

**Minutes**  
27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the  
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin  
Mt. Cristo Rey Conference Room, Sunland Park Race Track and Casino  
Sunland Park, New Mexico  
25 September, 2003

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ing. Sergio Sanchez (SS) and Bill Luthans (BL) welcomed all to today's meeting. SS welcomed and introduced each of the members on the Mexican side of the JAC. BL introduced Luis Morales, Representative for Doña Ana County, New Mexico Health Department.

JAC Members Present:

Mexico

Ing. Sergio Sanchez - Co-Chair, SEMARNAT

Ing. Daniel Chacon, PROFEPA

Ing. Jose Treviño, SEMARNAT-Delegación Chihuahua

Ing. Ives Figueroa - State of Chihuahua Ecology Department

Biol. Gerardo Tarin, Alternate for Biol. Alma Leticia Figueroa - Cd. Juarez Ecology Department

Ing. M.C. Gilberto Velazquez, UACJ

Ing. Rene Franco - MEM

Ing. Francisco Alfaro, Alternate for Dr. Enrique Suarez, FEMAP

Ing. Miguel Angel Calderon, CANACINTRA

Maestra Beatriz Vera, Alternate for Ing. Gustavo Cordova, COLEF/CCDS, Chihuahua

United States

Mr. Bill Luthans, Co-Chair, Environmental Protection Agency

Mr. Brad Musik, Alternate for Jim Norton, State of New Mexico Environment Department

Mr. Arch Clouse - TCEQ

Dr. Elaine Barron, an El Paso Physician

Dr. Carlos Rincon - Environmental Defense

Mr. Mark Rodriguez, El Paso Electric

Mr. Bob Currey

Dr. Wen-Whai Li, UTEP

Mr. Jesus Reynoso, EPCCHED

Mr. Luis Morales, Doña Ana County Health Dept.

A Quorum Exists

**Presentation and approval of current agenda**

-The agenda was approved. Minor changes were made to the order of the agenda. Carlos Rincon (CR) indicated that Part C on the consent agenda needed modification regarding development by ED of a White Paper on cross-border emissions trading activities and not specifically brickmaking activities.

### **Approval of minutes of the Sept., 2003 JAC meeting**

-CR recommended modifications on the section regarding the Border Air Quality Strategy. He would send Victor Valenzuela his comments. The minutes were adopted w/ modifications.

### **Announcements**

-NMED recently awarded a grant for development of a PM Emissions Inventory of Ag sources in Doña Ana County. This is part of the NMED Atlas project.

-Gerardo Tarin announced the development of a brickmaking industrial complex in the southside of Juarez. Some meetings have been held w/ EP Electric to move forward with construction and development.

### **Consent Agenda and Written Updates - Agreements and Pending Old Business:**

-The Brickmakers Technical Commission will begin an analysis of the ongoing EP Electric brickmakers project to consider if any next-steps can be recommended.

-Carlos Rincon is developing a white paper on cross border emissions trading.

-Next steps on the Cd. Juarez PM<sub>10</sub> Air Quality Monitoring Network need to be discussed.

-Next steps on the One-Basin Resolution need to be developed.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **A. Air Quality Report**

-Victor Valenzuela presented the Air Quality report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2003 (Q2-2003). A plot of daily max. 1 hr O<sub>3</sub> concentrations indicate no exceedances in either city (EP or Jz). There was only one O<sub>3</sub> monitor operating in Jz and 8 O<sub>3</sub> monitors in EP during this reporting period. A frequency distribution indicates the majority of days O<sub>3</sub> has been in the good range. In Juarez most days have been in the moderate range. Re: PM<sub>10</sub> 6 day sampling, there was 1 sampling day in DAC where PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations reached 394ug/m<sup>3</sup> for the 24-hr average. Met data indicate max. gusts were 58 mph and average gusts were 38 mph. In EP met data indicated much lower wind speeds in the area.

