

Minutes

69th Meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the
Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin

Location:

University of Texas at El Paso
El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center
2051 Wiggins Way
El Paso, TX 79902
May 25, 2017

JAC Members Attending (Absences and alternates indicated)	
U.S.	México
Guy Donaldson, USEPA	M.I. Ana Patricia Martínez, SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner, TCEQ	*Ing. Lily González, PROFEPA
Michael Baca, NMED	Mtro. Darío Cárdenas, COESPRIS
Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	Dra. Cecilia Olague, SEDUE de Chihuahua
*Jason Sarate, City of El Paso	*Gibrán Solís, CANACINTRA Juárez
*Rajesh Bhakta, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Ing. Jürgen Ganser, Dirección de Ecología de Ciudad Juárez
Elaine Barron, M.D., Citizen	*Ing. Vicente López, IMIP
Alberto Correa, Capítulo Paso del Norte	*Quím. Pilar Leal, Franco y Asociados
David Dubois, NMSU	*Adrián Vázquez, UACJ
Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	*Ing. Jorge Hernández, COCEF
*Claudia Valles, El Paso MPO	
Carlos A Rincón, US EPA- Liaison	Biól. Gerardo Tarín, SEMARNAT- Liaison
Gina Posada, TCEQ -Liaison	
* Alternate	** Not Present

Welcome and Presentations:

The 69th JAC meeting took place at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The co-chairs from SEMARNAT (Ana Patricia Martinez), and EPA (Guy Donaldson) led the discussion on agenda items and introduced the speakers. Mexican and American voting members established a meeting quorum.

Carlos Rincon of USEPA introduced UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio. Dr. Natalicio welcomed JAC participants. She mentioned the Centennial Plaza, a new addition to the UTEP campus, which Christine E. Ten Eyck created as a green infrastructure for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary. UTEP began as a Metallurgy Mining State School in 1914. The Plaza simulates the original arroyos, illustrating the natural drainage patterns for water conservation and beautification efforts, so as to improve the quality of life. UTEP provides educational opportunities in its region working with partners of different agencies and the community, in spite of the region's limited natural resources and access. President Natalicio thanked the JAC for the opportunity to host the meeting at UTEP and invited the attendees to learn more about the facilities.

Introductions and Message from JAC Chairs

Guy Donaldson is the new Co-Chair of the committee appointed by the EPA administrator in Dallas. He has many years of air quality experience. At this first meeting he expressed an interest in learning about the region to understand it and be of service. SEMARNAT Co-Chair Ana Patricia Martínez discussed Mexico's National Air Quality Strategy (the Strategy). Mexico adopted the Strategy on March 1, 2017 as a series of objectives and actions to improve air quality in Mexico, with the aim of protecting the health of the population, ecosystem flora and fauna, and contribute to sustainable economic development. The Strategy is a planning tool to guide and coordinate actions among 12 federal ministries to control, mitigate and prevent emissions and concentration of pollutants in the atmosphere in rural and urban environments projected through 2030.

The JAC members unanimously approved the 69th agenda and the meeting minutes of the 68th meeting and then introduced themselves.

Public Comments by Ms. Hilda Villegas

Hilda Villegas represented the Parent Committee at Beall Elementary and asked the Committee for a plan to stop the flow of commercial trucks passing through the Chamizal area in El Paso. Ms. Villegas stated that the traffic is causing air pollution problems and has caused respiratory concerns, such as asthma, among the children.

Paso del Norte Air Quality Report by Dr. Carlos Rincón, USEPA

Dr. Rincón presented a Paso del Norte Air Quality Report (the Report). He thanked the TCEQ and NMED for providing information and preparing this report. The information covered the period from January to April 2017. This same information has been uploaded to the JAC website at <http://www.cccjac.org/>.

Dr. Rincón reported that carbon monoxide and ozone records are within the standard and that ozone levels have come down in recent years. Dr. Rincón stated that current data from Ciudad Juárez was not available and thus had not been reported. He said that TCEQ was working with Ciudad Juárez to improve its monitoring activity network.

