

Minutes
 53rd Meeting of the
 Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the
 Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New México Air Basin
 Texas Department of Transportation District Office
 El Paso, Texas
 January 26, 2012

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bill Luthans (BL), USEPA Region 6, and Ana Maria Contreras Vigil (AMC), SEMARNAT, welcomed all to the 53rd meeting of the JAC. A quorum was established.

JAC Members Present	
U.S.	México
Bill Luthans – EPA	Ana Maria Contreras – SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner – TCEQ	** Sergio Zepeda- PROFEPA
Michael Baca – NMED	Araceli Salazar – COESPRIS
Doña Ana County - vacant	Silvia Castro-Gob.Edo de Chih.
Miguel Parra – City of El Paso	Daniel Terrazas, DNA
John Quinn - Freeport Mc-MoRan	Ing. Rene Franco
Elaine Barron, M.D.	NGO - vacant
Alberto Correa, PhD	Dra. Alba Corral – UACJ
Vacant – Private Sector NGO	**Baltazar Granillo – CANACINTRA
Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	Alberto Ramírez – CCSD
George Pinal, El Paso MPO	*Nicolas Lopez, Alt for R. Diaz – IMIP
* Alternate	** Not Present

2. Presentation and approval of current agenda and minutes.
 The Agenda was approved. Minutes were approved with no revisions.

3. Message from the Co-Chairs
 The Co-chairs discussed upcoming initiatives on both sides of the Border. Ana Maria Contreras (AMC) reported the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) is completed. It took 5 yrs to complete the report. Bill Luthans (BL) reported that Dave Dubois, PhD, from New Mexico will be the new member on the JAC. Dr. Dubois is the State Climatologist for New Mexico and a faculty member at New Mexico State Univ. In regards the US-MX Border 2020 program, the public comment period is closed. EPA received many comments on the air goals of the program.

The Co-chairs have discussed the structure of JAC meetings and have decided to change the meeting interval from quarterly to 3 meetings per year. This will allow for longer more deliberative meetings. This should also allow the subcommittees to meet more often. BL also recommended the formation of a diesel exhaust technical group.

4. Public Participation – Manuel Ochoa representing REDCO presented a project proposal designed to reduce mobile source emissions. The proposal is to move freight between EP & Jz using an electrified locomotive system. Mexico's SRE has approved the project. The presidential permit may need to be approved given it is a new mode of utilizing the international POE.
5. JAC Discussion on Public Comments. Dr. Wen-Whai Li announced UTEP is sponsoring interns funded by EPA. The UTEP Air Quality Internship program will place students in summer jobs in areas associated with air quality research.
6. Air Quality Report

Victor Valenzuela (VV) presented an air quality summary from 1 Jan – 31 Dec., 2011. VV presented the regional air quality monitoring sites identifying which sites tend to consistently present elevated contaminant levels. No CO exceedances were observed in El Paso or Juarez. In the U.S., the CO standard is violated at 9.5 parts per million (ppm) during an 8-hr averaging period. Mexico's standard is set at 11 ppm / 8-hr averaging period. VV showed a slide identifying the Bridge of the Americas given several consultants have contacted him to obtain ambient CO concentrations. The slide indicates that the CO design value is 25% of the standard. This indicates the BOTA POE does not seem to be a source of elevated ambient CO concentrations.

No 1-hr O₃ exceedances were observed in El Paso. Juarez observed 7 exceedances of the Mexican standard. The 8-hr O₃ standard was finalized on September 1, 2011 by a Presidential directive which rescinded a proposed revision of the O₃ standard between 60 ppb – 70 ppb during an 8-hr averaging period. The final 75 ppb 8-hr O₃ standard was not exceeded during the 2011 in El Paso

All of the PM₁₀ TEOM monitors reported exceedances during 2011, and all exceedances occurred during high wind events. Exceedances coincided with elevated PM₁₀ readings from the regional TEOMS monitors. For 2011 Juarez had several days where PM₁₀ reported by the hi-volume PM₁₀ sampler was in the "Hazardous" levels. Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) concentrations continued a downward trend in the number of exceedance days and total number of exceedances.

7. Presentations

A) El Paso Rider 8 Project Summary

Huiyan Yang, PhD from UTEP presented a summary of the emission inventory improvement plan as well as data from the EI section of the Conceptual Model prepared by the Rider 8 team. As a primer and EI is a summary of the amount of air pollutants emitted from various sources. Sources of emissions include:

- Onroad – cars, trucks, motorcycles on normal roadways;
- Area sources – gas stations, dry cleaners, body shops, etc.
- Nonroad mobile – farm tractors, locomotives, road construction, airports; and
- Point sources – usually large industrial facilities.

Total VOC and NO_x emissions are projected to trend downward projected to 2030.

Trends of area sources indicate slow increases for all pollutants. Modifications to the 2008 EI indicate significantly higher VOCs in 2008.

The EIIP will target light duty and heavy duty vehicles at the El Paso-Juarez international ports of entry; tactical operations at Ft Bliss Military Reservation; locomotives; aircraft, auxiliary power units, and airport ground support equipment; extended idling of heavy duty truck at truck stops and rest areas; and dry cleaners. Methodologies are being developed to assess each of the source categories.

B) State of Chihuahua Vehicle Inspection Program.

Silvia Castro, Environmental Director for the State of Chihuahua reported the State is developing rules and regulations for a formal long-term vehicle verification program. The program will be permanent and starts in March 2012.

The premise of the new rules is based on the right to a healthy environment which is understood within the so-called 3rd generation of human rights where both humans and other living beings depend on the environment for our existence.

According to Mexico's NEI, motor vehicles occupy the first place with regard to NOx and CO emissions and second place in VOC emissions. Mobile source emissions have steadily been rising in both medium and large cities and particularly in Chihuahua and other border cities. Given the current situation this is the opportunity to start developing policies to help control mobile source emissions and create a cleaner environment.

As a result the General Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Environmental Protection was modified. Articles 7, 8, and 9 were established to authorize the development of vehicle emissions inspection stations across the State of Chihuahua.

9. Observations and Comments from the Public –

- Bob Gray state he is working with REDCO and the EP Mayor's BWT task force to improve the cross-border movement of commercial vehicles at the international POE's. He requests that the JAC provide some level of support for his initiative.
- Dr. Alberto Ramirez

10. Highlights and consensus items of the meeting.

- The JAC will help Bob Gray and Manuel Ortega with the cross-border mobility project.
- Dr. Alberto Ramirez will prepare a health based study for presentation at a future JAC meeting.
- WLL will provide a Rider 8 update
- The JAC will continue participating in the stakeholder group associated with the Rider 8 program.

11. Next meeting May 17, 2012 in El Paso, TX.

12. Adjourn