

Minutes

75th 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

<p>Location: Thomas Branigan Memorial Library Roadrunner Conference Room 200 E. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88001 November 24, 2019</p>	
<p>JAC Members Attending (Absences** and alternates indicated*)</p>	
U.S.	México
Guy Donaldson, USEPA	Daniel Lopez, SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner, TCEQ	*Ing. Lilia Gonzalez, PROFEPA
Michael Baca, NMED	**Gerardo López, COESPRIS
Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	*Dr, Gilberto Wenglas, SDUE de Chihuahua
*Jason Sarate, City of El Paso	*Ing. Gibrán Solís, CANACINTRA Juárez
John Quinn Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Dra. Margarita Peña, Dirección de Ecología de Ciudad Juárez
*Larry Olsen, Ph.D, Citizen	**Ing. Vicente López, IMIP
Alberto Correa, Capítulo Paso del Norte/Quontum Research of the West	René Franco, Franco y Asociados
*Michael De Antonio. Ph.D., NMSU	Dra. Alba Yadira Corral, UACJ
Rosa Fitzgerald, Ph.D., UTEP	Ing. Joaquin Marrufo, 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:

The Copresident Guy Donaldson from EPA thanked the City of Las Cruces for hosting the meeting. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for their support in this committee.

The Copresident Daniel Lopez welcomed everyone.

Introductions provided by attendees. Quorum reached.

Message on Celebrating EPA's Border Office 25th Anniversary from Robert Houston from USEPA, Region 6. (a video was presented).

Mr. Houston welcomed everyone and presented a video with highlights of a few projects in the area.

Please view the video at www.cccjac.org

Public Comments on Agenda Items- No comments were provided.

Presentation and Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes- minutes were approved.

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

Please see the report at www.cccjac.org

Daniel López from SEMARNAT stated Mexico is updating the air regulations. The CO standard was approved, it is now 9. The portal will be updated very soon. PM 10 is at 36 ug/m³ and 2.5 at 10 ug/m³. The Air Quality Index and Health Risks NOM-025-SSA 1-2014, pertains to environmental health, has also just been approved. It communicates the IMECA. This rule establishes to protect health, especially sensitive populations. EPA model NAUCAS will report the particle concentration that occur at a certain time. The 24hr average now becomes the 12 hr moving average, which gives more weight to the last 3 hours. This allows the sensitive populations to be alerted with more time to protect themselves from problems of high particle concentrations. In terms of communication, it will be a challenge for monitoring networks because it is not to assess compliance with the standard, but to communicate and alert the sensitive populations. We are supporting SEMARNAT and INEC and we will be working with the state and the municipality.

Doña Ana and Luna Counties Dust Mitigation Plan and Spring Conference by Armando Paz from NMED

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Correa mentioned he was glad NMED has a mitigation plan. The most damaging particles are PM_{2.5}. People must be made aware of how threatening pm_{2.5} is to health. He recommends to hiring a health specialist and have a component on health awareness to add to the mitigation plan.

Michael Baca from NMED responded by supporting Dr. Correa's comment. He mentioned NMED is looking to expand public awareness and education programs. NMED would like to have the support of the JAC Monitoring Subcommittee to explore some other options to shared data, shared messaging, windblown forecasts, etc. NMED would like to take a motion on the topic and request the Air Monitoring Subcommittee to do joint messaging with our partners. This will bring public awareness and education. NMED is in the middle of developing a monitoring network and a website. If we could get all three states and federal partners to get behind this effort this would be beneficial to the Paso del Norte area.

Dr. Carlos Rincón requested an update on outcomes for the Governor's Conference in Santa Fe, it also touched on Air Quality.

Dr. Fitzgerald mentioned regarding public awareness, UTEP always tries to contribute. She submitted a paper to Journal of Air and Waste Management and UTEP was selected for a press release. It will be discussing the impacts on health.

Dr. Carlos Rincón also reminded people to submit proposals for the 2019 RFP. Due date is November 18, 2019.

Dr. Larry Olsen suggested to set up a network to alert schools of forecasts, to also involve, social media, local media.

Ms. Gina Posada mentioned the Emergency Response team in EP does have a mechanism to inform schools of weather conditions or other emergencies. She recommended a collaboration.

Michael Baca informed the group NMED is partnering with the National Weather Service and school districts. EPA has the flags program which NMED will start implementing.

Guy Donaldson recognized NMED for all efforts to inform the public on air quality.

PLB (Planetary Boundary Layer or Cloud Height) Studies in the El Paso-Juarez Airshed by Dr. Rosa Fitzgerald, from UTEP.

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Larry Olsen asked Dr. Fitzgerald if she had done any calculations for predictability with her new models on air quality?

Dr. Rosa Fitzgerald reported using CIMAV and (inaudible). This model is simpler, and it is based on the box model. Does not have the topography so it can be done. We are doing inter comparisons and assess how the topography contributes. We are currently in the process of validating it. Doing inter comparisons and not ready to publish.

Dr. Carlos Rincón asked if the ceilometer project completed. This question was address to Eddie Moderow.

Mr. Eddie Moderow answered the project has been completed since 08/31, but there will be a continuation of the project for the next two years. This time it will contain data analysis of wild fires, brown and black carbon, and to study the residual planetary boundary layer. Currently working in development and will be effective early 2020 through 08/31/2021. TCEQ looks forward to future presentations.

