



Air Quality Subcommittee

Minutes of September 13, 2011, Meeting

Attendees

Beth Gorman, PDEQ, Chair
Tom Beal, Arizona Daily Star
Paula Bluemer, Town of Marana
Sheila Bowen, Town of Sahuarita
Zig Fang, TEP
Deborah Jentoft, PDEQ
Roxanne Linsley, ADEQ
Colleen McKaughan, EPA
Edna Mendoza, ADEQ
Karen Wilhelmsen, PDEQ
Sherri Zendri, ADEQ

Staff

Lee Comrie
Sue Cotty
Jeff Hildebrand
Ruth Reiman

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Gorman, Chair, at 1:33 p.m., and introductions were made.

2. In-Kind Forms

An in-kind form was routed among attendees.

3. Call to the Audience

No comments were offered by the audience.

4. Approval of the of May 10, 2011, Minutes

ACTION: Ms. Gorman requested approval of the May 10, 2011, minutes and the Subcommittee members, by consensus, approved.

5. Announcements/Comments

Announcements were provided to Subcommittee members as part of the meeting packet. Ms. Linsley mentioned that Amanda Stone was appointed Director of the ADEQ's Southern Regional Office; this is in addition to her duties as the Waste Programs Division Director in the ADEQ's Phoenix office. Ms. Stone will be in the Tucson office on Wednesday through Friday of each week.

6. EPA Summary of Regional Issues

Ms. McKaughan gave a summary of several major air quality issues facing Arizona. Some of the key topics presented were:

- Status of the reconsideration of the ozone standards: President Obama asked the EPA administrator to delay the revision of the ozone standards until 2013, the mandatory date as per the Clean Air Act. The 2008 standard (0.075 ppm) will remain in effect until establishment of new standards in 2013.
- The Phoenix 5% Plan for PM₁₀: ADEQ withdrew its PM Plan in early 2011, before action by EPA. Subsequently, ADEQ revised its PM₁₀ inventory and has enacted several preemptive programs when high wind events are expected. ADEQ will submit a revised 5% Plan to EPA in January 2012.
- Pinal County Resignation of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas: EPA and the Arizona Governor, with ADEQ, have been working to revise the boundaries of the nonattainment areas for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} for Pinal County. The nonattainment area redesignations are expected to be released by EPA in September/October 2011. ADEQ will then have 18 months after the redesignation to submit a particulate plan with control measures to EPA.
- Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) for the two Navajo area's electricity generating plants [Navajo Generating Station (NGS) and the Four-Corners Power Plant] : EPA and Arizona Public Service have arrived at a tentative agreement to close generating units 1-3 and retrofit units 4 and 5 with Selective Catalyst Reduction (SCR) technology. A final decision by EPA on this proposed agreement is expected in December 2011. The EPA commissioned a study on the economic issues associated with NGS power generation and associated Central Arizona Project (CAP) water rates. The consultant's report should be completed in December 2011. After review of the report and public comments, the EPA expects to issue a proposal in the spring of 2012.
- Arizona Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP): EPA has approved portions of the Class I areas SIPs submitted by ADEQ, but other Class I areas will probably be covered under FIPs.
- Revision of the PM₁₀ standard: The revision was scheduled to occur in the summer of 2011, but the EPA has delayed the decision to an unspecified date.

7. Air Quality in the Arizona-Sonora Border Region and Collaborative Efforts

Ms. Mendoza gave a presentation summarizing ADEQ's programs in the border region aimed at improving air quality. The PowerPoint presentation is available at: <http://www.pagnet.org/info/542/Default.aspx>

The major points discussed were:

- The Border Office is located in Tucson's ADEQ Southern Regional Office and serves as a liaison and technical resource in addressing cross-border issues.
- The U.S.-Mexico Border 2012 Environmental Program includes several working groups and handle air quality, children's health, emergency response, waste and water issues.
- ADEQ's jurisdiction extends 100 kilometers on each side of the U.S./Mexico border from the California to New Mexico state boundaries.

- Particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) nonattainment areas are the major focus in the program. The Nogales PM₁₀ nonattainment area is the same as the PM_{2.5} nonattainment area.
- To avoid a FIP in mid-2012, ADEQ is working with EPA to update the 1993 Nogales PM₁₀ SIP.
- ADEQ has initiated control measures such as road paving, vehicle emission controls and installed air monitors on both sides of the border to alleviate particulate emissions.
- Arizona State University scientists conducted a study to determine the sources of PM_{2.5} emissions in Nogales. Their study revealed that open burning, cooking and dust from Sonora are the major sources of PM_{2.5}; diesel particulates are a major PM_{2.5} source only close to the port of entry.
- A draft Border 2020 program document, continuing the work of the Border 2012 program, is available for review.
<http://www.epa.gov/border2012/docs/2020/border2020-draft-framework.pdf>

8. Air Quality Roundtable

Ms. Linsley mentioned that ADEQ initiated a bus retrofit program in Yuma. It might be possible to expand the program to Pima County.

Ms. Comrie noted that PAG received a positive conformity determination for its 5-year Transportation Improvement Plan. PAG will be coordinating vehicle counts on local roadways during 2011 and 2012, to gather data for the PAG transportation model and for the EPA's MOVES emission model.

Ms. Gorman presented PDEQ's new poster and bookmark, *51 Ways to Green the Earth*. The proposed Rosemont Copper Mine permit is posted on PDEQ's Web site. PDEQ may hold open houses and a public hearing to receive input from the public. Comments on the proposed permit will be accepted for 90 days (until Nov. 28, 2011). The unveiling of the Loop project, connecting the bike paths of the Rillito with the Santa Cruz Rivers, will be Oct. 22, 2011. The Green Living Fair will take place this year on Nov. 12, at the HabiStore, 935 W. Grant, Tucson. www.HabitatTucson.org

Ms. Cotty mentioned that PAG would participate in the National Geographic /National Park Service's BioBlitz at the Saguaro National Park – West on Oct. 21 and 22, 2011. She also mentioned her continued work with the new EPA's mobile emissions model (MOVES) which is required for all transportation conformity modeling starting March 2012. In addition, Ms. Cotty has been working with subcommittee members of the City of Tucson's Climate Change Advisory Committee to propose additional greenhouse gas reduction measures to meet the Mayor's Climate Protection agreement's goal.

Ms. Wilhelmsen noted that PDEQ's will soon have a new, interactive *EcoKids' Corner* Web page.

Ms. Jentoft said that EPA has completed its annual audit of PDEQ's air quality monitoring data. There were no exceedances of the national ambient air quality standards during 2010. Addressing an earlier question regarding ozone, Ms. Jentoft noted that the most current 3-year average of the 4th highest ozone concentration was 0.070 ppm and therefore in compliance with the current ozone standard.

Ms. Reiman mentioned her activities promoting the upcoming *Car Free Tucson* day on Sept. 22, 2011. Also, the Tohono O'odham Nation received a JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) grant and likely will purchase 6-7 vans. Ms. Reiman mentioned the national commuter fringe benefit program is under review by federal lawmakers. This program allows for subsidized bus fares and Sun Ride Share vans. The results of the 2011 annual TRP inventory of employer activities report were distributed at the meeting. In general, employers have increased their participation in travel reduction promotions to their employees. Ms. Reiman's training efforts, focused on educating employers on the guaranteed ride home and the interactive commuter match system, have been met with positive results.

Ms. Bowen mentioned that a request for quotation (RFQ) has been issued for a solar facilities project in Sahuarita.

Ms. Bluemer noted that Marana has received an energy grant to retrofit the town's buildings to achieve greater energy efficiency.

Mr. Fang said that 400-500 TEP employees will move into their downtown facility on Nov. 11, 2011.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13, 2011.