A separate set of data from the TEOMs continuous monitors indicated 1 day exceeded the 24-hr PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard in SLP on 2 Feb. Otherwise the trendline for PM<sub>2.5</sub> was downward for Q1-2003 and the drop was steeper for El Paso compared to DAC. PM<sub>10</sub> TEOM data indicate NM reported 5 days where the 24-hr average concentration exceeded the standard. El Paso exceeded the PM<sub>10</sub> standard 4 times based on readings from the TEOMS during Q1-2003. Regarding PM<sub>2.5</sub> TEOMS data, El Paso exceeded the 24-hr average once and DAC exceeded the 24-hr average 2 times during Q2-2003. The trendlines for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (Q2-2003) indicate a steeper drop for DAC compared to El Paso. For PM<sub>10</sub>, TEOMs data for Q2-2003 indicate El Paso exceeded the PM<sub>10</sub> standard 8 times during this period. DAC exceeded the PM<sub>10</sub>-24hr average standard 17 times. Most of these were high wind events. BL asked if any of the PM exceedances reported could

cause any problems with the redesignation requests for El Paso. Possibly not since the TEOMS are not Federal Reference Methods; they are Federal Equivalence Methods.

Beatriz Vera commented that while air quality values may be below the standard there are still many people who are impacted by lower pollutant concentrations. One of the issues the JAC must deal with is that compliance based monitoring is not helpful and somehow we need to use the equipment that is deployed for providing citizen advisories on a continuing basis.

Sergio Sanchez commented that he hopes to be able to observe similar air quality values in other Mexican cities. There are many smaller Mexican cities where ambient air quality concentration are much worse. He requested a long-term trend line to see how air quality has behaved over a longer period of time.

A discussion ensued regarding the upcoming Border 2012 Environmental Health Working Group meetings that will be taking place in Juarez in Oct. Elaine Barron (EB) requested JAC support to write to the U.S. Surgeon General, Richard Carmona, requesting a SG report on Hispanics and Border Health. EB would be drafting a letter that would be circulated before sending to the SG. BL finally mentioned an item on the last picture of the Window thru the Basin at the Chisos Mtns in Big Bend. The BRAVO study will be issued in December discussing issues surrounding long-range transport and how this impacts visibility in BBNP.

### **C. NAAQS Redesignation for El Paso**

Gerry Wolfe, TCEQ SIP Planner, discussed the status of the redesignation issue for El Paso. As is well-known, EP is designated Serious for the ozone standard, Moderate for PM<sub>10</sub>, and Moderate for CO. The county is in nonattainment for ozone, the City of El Paso is in nonattainment for PM<sub>10</sub>, and a portion of EP is in nonattainment for CO. There are 2 changes coming forth: elimination of the 1-hr O<sub>3</sub> standard, and development of the 8-hr O<sub>3</sub> standard. We will also add the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. The 8-hr O<sub>3</sub> standard is a health-based standard and is set at 85ppb for an 8-hr average. El Paso currently meets the 8-hr O<sub>3</sub> average standard. As it stands right now designation of the new 8-hr standards will be issued in 2004. In 2005, the 1-hr standard will be revoked. If an area meets the 8-hr standard, the 1-hr standard may be revoked immediately or in 2005. Many issues still need to be resolved as to how this standard is finally implemented and how the revocation of the 1-hr standard is resolved. El Paso meets the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard which will be set at 65ug/m<sup>3</sup>. The PM<sub>10</sub> standard will remain in place regardless of the designation for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. El Paso has been doing a good job of attaining the standards for quite some time. There has been no violations of O<sub>3</sub> and CO standards since 1996. There are questions about data completeness on PM<sub>10</sub>. We need to show 3 full years of clean data from the monitors in the field prior to any types of PM<sub>10</sub> redesignations. Control measures currently in place would remain in place. CMAQ funding would be dropped as El Paso comes into attainment. A maintenance plan will need to be submitted with the request for redesignation.

Archie indicated that the JAC spent lots of time and effort developing a resolution, at the request of the TCEQ, to develop a resolution requesting that the TCEQ move forward with requesting redesignation. Is there anything that we can do to move this resolution forward? BL indicated that EPA met with the TCEQ Commissioners and a discussion took place regarding the

redesignation issue. So this issue is on the table between the two agencies.

