

Minutes

46th 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
El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, El Paso, TX
Thursday September 17, 2009

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bill Luthans (BL), USEPA Region 6, and Ramiro Barrios (RB), SEMARNAT, welcomed all to the 46th meeting of the JAC. A quorum was established.

| JAC Members Present | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| U.S. | México |
| Bill Luthans – EPA | *Ramiro Barrios – Alt for A.M. Contreras |
| Ramiro Garcia Jr. – TCEQ | **Sergio Zepeda - PROFEPA |
| Michael Baca – NMED | Araceli Salazar – COESPRIS |
| Mariana Chew – Sierra Club | Silvia Castro – Gob. Edo de Chih |
| Albert Melero – City of El Paso | *Hector Sandoval - Alt for B. Escudero, DNA |
| John Quinn | Ing. Rene Franco – MEM |
| Elaine Barron, M.D. | **Enrique Suarez - SADEC |
| Comm. Saldaña Dona Aña County | Dra. Alba Corral – UACJ |
| Bob Currey | Denisse Varela–Alt for I.Figueroa |
| *Wen-Whai Li, | Alberto Ramírez – CCSD |
| * Alternate | ** Not Present |

2. Presentation and approval of current agenda and minutes.

The Agenda and minutes were approved.

3. Message from the Co-Chairs

BL reported he intends on sending to the State Dept. a notice that the JAC will add 2 new members.

4. Public Participation

Several persons commented regarding the issue with ASARCO and the need for the community to be involved in upcoming discussions regarding the site's remediation. BL indicated the JAC ASARCO resolution calls for formation of a Citizens Advisory Committee and will check with TCEQ on how to integrate this committee into upcoming deliberations regarding final disposition of this property contamination issues.

5. JAC Discussion on Public Comments - No JAC member comments.

6. Air Quality Report

Victor Valenzuela (VV) presented an air quality summary from 1/1/2009 – 9/14/2009. No CO exceedances were observed in EP or Jz. A CO violation occurs when more than one reading above 9.5 ppm is observed at the same monitoring site in the same calendar year. No exceedances of the 1-hr or

8-hr O₃ standard occurred in EP or Jz. Data indicate EP has been in violation of the new 8-hr standard since 1986. The trend does not indicate O₃ air quality will improve. A final designation for El Paso may be made in 2010.

PM₁₀ data from local Wedding samplers indicate Juarez had no PM₁₀ exceedances during the 1st 6 months of 2009.

TEOMS – Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance – data from several PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} monitoring sites in EP & NM indicate exceedances of both standards, however all exceedances were observed during high-wind events.

7. Presentations

- A) Air Quality Planning Strategies - Rider 8 Grant Opportunities for Ozone Modeling.
Steven Davis, Section Manager - Air Modeling and Data Analysis Section provided Background, current authorization – 81st Legislative Session; Technical Priorities, and EP O₃ status, and an Emissions Inventory summary. The 74th Legislative Session authorized \$500,000 for each year of biennium (1996-1997) to assist areas stay in air quality attainment. Areas authorized to receive the funding included Austin, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Tyler, and Longview.

Work has supported the Early Action Compact program, Ozone Flex program and other activities that helped the regions maintain air quality. Organizations use their staff, private vendors and college/universities to carry out projects.

From the 81st Legislative session included in amounts appropriated out of the Clean Air Account No. 151 in Strategy A.1., Air Quality Assessment and Planning, is \$7,075,000 for the biennium for air quality planning activities to reduce ozone in areas as approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). These areas may include Waco, El Paso, Beaumont, Austin, Corpus Christi, Longview-Tyler-Marshall, San Antonio, and Victoria. These activities may include identifying, inventorying, and monitoring of pollution levels; modeling pollution levels; and the identification, quantification, and implementation of appropriation pollution reduction controls.

Technical Priorities: Emissions inventory: focus on nonroad and area source categories
Monitoring (obtaining data), Data analysis/conceptual model development, Air quality research/corroborative analysis development, Base Case Modeling, Stakeholder / photochemical modeling technical committees.

Emissions Inventory data (for 2005) indicate mobile sources account for 77% of NO_x emissions and 43% of VOC emissions.

- B) El Paso Summertime Ozone Awareness Program. (10)
Jim Dobbins, TxDOT provided an updated on the TxDOT O₃ awareness program. EP had only 2 O₃ action days in 2009. Participants in the TxDOT program included EP Mayor John Cook; Ellen Smyth, Director of El Paso Environmental Services; and Chuck Berry, TxDOT District Engineer among others.

TxDOT used the Dynamic Message Boards to advise the public of forecasted Ozone Action Days on all 46 signs along the major roadways. Messages developed by City of El Paso's Environmental Services Department. These messages were displayed on four of the dynamic message signs across the city, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as follows:

“Carpool for Clean Air”

“Clean Air/Clean Living/Carpool”

“Clear Skies come from clean vehicles”

TxDOT also promoted the “Drive Clean Across Texas” Campaign in El Paso. The message was promoted via 605 television local commercials; 106 commercials on Fox Sports Southwest during Rangers and Astros games; 416 commercials on seven radio stations; and 3 billboards.

TxDOT also promotes the “Clean Air Plan” which is an internal campaign that runs May 1 – September 30 with 139 participants in the El Paso District, The District has finished in first or second place among the TxDOT offices in non-attainment cities each year.

