes on June 13, 2022. A virtual hearing was for the proposed actions on May 9, 2022. Information regarding submitting comments and attending the virtual hearings are provided in each FR proposal action.

General Interest: Final EPA review of 2021 design values-OAQPS sent final 2021 design values for all NAAQS, based on a May 4th data extraction to the regions for review. The anticipated schedule for finalization is 5/9/2022. Final 2021 design values provided to the Regional Offices for review 5/20/2022:

Regional offices complete review of the final 2021 design values 05/25/2022: Final 2021 design values and new exceptional events DV tool posted on the EPA Air Trends website: values updated port emissions inventory guidance-released April 2022, updates/supersedes the September 2020 guidance. Provides some updated to emission factors, equipment operation scenarios, and minor updated to reflect MOVES3, mostly

relating to on-road vehicles values. <https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/port-emissions-inventory-guidance>

ITEM 2B. TCEQ Update (Vanessa De Arman)

TCEQ staff notified the members they had no updates at this time.

ITEM 2C. TERP Update (Nate Hickman)

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

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 Incentive Relief Program

Statewide program that offered a \$2500 rebate for one purchase of a light duty electric vehicle or a \$500 rebate back on the purchase of a natural gas-powered light duty vehicle or truck.

SeaPort Areas Emission Reduction Program

Still accepting applications first come-first served basis. Until November 22,2022 at 5:00p.m. Program focused on SeaPort and Rail yard of Texas. We are really looking at the Heavy duty and Drayage trucks as well as the forklifts. Another offered equipment that operate in the Ports for grants up to 80% to replace those newer cleaner ones.

Texas Clean School Bus Programs

This program is still accepting applications. It's very highly subscribed. A lot of interest in this program. If you or your district is interested in applying, I encourage you to reach out via email www.TERPGrants.gov

On yesterday there was a hearing by the house environmental regulations committee. TERP was on the agenda. Our last hearing was in April. We discussed in more detail the demand for TERP grants. We looked at the past biennium and saw that the majority of the TERP programs were oversubscribed. We had request for more funding than we had available. There were a couple of programs that were under subscribed. It's a voluntary program so every fiscal biennium is a new story, so we continue to open programs this biennium and see what we got in.

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

Since our last meeting in April, there has been one exceedance of the 2008 75 ppb ground-level ozone standard and five exceedances of the 2015 70 ppb standard. The region's maximum 4th highest value is 67 ppb located at the Conroe Relocated monitor. 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 2.5, on this chart you can see our current AR average for our region regulatory monitors this year and going back to 2001 and we also have the most recent 12 months for PM 2.5 concentration for the station within the region. 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. Texas Zeroing In On Healthy Air (Charlie Gagen, American Lung Association)

Charlie Gagen gave an overview to the members regarding American Lung Association impact involving lung disease and how air pollution directly impacts that. Discussion continued that we regularly try to call attention to the millions of Americans who are at risk because of the air in their community. This includes a variety of people across the spectrum in every community. Which leads to a host of negative outcomes. It was further discussed that the first state of the air report which includes the pandemic, inspite of the shutdown in early 2020, there were no obvious improvements. In fact, in some communities near warehouses, distribution centers, and other hubs for traffic actually experienced worst air quality, due to upscale and package deliveries.

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. Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan (Michael Chamberlain, TXDOT)

Michael Chamberlain gave an overview to the committee members regarding the released draft report letter from the governor's guidance that came out in March. The governor is in support of the program and for TXDOT to create the program. Discussion continued with the timeline which came out last year. It detailed the nominations for field quarter which came out in February and they were sent to Federal Highway on April 27. In closing, they voted on quite a few routes for electric hydrogen, natural gas, and propane vehicles.

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

- It was discussed that the next RAQPAC PM 2.5 subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 1pm. Discussion continued that new information is being updated regarding the Wayside PM 2.5 monitor. The committee members were informed that PM 2.5 path forward report will be presented at the September RAQPAC meeting. In closing, staff solicited members to join the RAQPAC PM 2.5 subcommittee.
- The members were informed that Texas is set to receive \$407 million dollars over the next five years to create EV charging network. It was pointed out that this will be a patch work of providers and they are going to try to make it as homogeneous as possible. Stations must go on Alternative fuel corridors first, then the dollars can be spent on roads, not on corridors. The funds will be available until all is spent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 6A.

None

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 7A.

Next meeting: June 30, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M.