Dr. Rincón stated that fine particulate levels (PM 2.5) were not exceeded in El Paso or the Desert View Station, although they were exceeded at Anthony. The exceedance does not represent a legal violation, as it reflected natural events. It is important to disclose the measures to be taken for the protection of health. He noted that all PM10 monitors exceeded the standard except for Anthony, although all were natural events that exceeded the records on the monitors.

Hydrogen sulfide values dropped at station 36 in El Paso, although exceedances slightly increased in the last two years. Dr. Rincon recommended the promotion of education and acquisition of new technologies to reduce emissions of this pollutant from waste water treatment plants.

Overview of Binational Resilience and Cooperation by Dr. Verónica González, Office of Resilience in Ciudad Juárez.

Dr. Verónica González presented the Resilient Cities Program, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation. Ciudad Juárez and El Paso have been selected to be among 100 resilient cities worldwide. Ciudad Juárez received the title two years ago, and in 2016 the city began its work plan. The program is focused on urban resilience. Five work areas have been identified in which the activities will be developed over the next two years. Binational cooperation began with collaboration of the University of Arizona to develop a binational strategy to address heat waves and health. Mayor Armando Cabada issued a proclamation of 10 action days and infographic materials to prevent heat waves. Green infrastructure will be another line of action beginning with the installation of a resilient park in Ciudad Juárez.

Center for Advancing Research in Transportation Emissions, Energy, and Health (CARTEEH) by Dr. Wen-Whai Li, UTEP.

Dr. Wen-Whai Li stated that the USDOT provided funds to universities to create centers to address transportation air emissions, energy and health, one of which is located at UTEP. UTEP's Center's work addresses transportation and human health. There are currently six ongoing projects, of which three are in El Paso. The projects concern: information on children's school activity and three air pollutants; measurement of environmental pollution and respiratory health in kindergarten children; and development of guidelines to improve the quality of life despite exposure to emissions from traffic.

Introduction to the Center for Transportation, Environment, and Community Health by Dr. Kevin Cheu, UTEP.

Dr. Kevin Cheu explained UTEP's role in the Center for Transportation, Environment, and Community Health consortium. Thirty-two such centers have been supported. UTEP obtained three centers: CTECH, C@Smart and CAL-TEEH. The Center's activities relate to: traffic and health; new technologies; business models and green multimodal transport; freight transport and community health; and the transfer of technology and education.

Update on JAC Voting Membership by Dr. Carlos Rincón, USEPA

Dr. Carlos Rincón explained the procedure to recognize the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe and El Paso County as new members of the JAC. The Department of State must notify the Mexican Embassy in Washington and continue the notification process regarding the JAC's statutes.

Update on the Chihuahua ProAire by Dr. Cecilia Olague, SEDUE

Dr. Cecilia Olague described the ProAire Chihuahua 2016-2025 review process and its relationship to the Chihuahua State Development Plan. This document is already printed. In upcoming weeks Chihuahua will appoint a ProAire Core Committee and follow up with creating twenty measures, including projects to improve sustainable urban mobility through alternative non-motorized mobility projects in the main and medium-sized cities of the state of Chihuahua. Chihuahua City is one of two cities in the country to monitor for greenhouse gases.

Update on JAC Website by Desiree Ledet, TCEQ

Ms. Ledet reported on the JAC web site progress. <http://www.cccjac.org/> The pages showed the history, members, upcoming events, and files (agendas and minutes) among other topics. The website is available in both English and Spanish. Individual JAC pictures were taken of voting members as well as a JAC group picture.

Development of Emissions Reduction Program for Heavy Duty Truck Operating in the Paso del Norte by Dr. Reza Farzaneh, Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Dr. Reza Farzaneh explained the project to characterize the impact of fuels and emissions by training cargo transportation drivers. EPA, SERMANT and Canada have driver-orientation programs in eco-driving. TCEQ and TAMU support this project in the El Paso-Juárez region. The training module seeks to: reduce emissions through driving habits; quantify program effectiveness; collect emissions data through PAMS and GPS. The information provided by this project will identify cargo transport problems in Juárez-El Paso, so as to improve driving and reduce emissions. The study has shown the driving behavior of truck drivers can reduce fuel consumption in transport and emissions and the data are publicly accessible.

