

Minutes

71st Meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New México Air Basin

Location: Ciudad Juárez City Hall Avenida Francisco Villa # 950 NTE Third Floor, Zona Centro, C.P. 32000 Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	Alternate Location: TCEQ 401 E. Franklin Ave. Conference Room 570 El Paso, Tx 79901
January 18, 2018	
JAC Members Attending (Absences** and alternates indicated*)	
U.S.	México
Arturo Blanco, USEPA	M.I. Ana Patricia Martínez, SEMARNAT
*Jesus Chavez, TCEQ	*Ing. Manuel Carta, PROFEPA
Michael Baca, NMED	Mtro. Darío Cárdenas, COESPRIS
**Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	Dra. Cecilia Olague, SDUE de Chihuahua
Karl Rimkus, City of El Paso	*Ing. Gibrán Solís, CANACINTRA Juárez
John Quinn Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Maestra Flor Karina Cuevas, Dirección de Ecología de Ciudad Juárez
**Elaine Barron, M.D., Citizen	*Ing. Vicente López, IMIP
Alberto Correa, Capítulo Paso del Norte	René Franco, Franco y Asociados
David Dubois, NMSU	Dra. Alba Yadira Corral, UACJ
**Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	*Arq. Joaquin Marruffo, NADB
Claudia Valles, El Paso MPO	
Carlos A Rincón, US EPA- Liaison	Biól. Gerardo Tarín, SEMARNAT- Liaison
Eugenia (Gina) Posada, TCEQ –Liaison	
* Alternate	** Not Present

This meeting had two locations. The comments are designated by location. The official site from Ciudad Juárez, and the alternate location from TCEQ.

Technical difficulties were experienced throughout the meeting. The interpreter could not hear the complete presentations.

Welcome and Presentations: The 71st JAC meeting commenced with welcoming remarks from Mayor Pro Term Alejandro Loaeza Canizalez. He gave a brief review of the importance of working together on environmental challenges. He stated communication is maintained with North America and México through Ecology Department. The aim is to keep the air quality monitoring network in optimum conditions.

M.I. Ana Patricia Martínez from SEMARNAT welcomed all. She gave a description of the programs to improve air quality at SEMARNAT. The federation only had 8 Pro Aires, now 21 exist. Ten ProAires are in development and will be completed by February or March. SEMARNAT aims to have national coverage of air quality programs throughout Mexico and provide a diagnosis of air quality in each state. SEMARNAT will implement strategies to improve air quality. Three Pro Aires exist in the border area. The State of Chihuahua has one Pro Aire.

Arturo Blanco of USEPA thanked Ciudad Juárez for hosting and setting the meeting. He emphasized the progress working with the different levels of government to address the air quality issues.

Self-introductions were provided by Ciudad Juárez attendees.

Presentation and approval of previous minutes: Minutes were approved.

Public comments: No comments from the public.

Discussion on public comments and JAC members announcements: No comments were provided.

Development of Emissions Reduction Program for Heavy Trucks Operating in the Paso del Norte region presented by Jeremy Johnson, Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

Please see Mr. Johnson's presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

(TCEQ location) Mr. Quinn asked what are there next steps for the project? Mr. Johnson said there are no next steps for his project. The team would like to expand training to a wider audience. The team only provided training to one fleet of 14 to 15 drivers. The team wants to revise the training as new ideas become available, which could be an ongoing process.

Air Quality Report: Presented by Dr. Carlos Rincon, US EPA

Please see the report at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the AQ Report:

(Ciudad Juárez location) The participant asked why hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) exceedances are occurring at the water treatment plant in Ciudad Juárez? Dr. Rincon suggested consulting the water board for that information.

The mayor of Ciudad Juárez left the meeting. The JAC thanked him for his hospitality for hosting this 71st meeting.

Ciudad Juárez's Children's Population Health Risk from Lead Exposure presented by Alba Y. Corral Avitia, Ph.D., UACJ

Please see Dr. Corral's presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

(Ciudad Juárez location) The next steps are to provide an evaluation survey. Dr. Correa asked if there was a correlation? Dr. Corral could not draw a correlation for the area data.