A question was raised regarding Hazardous Air Pollutants and how they fit into the issue of Nonattainment designations for El Paso. BL replied that there are few regulatory or statutory requirements on a regional basis. Most rules address MACT rules dealing with source emissions rather than ambient air quality concentrations. A request was made to present at the next JAC meeting a discussion on HAPS and the Toxics Monitoring network in El Paso.

#### **D. Public Transit Ecology Week in Juárez**

Gerardo Tarin, Director of the Cd. Juárez Ecology Department Enforcement section discussed the public transit system and Ecology week in Cd. Juárez. At least 1800 public transit buses circulate across the streets of Juárez on a daily basis. Federal NOM-76 addresses emissions from large vehicles in Mexico and an effort was made to work with operators of public transit fleets to obtain compliance with the federal rules. Starting on 16 Sept. an intensive effort was undertaken to work with public transit operators to achieve this compliance. Initially the city worked with bus drivers who had had accidents most of whom were cited for excessive speed or running red lights. State law also addresses the transport and transit regs. such as routes and vehicle age (which should be no greater than 10 yrs old). Hundreds of buses do not comply with this state law. Another issue is that propane powered vehicles (usually buses purchased from U.S. school districts) are returned to primarily diesel fuel due to the low cost of diesel fuels. Also, due to the deterioration of public transit buses, most people prefer to take personal vehicles which are also aged and polluting. Workshops are taking place at CECATI to teach mechanics to work on diesel vehicles to provide tune-ups and reduce emissions. Ongoing efforts continue promoting the use of public transit throughout Juárez. Sergio Sanchez indicated that unless programs are required and enforced it will be very difficult to obtain voluntary compliance although they are a step in the right direction since the city is trying to promote an environmental conscience.

#### **B. El Paso Summer and Winter Fuels Programs**

Archie Clouse presented on behalf of Chuy Reynoso. As part of the O<sub>3</sub> & CO air quality strategies for EP 2 seasonal fuels programs are in place. During summer months a Low Reid Vapor Pressure (Low-RVP) program is in place to reduce fuel evaporative emissions. This summer 350 unleaded, 244 mid grade, and 289 premium grade samples were collected with 8, 4, & 7 violations reported respectively. Or 367 facilities were inspected, 883 samples taken, & 19 violations reported. Between October and March the oxyfuels program calls for addition of an oxygenate at a rate of 2.7% by weight to gasoline distributed in EP. A testing blitz is conducted during the October to assure all distributors are in compliance with the program. A noted success of these programs is the reduction in violations that have occurred during the past several years as noted in Gerry Wolfe's presentation.

Carlos asked Sergio if Mexico's National Fuels committee would be meeting any time soon. SS indicated that the National committee has formed to discuss national fuel requirements and new car emissions requirements. Fuels will need to be produced to meet these emissions requirements.

#### **E. JAC Participation on the Border 2012 Program**

Daniel Chacon, Co-Chair of the regional workgroup for the Enforcement Workgroup. DC

presented the topics that were mentioned during the B-2012 meetings held earlier this year. DC described the general framework of the Regional Working Groups and the Taskforces which are designed to develop the local work for the regional workgroups. The JAC, albeit formed under Appendix I to Annex V of the La Paz Agreement, forms the regional task force by being the only ongoing binational group addressing cross-border air pollution in the Chihuahua / New Mexico / Texas regional workgroup. The Air Workgroup in general proposes the following broad initiatives: OBJECTIVE 1: By 2012 or sooner, reduce air emissions as much as possible toward attainment of respective national ambient air quality standards, and reduce exposure in the border region, as supported by the following interim objectives:

INTERIM OBJECTIVE 1: By 2003, define baseline and alternative scenarios for emissions reductions along the border, and their impacts on air quality and human exposure.

INTERIM OBJECTIVE 2: By 2004, based on results from Interim Objective 1, define specific emission reductions strategies and air quality and exposure objectives to be achieved by 2012.

The JAC, with its Strategic Plan and proposals under the Border Air Quality Strategy already has momentum built up to move forward.

