

Minutes

74th 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:
City of El Paso Environmental Services Department
7968 San Paulo Dr.
Sala de Conferencia Cotton Patch
El Paso Texas, 79907

May 23, 2019

JAC Members Attending (Absences** and alternates indicated*)

U.S.	México
*Mary Stanton, USEPA	**SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner, TCEQ	** PROFEPA
Michael Baca, NMED	**Gerardo López, COESPRIS
**Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	Dr. Luis F. Siqueiros, SDUE de Chihuahua
Karl Rimkus, City of El Paso	**Ing. Gibrán Solís, CANACINTRA Juárez
Luis Ito, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Dra. Margarita Peña, 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	*Adrián Vásquez Gálvez, UACJ
Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	*Ing. Jorge Hernández, 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

Welcoming and Message from the Co-Chairs:

Mary Stanton representing the Co-Chair from EPA Region 6, thanked the City of El Paso for hosting the meeting. She welcomed everyone to the meeting. She is currently working on ozone designation.

Dr. Luis F. Siqueiros representing the Co-Chair from SEMARNAT. He is the Secretary of SDUE, and he has been in the position for the last 5 months. He is not new to the border issues and welcomes everyone to the meeting.

Introductions were provided by attendees. A quorum was reached.

Toby Baker, Executive Director for TCEQ summarized the meetings starting two years ago with Mexican states. He mentioned the Memorandum of Cooperation with Chihuahua was the first joint agreement signed. He sees this action as the fruits of the labor and commitment to address air and water challenges, the environment and the economy on both sides of the border. He thanked everyone and looks forward to learning from everyone.

Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes- minutes were approved.

Paso del Norte Air Quality Report by Carlos Rincon, USEPA

Please see the report at www.cccjac.org

No comments or questions were provided.

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo's Update on Air Quality Grant by Barbra Valdivieso, YDSP

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

No comments or questions were provided.

Ozone Monitoring and Findings by Mark Sather, USEPA

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Mr. Moderow asked to clarify NOx and VOC limited? Mr. Sather said VOCs have not increased, NOx has decreased, and Ozone has leveled.

Mr. Moderow asked with the complicated geography in the Paso del Norte, if VOC and NOX are the same or different in Chihuahua, Texas and New Mexico?

Mr. Sather asked if they have NOx emissions in Ciudad Juárez? He knows there is CO.

Ms. Posada mentioned Ciudad Juárez did report on NOx in the air quality report. Mr. Sather said they can interpret the data provided.

Mr. Franco stated that the increased of VOC is due to the refinery and Ciudad Juárez. How can Mr. Sather differentiate and be more exact that the increase is due to a specific source?

Mr. Sather's answer is based on the Chamizal data. The directional analysis took place for this particular slide. All VOC data is from 6am to 9am on weekdays and the peak VOC concentrations were interpreted. For Chamizal directional data was interpreted looking toward Juarez and the US side. N-butane in Juarez is pretty level, data not showing Juarez increase. The increase is coming from the US side which includes the refinery. For ethane the data showed an increase for both sides.

Mr. Baca mentioned NM is very interested in having a binational control strategy. NM is the receiver of these emissions. NM is going to rely heavily on Texas and Mexico to reduce those emissions. The whole area is not meeting the standard.

Mr. Baker asked in regard to the solar radiation and temperature slide. Meteorological conditions are one of the drivers to ozone formation. Solar radiation can have an impact and increase temperature and as vehicle fleet get cleaner, how do we resolve this issue?

Mr. Sather agreed, this is one of the factors.

Dr. Fitzgerald mentioned solar radiation would have an impact on the (inaudible) layer and that would have an impact in the ozone formation. This is factoring into the equation.

Projects and Activities of the State Government in Air Quality by Dr. Luis F. Siqueiros, SDUE

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Rincón asked if industry was participating?

The maquiladora industry is interested in having a combination of transportation integrated systems.

Mr. Franco asked if searching for funds was the next step?

Dr. Siqueiros said the process to connect to the second route was going to take approximately 18 months.

Dr. Valles asked if the state has taken steps to regulate the recyclers and avoid an incident like last year?

Dr. Siqueiros confirmed, and inspections are taking place.

Summary of Activities in the Ciudad Juárez Monitoring Network by Eddie Moderow, TCEQ and Dra. Margarita Pena, Municipal Ecology in Ciudad Juárez.

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Mr. Solís recognized the collaborations efforts of the group.

Emissions Reduction Through Public Transportation Infrastructure, Ciudad Juarez, Chih./El Paso, Tx by Ing. Nicolás López, IMIP

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Rincón suggested to implement the model EP Business Association has with respect to bridges.

Dr. Rincón suggested implementing a transportation line (trucks only) at the downtown bridge.

Ing. López replied that at City Hall the route is due to the demand of pedestrians who crosses daily. It would be nice to have a route that connects to Sun Metro. He mentioned that there is a proposal for the Zaragoza Bridge to add an elevated pedestrian crossing. This bridge has 4 lanes for private use. Two lanes coming and two lanes going.

Member of the audience asked what is the percentage of people wanting to change their behavior?

Ing. López answered he has not analyzed the data, but he can share it at the next meeting.

¿Which agencies would have to authorize that bus line?

Ing. López answered on the Mexican side the international bridge trust.

Member of the audience asked if in the survey did they consider the long time spent at the bridge with the recent challenge?

Ing. López confirmed the survey did touch on the long time spent at the bridge.