Update on Air Quality Monitoring in Ciudad Juárez by Engineer Jürgen Ganser, Juárez Municipality and Eddie Moderow, TCEQ

Eng. Jürgen Ganser provided a link <http://www.juarez.gob.mx/calidad-del-aire/> regarding efforts to improve air quality monitoring in Juárez. He discussed current communication and collaboration with Mexican federal, state and municipal agencies, both in the US and in Mexico to maintain and improve the air quality monitoring network. Eddie Moderow spoke about EPA and TCEQ efforts to support and strengthen the monitoring network in Ciudad Juárez. He recognized the Juárez Ecology Department for their work and participation in previous meetings and conference calls related to this project. In Phase I technicians from TCEQ, El Paso and Juárez provided training in analytical evaluation. The company Sutron reviewed the status of the air network in Juárez, finding it in good condition. Phase II, to occur in Summer 2017, would improve operations of the equipment by providing parts and supplies. A Phase III could develop after seeking additional funds, to replace outdated analyzers and data-loggers, and continue operations and data validation training.

Update on Weather Network at UACJ by Dr. Adrián Vázquez, UACJ

Adrián Vázquez reported on the UAJC weather network which has operated for more than 10 years. It was originally designated for civil protection and flood warning. The information generated is publicly available. The network currently has 10 stations and three produce data. The network is integrated with the SEMIESOL group, created by the government with \$1.5 million for solar stations. One of them is in UACJ and the other in Ciudad Cuauhtémoc. The Weather Network participates in the Network of Atmospheric Observation Stations (RUA, in Spanish) to produce data outside of the governance structure, so that research and data validation is not subject to budget pressures. UACJ will house the data.

Highlights and Agreements

The City Representative of El Paso Jason Sarate ratified Karl Rimkus' request on the last meeting.

Gibrán Solís of CANACINTRA Juárez mentioned he will share transport and environmental studies with partners.

Pilar Leal proposed a review of the siting of the monitoring stations. The original locations no longer correspond to the development and activities of the city. She also suggested a review of environmental impacts from the city's development. Dr. Carlos Rincón stated the increase in green areas is a good opportunity for the resilience of the city.

Dr. Correa mentioned Chihuahua's state policy of clean energy development of. He will send a proposal next week to the Governor of Chihuahua with a copy to the Secretary of SDUE.

Dr. Cecilia Olague mentioned the review of siting of monitoring station, both to measure additional pollutants and increase measurements with new stations to detect additional pollutants. She mentioned the Inter-Secretarial Committee on Climate Change of Chihuahua has been established to address clean energy.

Irasema Coronado of UTEP commented on a project of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). The project aims to involve the community in full and invested integration of citizen science in EPA's work.

Final Comments by the Co-Chairs

Master in Engineering Ana Patricia Martínez discussed the importance of following-up on the complaint filed by the Beall Elementary School parent representatives. [Eugenia Posada and Dr. Carlos Rincon will follow up with the parents and the appropriate agencies.] Ana Patricia proposed the formation of a subcommittee to work on the Chihuahua ProAire. The program actions enrich the experience and knowledge of committee members. Finally, she thanked Guy Donaldson for his participation in this committee.

Dr. Carlos Rincón proposed the formation of a subcommittee to work on the SEMARNAT National Air Quality Strategy and follow up on the progress of ProAire's at JAC meetings.

Guy Donaldson acknowledged the great work done by UTEP in the transport and health Centers. He thanked USDOT for the funds they provided. He listed SEDUE's challenges that SEDUE initiating the ProAire, and offered his expertise in State Implementation Plan (SIP) development at the state level. He acknowledged the good will and spirit of cooperation within the JAC.

Next Meeting Date- September 21, 2017 in Las Cruces, NM.