Re: the makeup of the Regional Working Group, members will serve for a period of 1 year and it is contemplated that a member from the U.S. and Mexico each will serve on the Air Working Group. The JAC selected Gustavo Cordova for Mexico and Mark Rodriguez for the U.S. to serve on the Air Working Group. Carlos Rincon would participate on the Policy Forums given his omnipresent participation on most media regarding U.S.-Mexico Border environmental activities. Bob Currey recommended that where there is an opportunity for JAC members to become involved in the various media formed under the 3-State Regional Workgroups, we should take the opportunity if it is afforded to us. DC added that the regional workgroup calls for participation on behalf of the various communities within the 3-state region. BL iterated that the regional workgroups will be primarily multi-media and each member on the JAC is always welcome to participate on the groups regardless of whether they are officially identified as a committee co-chair or member.

SS added that Mexico is on track to complete development of the various methodologies for completing a National Emissions Inventory for Mexico. Working with EPA and the Western Governor's Association, SEMARNAT has completed this work and is now in process of initiating the National Emissions Inventory. On 23 October SEMARNAT will be meeting w/ EPA Management to report how the NEI will proceed.

#### **F. Proposed U.S.-Mexico Border Air Quality Strategy for Paso del Norte**

As part of the Border 2012 Program, EPA and SEMARNAT are developing a Border Air Quality Strategy (BAQS) to address air quality problems in a more coordinated manner. The JAC is developing a strategy to allow emissions trading along the Texas-Mexico border. First among these actions was successful passage of SB 1561-76th Legislature which allows pollutant emissions trading between Texas and Mexican States on the Texas-Mexico border. As a next step, the JAC is moving forward with recommending modifications of the Federal Clean Air Act or development of rules by the TCEQ which allow emissions reductions to be applied to New Source Review (NSR) offset requirements should a Texas-based source desire to expand operations and be required to obtain offsets. The JAC developed a Resolution which calls for the appropriate governmental entities to develop such rules. Signing the resolution would be only the first step of

a very long road. BL has talked w/ EPA legal staff to see how this effort can move forward.

SS added that Mexico has been discussing activities to improve air quality using innovative methods that can be undertaken as pilot projects. Among these are the One Basin Resolution, the Vehicle Emissions Testing Program for Northern Mexico states, and emissions trading activities. We are sure to benefit across the airshed if we give the current project, allowing emissions trading to be developed, to move forward.

Mark Rodriguez commented that the JAC was formed as a body to provide recommendations to the Air Working Group, and we now may be criticized for taking initiatives on our own such as moving the recommendations directly to TCEQ or EPA. Elaine Barron replied that we have to walk that road without fear of recriminations, we need to act like leaders and reach our own destiny. No one is going to do anything for us if we don't do anything for ourselves first. The JAC is an organization made of varying interests and it can work collectively to promote an agenda which benefits the community. Beatriz Vera agreed 100%. Luis Morales commented that the initial impression of the JAC was that it would cure the problem with meetings, but after seeing the discussions today and the efforts that have been initiated and completed to improve air quality, he is very pleased to participate as much as possible to improve regional air quality.

As a first step of moving forward on a pilot project, El Paso Electric Company (EPEC) recently completed construction of several low-emitting brickkilns in Juárez which may qualify for such offsets or discreet emissions reduction credits should FCAA or TCEQ rules be developed which provide for this opportunity. Sergio Sanchez and Bill Luthans both signed the resolution which will be delivered to EPA and TCEQ for their consideration. A press release will be issued mentioning the resolution.

#### 7. Observations and Comments from the Public

#### 8. Highlights and consensus items of the meeting

-EB will take the lead in writing a letter to Surgeon General requesting the report on Hispanics and Border Health

-VV will request that TCEQ prepare a presentation for the next JAC meeting on HAPs and air toxics.

-A press release will be issued regarding the resolution signed today.

-The next JAC meeting air quality report will include long-term trends.

#### 9. Establishment of Date for the next meeting

-Thursday December 11, 2003 in El Paso

#### 10. Adjourn