Another member of the audience asked if Mr. Lopez had considered having a parking lot close to the bus station mentioned?

Ing. López on the Mexican side there are two parking lots, but there is a fee obviously. One at City hall and the other one where transito used to be. This is the reason I suggested it would work best if there was public transportation on both sides.

Member of the audience made Mr. Lopez aware of the people taking the public transportation will have to get in line again to cross over.

Ing. López agreed, but they would have priority in crossing at the bridge.

Meteorological and air quality monitoring network by Dr. Adrián Vázquez, UACJ

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Mr. Franco asked if the data is connected to a federal entity?

Dr. Vázquez mentioned SINAICA is the reference. The data is stored at SINAICA. INEC is very interested in consolidating this effort. The data repository is intended to be those of SEDUE, and Ciudad Juarez with free access.

Dr. Fitzgerald commented on the correlation of aerosols and rainfall and asked if Dr. Vázquez could comment more on the topic.

Dr. Vázquez mentioned the effect that the formation patterns in the region may have on urban precipitation in the migration of moisture fields. He mentioned the region being on the edge of the monsoon season. He mentioned not knowing much where the moisture fields come from. And one of the interests is to see how we are affecting our causing some effect on precipitation patterns. We have no date on it.

Dr. Fitzgerald mentioned a study she conducted where an influence on size of the aerosols was found. Dr. Vázquez mentioned that aeronet algorithms allows to make a size distribution by volume of aerosols. There are algorithms that quantify fine and thick aerosols.

Reports from Subcommittees: PROAIRE

The Pro Aire Subcommittee reported SEDUE, the Municipality of Ciudad Juarez and others have been working on measures to produce actions in the Ciudad Juarez Municipal Development Plan. These measures will be added to the B2019-2021 Two-year action plan.

Comments from the Public (signed up)

Silvia Vidaña-greeted everyone. Paso del Norte Materials is close to my house. She suffers from allergy issues. Paso del Norte Materials burns tires and that affects the air quality. The odor is strong too. They have a great deal of explosions too. The community reports allergies. The AC panels were black. She lives in Montana vista at 15470 Ryan Wesley.

Toby Baker- E.D. for TCEQ. Mr. Baker greeted everyone. He informed Ms. Vidaña investigators have been out to Paso del Norte Materials site. This issue recently came under his attention. He is very interested in following up. Regarding the explosions, TCEQ does not regulate those, but it does regulate nuisance odors and emissions. There has been enforcement notice of violations at the site. He reviewed the history and it seems the company is having a challenge coming into compliance.

Bonnie Harper- she thanked everyone for allowing her to provide comments. The company permit was voided 090750. People in the community are reporting, nausea, and headaches. This is poison. This is a serious situation which is affecting their health. The company got the permit on 02/18. The stack test results were provided to TCEQ on 04/2019. The husband is 88 years old and could not go outside to grill due to the unbearable conditions. The company is 3.7 miles from a middle school. Silvia lives 3 doors from the company. Different community members have called the hotline at different times of the day and night. She had lung infections and has been seen by two different doctors. She has to wear a mask around the house. She only takes natural medicine. The doctor gave her a steroid and an antibiotic. She did not want to take the antibiotic. Mrs. Dick has the same symptoms. We left for Ohio and had no health problems. This is to voice serious concerns with this site. We need a remedy. She asked Mr. Baker when a permit is voided, it was voided in 2018?

E.D. Baker responded by saying that there are different types of permits. He is sympathetic of the issue, but he does have to give him due process. The company is going through enforcement. If they do not come into compliance, they will have TCEQ's attention.

Ms. Harper said she sent a video to Ms. Keys and Robert. She knows there are five violations.

E. D. Baker advised there are rules to follow and the process is long. They have a legal avenue to extend.

She is appreciative of all the collaborations efforts in both sides of the border.

Highlights and Consensus Items:

Ms. Stanton from EPA there is a great deal of collaboration on both side of the border. She is appreciative of the transportation and monitoring presentations from Juarez. People are addressing the issues, but there is much work to be done.

Dr. Siqueiros from SEDUE is also impress the collaboration efforts, and thanks everyone involved.

Action Items:

Dr. Rincon voiced the follow up suggestion Michael Baca had on the ozone designation for this area.

Dr. Rincon voiced another action item to follow up is with the IMIP evaluation presentation once is analyzed to share the outcomes at the Juarez JAC meeting.

Dr. Rincon voiced a request to go back and research the AQ report and look at which events with high concentrations are due to high wind events.

Closing remarks by E.D. Baker: This is the second meeting he attends. A recent deliberate effort was to reach out TCEQ's neighboring states and to build relationships. It started with the simple of idea to open communication. A couple of meetings took place in various sites in the State starting with Harlingen, Laredo and this is the second meeting in El Paso. TCEQ had two meetings in Austin. This is the first joint agreement signed out of that process, but it is really building off on the work the JAC has done. One thing I learned and would like to follow up on is the nexus of solar radiation, pollution, temperature and ozone. I sent a very detailed email to toxicology and air quality division to start looking into that issue. This is a real challenge.

ZipDX- 25 participants used the interpretation platform from locations such as Mexico City, Cuauhtémoc and Ciudad Juárez in México. In the U. S. participation took place from Grand Prairie, Austin, Harlingen, and El Paso, Texas. The EPA in Durham, NC also participated in the U. S.

Next Meeting Date: September 19th in Las Cruces, NM.