C) El Paso County PM₁₀ Hot Spot Modeling and Analysis.

Jackie Plough presented an historical perspective. In 1990, EPA designated El Paso as being a moderate nonattainment area for PM₁₀. In 1991, the El Paso PM₁₀ State Implementation Plan (SIP) was adopted. In 2007, in response to high levels of PM₁₀ caused by dust storms, TCEQ, City of El Paso, Joint Advisory Committee, and community stakeholders, developed the Natural Events Action Plan (NEAP) for El Paso County. TCEQ is beginning preliminary steps to develop an attainment maintenance PM₁₀ SIP.

There are options associated to establish conformity with the PM₁₀ SIP. Options to remove motor vehicle emissions budget from future PM₁₀ attainment maintenance SIP: The area may be eligible for a limited maintenance plan as provided for at 40 CFR 93.109(j) for the first 10 year maintenance plan. (<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/policy/2001imp-pm10.pdf>); Demonstrate that motor vehicle emissions are insignificant contributors to PM₁₀ levels. These options remove the need for a MVEB, but do not remove hotspot requirements.

Hotspot Definition: 40 CFR 93.101. An estimate of future localized (next to the road) PM concentrations compared to the PM₁₀ NAAQS. It demonstrates that a transportation project meets Clean Air Act (CAA) conformity in support of improved air quality. In March 2006, EPA and FHWA issued joint guidance on qualitative PM hotspot analyses. Guidance location: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/policy/420b06902.pdf>

Hotspot Applicability It is required for “projects of air quality concern” and in NEPA documents for such projects on or after April 5, 2006. Hotspot analysis is not required for: Nonexempt projects that are not of local air quality concern. Exempt projects listed in 40 CFR 93.126 and traffic signal synchronization projects under 40 CFR 93.128.

PM 10 Hotspot Requirements / Section 93.123(c)(1) requires that Estimated total project PM₁₀ concentrations + future background concentrations. The hot-spot analysis is intended to assess possible new or worsened air quality violations, since under transportation conformity a project cannot adversely impact air quality. A qualitative analysis is to be used until EPA develops quantitative guidance. Public participation is paramount.

Examples of Projects of Air Quality Concern. A new highway (> 125,000 annual average daily traffic (AADT) and > 8% diesel traffic; Expansion of an existing road that affects a congested intersection that has a significant increase in diesel traffic; A major new bus or intermodal terminal with significant diesel traffic.

Roles and Responsibilities. 40 CFR 93.105 or in the approved conformity SIP Hotspot analyses requires a coordinated effort among many partners: TxDOT, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Authority; USEPA; EPMPO; and TCEQ.

Interagency Consultation (from joint EPA-FHWA Guidance) process is critical to completing qualitative PM₁₀ hot-spot analyses and project-level conformity determinations. It must also be used to evaluate and choose associated methods and assumptions to be used in PM₁₀ hot-spot analyses (40 CFR 93.105(c)(1)(i)). It should be used to determine what is needed for a particular

project. It should be used to determine if new violations or increases in the frequency or severity of existing violations are anticipated based on the hot-spot analysis. It should be used to determine if the “project is of air quality concern”.

Potential Project-Level Mitigation Measures: Diesel Emissions include retrofitting high emitters, rerouting traffic, and anti-idling requirements, replace a significant number of older buses with cleaner buses.

- D) Cd. Juarez Vehicle Verification Program and Remote Sensing Program
Daniel Terrazas, DNA, reported Cd. Juárez set up their remote sensing monitor at 17 locations throughout Juarez. In August, 2009, 32,683 vehicles passed through the sensor with 19.04% of the vehicles violating emissions standards and over 500 fines issued. In September, 2009 46,380 vehicles passed through the remote sensor with 27.95% violating the emissions standard and 1129 fines issued. Daniel also presented a chart of IMECA data indicating PM10 and PM2.5 continue to represent ambient air quality problems throughout the airshed.
- E) Update on the 7th Air Quality Forum on GHG / Climate Change held in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. Ramiro Barrios reported on work carried out by the BECC which includes the GHG inventories by state and diagnostic report from 1990-2020. Various studies associated with energy include public participation, environmental education, capacity building.

Mexico has also built the Special Program on Climate Change 2009-2012 developed by Juan Mata, SEMARNAT. The report was published in Mexico's Diario Oficial (Federal Register) on 28 August, 2009. Included in the report are 105 objectives and 294 goals in areas addressing adaptation and climate change mitigation. Mexico proposes reducing GHG emissions by 50% by 2050 with 2002 as the baseline for comparison.

- 8. JAC Subcommittee Reports and Discussion –
 - A. PM Technical Commission: Alba Corral, Ph.D – no report
 - B. Mobile Sources – No Report
 - C. Emerging Issues - No report
 - D. Data Committee – No report
 - E. Ways & Means: No report
- 9. Observations and Comments from the Public –
- 10. Highlights and consensus items of the meeting.
 - a. BL will look at the JAC resolution to see how the public can be engaged w/ future decisions re: the ASARCO clean-up & participation of a Citizens' Advisory Committee.
 - b. JAC Co-chairs will check with SRE & State Depts. to add 2 new seats for MPO and IMIP.
- 11. Next meeting January 14, 2010 in Juarez, Chih.
- 12. Adjourn