Introductions were provided at the alternate location at TCEQ. The sign in sheet was read to the audience in Ciudad Juárez. A quorum was reached. M.I. Ana Patricia from SEMARNAT welcomed everyone.

Chihuahua ProAire presented by Dra. Cecilia Olague, SEDUE

Please see Dr. Olague's presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

(Ciudad Juárez location) The Pro Aire technical committee will be meeting on the last Thursday of the month. The committee works on the strategic measures. The committee requested feedback to fine tune the program.

The tasks are to plan agricultural burns, and manage a vehicle verification program, etc. Is there going to be an addition or addendum to article 101? The committee is working on a Voluntary Environmental Regulation program. The state and industry will work together on compliance project. No sanctions are anticipated; environmental awareness is the aim. This program was a collaborative work with the federation, municipality and civil society.

The lead study at UACJ is valuable as it provides important information regarding air quality. We can mitigate by taking actions.

Air Quality Effects on Human Health presented by Marcos Delgado, Ph.D., UACJ

Please see Dr. Delgado's presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

No questions nor comments.

Pollutants Release and Transfer Register presented by SEMARNAT Mexico, M.I. Ana Patricia Martinez

Please see M.I. Martinez' presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

No questions nor comments.

Studies of Air Pollutants and Their Impact on Respiratory and Cardiovascular Diseases in the El Paso del Norte Region with Emphasis on Mobile Emissions presented by J. Gustavo Arias Ugarte, Ph. D., University of Texas at El Paso (remote participation)

Please see Dr. Arias' presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

No questions nor comments.

Air Pollution in El Paso and Its Impact on Children's School Performance presented by Sara J. Grineski, Ph.D., University of Texas at El Paso (remote presentation)

Please see Dr. Grineski's presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments and questions on the presentation:

Dr. Carlos Rincon asked, if Dr. Grineski is considering looking at some of the alumni at Zavala elementary school with the 1990s data as a next step? Dr. Grineski had not considered this option, but she can certainly look at the exposure of children at school throughout those formative years.

Dr. Correa asked if he could have a copy of the presentation. Dr. Grineski said yes. Ms. Posada also reminded Dr. Correa that presentations are available on the website. www.cccjac.org.

Highlights

M.I. Ana Patricia Martinez commented the presentations demonstrate the health impact of air quality and how important is health stewardship. She requested to concentrate mainly on health for the next meeting. She suggested medical associations be invited and present studies on air quality and health effects.

Arturo Blanco, USEPA, commented on measures to turn information to actions in air quality studies. The actions provide the impetus needed to take approaches for further improvement.

Mr. Blanco mentioned Sam Coleman's retirement effective December 2017. He was the regional administrator to EPA in Region 6. Mr. Coleman had many accomplishments during his tenure. Mr. Blanco appreciated the work Mr. Coleman did and thanked him for all his contributions.

Reports from Subcommittees and comments from the public

Pro Aire Subcommittee: Mr. Salvador Barragán proposed to present at the next JAC in May. He is the Regional Delegate for SEDUE in Ciudad Juárez. The presentation can include the measures, strategies and actions for the technical committee. The technical committee (TC) has been meeting at the State offices with Ecology Department and others in Ciudad Juárez. The TC meets every Thursday of the month. The invitation is for private industry, IMIP, COLEF, NADB, etc.

New JAC Voting Members: SEDUE is the responsible office for delegating the seat to either public works, transportation or another office from the governor's office. This is the counterpart to El Paso County. Form C175 will be filled out and provided to Foreign Relations Office of the State Department. The process to follow was explained. The same process will follow for Tribal representation.

Public comment:

This is an exemplary group. The ProAires are continuing to be established making it a success.

The Ciudad Juárez Municipality thanked the commitment from the JAC and financial assistance for the actions taken to improve air quality. The Municipality is appreciative of Mayor Pro Term Loeza Canizalez for the hospitality and support. Meeting concluded at 3:17PM.

Next meeting date: May 24, 2018 in El Paso, Texas.