

Minutes

76th 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

<p>Primary Location: Ciudad Juárez City Hall Avenida Francisco Villa # 950 NTE Third Floor, Zona Centro, C.P. 32000 Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua</p>	<p>Alternate Location: TCEQ 401 E. Franklin Ave. Conference Room 570 El Paso, Tx 79901</p>
February 6, 2020	
JAC Members Attending (*Alternate ** Not Present)	
U.S.	México
Guy Donaldson, USEPA	Daniel López, SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner, TCEQ	**PROFEPA
Armando Paz, NMED	**COESPRIS
**Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	*Francisco Gómez, SDUE de Chihuahua
Norma Hijar, City of El Paso	Rául de León, CANACINTRA Juárez
*Aana Gamble, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Dra. Margarita Peña, Dirección de Ecología de Ciudad Juárez
*Dr. Larry Olsen, 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	*Briselda Duarte, NADB
Claudia Valles, El Paso MPO	
Carlos A Rincón, US EPA- Liaison	Biól. Gerardo Tarín, SEMARNAT- Liaison
Eugenia (Gina) Posada, TCEQ –Liaison	

Opening Remarks: Dr. Carlos Ponce Torres, representing Mayor Cabada of Ciudad Juárez, gave a warm welcome and congratulated the JAC members for working on creating a healthy environment. He stated that Juárez is a city that receives many people with the hope of a better life and welcomes anyone who wants to share their knowledge, especially on-air quality topics.

Welcome and Message from the Co-Chairs: Copresidents Donaldson and López thanked Ciudad Juárez for hosting the meeting and thanked everyone for their support and participation on this committee.

Introductions: Provided by attendees. Quorum reached.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: No comments were provided. The agenda was approved.

Presentation and Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes: Minutes were approved.

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

Please see the report at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public:

Copresident Donaldson recommended checking the ozone trend not currently meeting the US standard and stated the need to act to address this challenge. He mentioned NO_x or VOCs contribute to ozone formation; 70ppb is the goal level to protect human health.

Copresident Daniel López mentioned SERMANAT is working with Chihuahua to update this inventory and working on reducing the pollutants Copresident Donaldson mentioned.

Rene Franco mentioned standards in México and US are not the same. Harmonizing the standards for this airshed would benefit this basin; better compatibility, better measures, etc.

Carlos Rincón mentioned resolution number 3; when the agreement was signed, it defined this region as one basin. The air quality technical committee can review the resolution and respond to Franco's comment.

A member of the public had a question regarding standards in the US. He stated that in México companies present an emissions report to meet state or federal regulations, which helps identify the type of emissions or sources of contamination.

Copresident Donaldson mentioned that the joint goal is to share annually synchronized emissions inventory information. To enable this process, EPA and SEMARNAT are facilitating discussions on techniques and quantification.

Copresident Daniel López suggested having a presentation on emissions inventories to provide the technical group with more information on methodologies and the differences and similarities in the criteria for pollutant and greenhouse gas classification.

NOM-172-SEMARNAT-2019. México's New Guideline for Communicating the Air Quality Index and Health Risks by Gerardo Tarín from SEMARNAT

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public:

Dr. Fitzgerald asked how SEMARNAT differentiates between asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder.

Gerardo Tarín answered, SEMARNAT does not have information on differentiating between the illnesses.

SEDUE mentioned they will begin work on complying with the standard and will create a webpage with public information on February 18. The rest of Chihuahua does not have a vehicle inspection program; publishing this information will make the public aware of the program and of how pollution affects public health.

Briselda Duarte provided more information related to health questions. Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez (UACJ) is conducting a study on the respiratory effects of exposure to brick kilns to evaluate health repercussions for people with pm10 and for those living close to contaminants. This is the only study related to air quality of the five B2020 projects in the region.

Dr. Margarita Peña responded to Rene Franco's comments by stating Ciudad Juárez has three semi-automatic monitoring stations for pm10 and UACJ has some too. She mentioned that the city's budget won't cover the cost of monitoring stations throughout the city, though it might be possible with greater state and federal funding. The ProAire along with UACJ and Ecology Dept. have been tasked with creating a contingency plan for the city; to date we do not have the plan.

Bioremediation System to Improve the Air Basin by Dr. Margarita Peña from Ecology Department in Ciudad Juárez

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public:

Rene Franco asked several questions. Will unregistered vehicles be required to get the vehicle inspection sticker? If so, how will the Ecology department enforce this program? How will the public have confidence that the verification machines used on their vehicles are certified?

Dr. Peña answered his questions. Vehicles must be registered and comply with federal law to participate in the program and receive the verification sticker. The Ecology Department will have patrol cars to enforce the program. The vehicle inspection centers' accreditation is pending, and the verification machines follow national compliance regulations. The Ecology Department is finalizing program staff training

Air Quality Study in Bangalore, India Using Low Cost Air Sensors by Dr. Eaton and Heather Howton from University of Texas at Austin

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public:

Dr. Alba Corral asked if the sensors were under research or commercially available.

Miss Heather Howton confirmed they are commercially available through various websites, though purchase method depends on intended use.

Copresident Donaldson mentioned this technology is revolutionizing the availability of air monitoring data for much less money.

Paso del Norte Air Quality Map and Upcoming Projects by Patricia de la Cruz and Melanie Scruggs from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public: N/A

Emissions Reduction at International Bridges by means of Transportation Infrastructure by Nicolas López from Ciudad Juárez Municipal Institute for Planning and Research

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public:

Carlos Rincón suggested reaching out to the El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, the consulate, and other stakeholders.

Meteorological and Air Quality Monitoring Network of the Autonomous University of Ciudad Juárez by Dr. Adrián Vázquez

Please see the presentation at www.cccjac.org

Comments by the public:

Dr. Eaton mentioned transboundary activity faces two big challenges. The first challenge is sharing scientific equipment and technical staff between two countries without delays in the border crossing points. The second challenge is the method of moving funds between countries for environmental projects. He recommended having a binational structure or platform to allow for more effective movement. He gave the example of the binational trust proposal to NADB and also recommended inviting Mexican and US customs to join the JAC to help solve these challenges with their guidance.

Reports from Subcommittees and Comments from the Public:

The ProAire is working on developing a report of the 6 strategies, 10 measures and 59 actions. This effort is led by SEDUE which will report to SEMARNAT.

The 2-year action plan is in development and once finished will be uploaded to the website.

Highlights and Consensus Items

Copresident Donaldson thanked Ciudad Juárez for hosting the event, thanked the presenters for sharing their expertise, and expressed his appreciation for the hard work everyone is undertaking to improve air quality. He emphasized the importance of the new guidelines on air quality and public health risks SEMARNAT has developed, and said that while low-cost sensors are important tools, they cannot replace regulatory instruments.

Copresident López agreed with Copresident Donaldson, expressed his appreciation for the municipal and state efforts to improve air quality, and committed to present on emissions inventories at an upcoming meeting.

39 Attendees at the City Council in Ciudad Juárez.

18 attendees at the TCEQ location.

12 Participated via ZipDX from Harlingen, Austin, El Paso, and Massachusetts.

Next meeting: June 4, 2020, at City of El Paso Environmental Services Department Meeting Adjourned