Dr. Carlos Rincón mentioned this study will be added to the 2-year action plan.

Dr. Rosa Fitzgerald mentioned the ceilometers are economically feasible.

Physical Activity Levels and Traffic-Related Air Pollutants in Children with Asthma Attending Near-Road Schools by New Mexico's Ozone Attainment and Nonattainment Planning in Dona Ana County by Robert Spillers from NMED

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Alberto Correa recommended educating people on the health effects of ozone.

Mr. Robert Spillers agreed on the recommendation.

Dr. Larry Olsen mentioned believing in sanctions, rewards and acronyms. He would like to propose a recommendation for the NMED program called the 3Cs. Citation, conformity and commendation. Citations are readily given. Rewards could be given when people conform for six months or so. It does not cost a great deal of money to provide a paper to reward for conformity.

Mr. Michael Baca mentioned NMED wants to partner with industry, regulated entities. NMED would like voluntary compliance.

Dr. Michael De Antonio mentioned he participated with Dr. DuBois and Dr. Fitzgerald in the ozone transport study. He observed that the NMED project timeline does not correspond with the ozone timing. He asked how flexible the project timeline is.

Mr. Robert Spillers informed NMED needs to adhere to the timeline, but adjustments can be made.

Mr. Michael Baca clarified that project protocols were developed and NMED will be looking for a contractor with experience.

Dr. Carlos Rincón suggested using the New Border Authority in Santa Teresa office to hold the September meeting in 2020.

Copresident Guy Donaldson congratulated NMED for taking pro-active measures.

Update on Monitoring Network in Ciudad Juarez by Dr. Margarita Peña, Ecology Director in Ciudad Juarez.

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Peña thanked Dr. Carlos Rincón, Eddie Moderow, Patti de la Cruz, Gina Posada and the SEDUE personnel for the collaboration efforts of the new air quality network installation. Ciudad Juárez was connected to the Sistema Nacional de Calidad de Aire (SINAICA) after approximately twenty-five years. Since September Juárez is complying with the official Mexican standard. There are still challenges, technical details but this is a breakthrough.

On behalf of President Armando Cabada, Dr. Pena officially recognized Dr. Carlos Rincón and Eddie Moderow.

Desde septiembre está cumpliendo con la norma oficial mexicana. Todavía hay retos, detalles técnicos, pero esto es un gran avance.

Daniel López from SEMARNAT congratulated the Municipality and appreciates all the collaboration efforts by all institutions.

Follow up on the PRO Aire of Chihuahua by Dr. Gilberto Wenglas from SEDUE.

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Rosa Fitzgerald pregunto si el ladrillo es hecho con arcilla. ¿Y si es resistente al agua?

Dr. Gilberto Wenglass comento que los procesos de construcción son muy diferentes a los que se usan en Estado Unidos.

Opportunities for Reducing Emissions from Border Drayage Trucks in the Paso del Norte Region by Jolanda Prozzi from Texas A&M Transportation Institute.

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Dr. Claudia Valles asked if she had heard of the TERP and VW opportunities?

Dr. Jolanda Prozzi acknowledged hearing about the funding opportunities.

Ms. Gina Posada informed the audience BA is working closely with TERP and provided a listing of institutions that could be interested in applying for the funds.

Mr. Spillers mentioned maybe the innovation is to offer natural gas for drayage trucks and filling stations.

Dr. Larry Olsen suggested maybe having an empty truck lane.

Dr. Carlos Rincon mentioned the BOTA bridge provides this service for empty trucks heading south.

Glimpse of the New Web-based Interactive Map for Air Quality Data by Eddie Moderow from TCEQ.

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

(No comments from the public)

Reports from Subcommittees and Comments from the Public:

Dr. Carlos Rincon mentioned the pending topic of bringing the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and the Mexican counterpart to join the JAC committee. The current Mexican administration identified the agency to represent the indigenous people. This will take a motion in the future.

Highlights and Consensus Items.

Copresident Guy Donaldson from EPA congratulated everyone for the efforts of having the air quality data from Juarez in the Air Quality report. He applauded the efforts of NMED in dust mitigation, and ozone efforts. In the Mexican side with the Pro Aires efforts and the air quality planning efforts are impressive. The efforts for public educations; all this work together for the betterment of air quality. This is a good meeting, and a reflection of everybody in the room. He thanked everybody.

Daniel López from SEMARNAT stated the same sentiment. The JAC is an example of the work of all the parties. The continuous work from academia, and of different groups that allow the strengthening of the evaluation and advances it has made. We should not stop. Mexico is having pressure to lower levels. Aiming to reach the levels of the World Health Organization. No country in the world has established, because the levels are strict. Those are to protect the health of the population, and it starts by having available the information.

Bobby Janecka TCEQ Commissioner mentioned the binational trust fund BA is working with NADB to establish a vehicle for air monitoring. Eddie shared a first draft with some members.

Robert Houston from EPA congratulated the EPA Border Office for their tremendous work during the twenty-five years in the border area.

8 Participated via ZipDX from Harlingen, Austin and El Paso.

Next meeting date: February 6, 2020 in Ciudad Juárez.

Adjourn