

Fourth Meeting
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FOR THE
EL PASO/TEXAS-CD. JUAREZ/MEXICO-DONA ANA/NEW MEXICO AIR BASIN
El Paso, Texas
August 12, 1997

The meeting was presided by its Co-chair, Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo representing SEMARNAP-AIR (Mexico) and Bob Hanneschlager, Deputy Director Multimedia Planning and Permitting Division, EPA Region 6, in place of Jerry Clifford, Acting Regional Director, Region 6.

Following is a summary of discussion and actions on agenda items.

1. **Welcome.** Bob Hanneschlager opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and visitors. He announced that Jerry Clifford was called to a meeting in Washington, D.C. and thus was unable to attend. Also absent were four members of the committee, 3 representing Mexico and 1 representing New Mexico.
2. **Minutes.** Approved with no changes.
3. **Agenda.** Was approved with two additions: a GIS presentation by Bob Grey (UTEP) and a progress report on various activities of the JAC.
4. **New U.S. NAAQS.** EPA made a presentation on the new ozone and PM standards, and possible effects on El Paso's designation as an attainment or non-attainment area. El Paso should complete basin-wide modeling, work with State to develop attainment plan, and demonstrate that plan. Possible role for JAC is to use the El Paso SIP to recommend strategic plans/projects to federal, state and local authorities. **Committee voted to request the TNRCC makes a presentation at the next JAC meeting on the agency's plan for meeting new standards for El Paso.**
5. **Progress Reports - JAC Subcommittees.**
 - a. **Bylaws.** Approved with no changes. These bylaws incorporate changes submitted by TNRCC, NOGS, JAC members, and the public in general. It defines the JAC as an advisory board with limited powers and no authority to hire staff, sign contracts or manage projects. Its role is strictly to develop recommendations of plans and projects to the Air Work Group and to encourage education, provide technical assistance, and explore strategies that prevent and reduce air pollution in the Air Basin. **Bylaws to be sent to the Air Work Group for approval.**
 - b. **Emissions on Cars Imported into Cd. Juarez.** At the last meeting, the JAC passed a resolution asking the Air Work Group send a letter to *Secretaria de Hacienda* (Treasury) instructing Mexican Custom Officers in Cd. Juarez to enforce that city's ecology regulations, which requires emissions inspection on vehicles imported into Cd. Juarez. The Air Work Group responded by asking the JAC to research the law and then proceed with the letter. **Recommendation from the JAC that the Municipal Government of Cd. Juarez send a letter to *Secretaria de Hacienda* requesting the enforcement of the ecology laws (identify the laws)**

and that it checks equipment and emissions of cars imported into Cd. Juarez.

c. **Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP)**. A presentation by Ronald Ketter (UTEP) on the mechanics of Supplemental Environmental Projects in the El Paso del Norte Air Basin and its possible uses for improving air quality in the area. **A resolution was passed supporting the use of SEPs as one of the many mechanism to reduce pollution through the basin; endorsing the evaluation of the recently approved SEP in Cd. Juarez and El Paso as a pilot project; and, establishing a technical sub-committee to identify, assess, and prioritize potential projects for development as SEPs in the basin.**

As recommended by the Air Work Group, the JAC will continue to develop, through the soon to be named technical sub-committee, a list of potential SEP projects. Selection of a SEP project will be done through an engineering firm contracted by EPA.

d. **Emissions Inventory**. A presentation by Carl Snow of the TNRCC on the history and development of an emissions inventory data base for the air basin and its uses.

e. **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**. Presentation by Bob Grey of UTEP on the uses and applications of GIS in mapping out sources of air pollution. Through the use of GIS, Mr. Grey has compiled an extensive data base on maquiladora location, sic codes, types of products manufactured, number of personnel, and other useful information such as the location of brick kilns, etc.

6. Updates on Previous JAC Recommendations - Victor H. Paramo.

Vehicular Verification - No official response yet from the Chihuahua Legislature to the letter of April 24 requesting the state of Chihuahua establishes a statewide vehicular verification program. However, just about the time the letter was sent, the state of Chihuahua passed a law that went into effect on April 15 establishing a mandatory vehicular verification program for Cd. Juarez. The new law will allow other municipalities to implement similar programs at the discretion of their governing bodies.

Air Quality Reporting - Local authorities in charge of air monitoring operations will develop quarterly reports similar to those of EPA. Two of the bi-national groups, Air Work Group and Environmental Health Work Group are developing a series of standardized recommendations and measures for both countries to keep the public informed of air contamination and possible health hazards.

Emissions Reductions Credits - The JAC continues to work in the development of a proposal and recommendations regarding Emissions Reductions Credits for industry in the basin.

Dedicated Commuter Lane - Efforts continue for the designation of a Dedicated Commuter Lane at the international bridges to reduce vehicular wait and cut in emissions. Danny Vickers reports excellent progress In this time consuming request which requires agreement of not only a number of federal, state, and local agencies but also of environmental organizations and retailers. When approved, the Stanton bridge will be designated for northbound traffic only. It

is estimated this designation will result in a 20% decrease of traffic at other bridges reducing the wait time to 6 minutes. Plan should be in place by early next year or possibly later this year. The JAC is working with EPA to secure backup for financing the purchase of equipment.

Oxygenated Gasoline for Cd. Juarez - Through the Air Work Group, the JAC requested from PEMEX information regarding the suppliers and composition of gasoline sold in Cd. Juarez. PEMEX responded that some of the Pemex Premium (no-lead) gasoline sold in Cd. Juarez could be considered imported since the base of the gasoline is imported and then reformulated in Mexico. For this type of gasoline, a 1%-2 % oxygen content is specified. All Pemex Magna (regular) gasoline is imported from El Paso with no requirement for specific oxygen content. In order to complete the request that PEMEX supplies oxygenated gasoline to Cd. Juarez during the winter months, the Air Work Group needs to know the reason (such as air quality studies, emissions reductions and cost benefits) why this type of gasoline is required in El Paso.

7. Workshop on New Air Standards - JAC members requested a series of technical workshops be establish to educate members on new air standards.

8. **Next Meetings:**

Air Work Group , November 1997 somewhere in the U.S. (No specific date set)

JAC, Tuesday, November 4, 1997, in Cd. Juarez, Mexico