

Minutes

66th Meeting of the JAC for the Improvement of Air Quality in the
Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin

City of El Paso Environmental Services
7968 San Paulo, Cotton Patch Conference Room, El Paso, Texas

May 12, 2016

Welcome and Introductions

Co-chairs, Mr. Mark Hansen of USEPA Region 6, and Ms. Ana Patricia Martinez of SEMARNAT, welcomed all to the 66th JAC meeting. A quorum was established.

JAC Members Attending (Absences and alternates indicated by **)	
U.S.	México
Mark Hansen – US EPA	M.I. Ana Patricia Martinez (APM)–SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner – TCEQ	**Lic. Joel Aranda – PROFEPA,
Michael Baca – NMED	**Sr. Eloy Corral Banda – COESPRIS
** Dona Ana County	Arq. Nieves Maloof – SDUE Gob. Edo. de Chihuahua
Karl Rimkus– City of El Paso	Lic. Viridiana Vázquez - CANACINTRA Juárez
John P. Quinn - FMI	Lic. César Rene Díaz – Ecología de Ciudad Juarez
Elaine Barron, M.D.	Ing. Vicente López – IMIP
**Alberto Correa, PhD	M en C René Franco –DGAH
David Dubois, NMSU	Dra. Alba Y. Corral – UACJ
Wen-Whai Li, (WWL) Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	Ing. Joaquin Marrufo – COCEF
**Christine Ponce-Diaz, El Paso MPO	Lic. Brenda Ríos Prieto - SEMARNAT
Carlos A Rincon, (CR) -US EPA	Biól. Gerardo Tarín (GT) SEMARNAT
* Alternate	** Not Present

The meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) took place at the Cotton Patch Conference room of the City of El Paso, Texas, Environmental Services Department. The co-leaders from Mexico (Ana Patricia Martinez) and (Mark Hansen) from the United States were in attendance, as well as the majority of the 10 Mexican members and 10 United States members, establishing a quorum.

EPA Region 6 Administrator, Ron Curry, was invited on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the JAC, as well as mayors and representatives governmental entities that make up the Paso del Norte Region, to ratify the commitments to continue working for the benefit of air quality in this border zone.

The occasion for this quarterly JAC meeting was to celebrate 20 years of the JAC, founded on May 7, 1996 as Appendix I to Agreement V of the La Paz Agreement. Carlos Rincon, EPA Region 6 Border Office requested the participation of the mayors and/or their representatives from governmental agencies that make up the Paso del Norte Region, in order to reconfirm commitments made to continue working for the benefit of air quality in the region.

The Mayor of Las Cruces, the Honorable Kenneth Miyagishima stated that he was happy to be at this meeting celebrating the 20th anniversary of the JAC and congratulated the authorities of Texas and New México for all their accomplishments for the benefit of the environment and health in this border. Mayor Miyagishima welcomed Ron Curry, EPA Region 6 Administrator.

The Honorable Carl Robinson, Mayor Pro-Temp of El Paso, congratulated the JAC for its 20 years and said he hoped to continue seeing the good work this Committee has carried out during these years in favor of the border.

The Juarez Mayor's Representative Cesar Rene Diaz inferred that the good coordination and great job are the best predictions of greater accomplishments of the JAC, and was grateful for the invitation sent to the Mayor of Juarez.

EPA Region 6 Administrator, Mr. Ron Curry affirmed the importance the JAC has had in maintaining a mutual and continuous understanding between Mexico and the United States of America regarding border environmental issues adding it is necessary to take this to a higher level and that central authorities in Washington be aware of this regional effort and that it is a model for harmonized work.

Professor Ana Patricia Martinez, General Director of SEMARNAT's DGGCARETC reviewed the history of JAC, its origin as an appendix to the La Paz Framework Agreement signed in 1983 and spoke about the need to maintain a continuous dialogue between our three cities, three states and two nations and maintain this effort to successfully control air contamination in the border. She concluded with a report of important projects and resolutions derived from the JAC which have improved environmental conditions in the border region.

AIR QUALITY REPORT

Carlos Rincon reported on the condition of air quality in the Paso del Norte Region. He stated that during the December 2015 to April 2016 period there were no carbon monoxide exceedances.

The highest recording was from the monitor at the Ascarate Park in El Paso. However, the value reported was less than 4 ppm.

With regards to ozone, the highest concentration values were registered at UTEP's monitor, in El Paso; however, the fourth highest value was not sufficient to exceed the regulated standard which is 75 ppb for this air pollutant.

With regards to PM2.5, the highest recorded values were reported from the El Chamizal monitor, in El Paso, which only reached 30 ug/m³, the maximum standard for a 24 hour period being 35 ug/m³.

For PM10, the El Chamizal monitor exceeded on March 22 the 150 ug/m³ standard.

UPDATE ON THE EL PASO, TEXAS AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

Karl Rimkus reported on the El Paso Environmental Services Department Program, with regards to air monitoring and inspection and surveillance operations.

For monitoring operations, the Department has three field technicians, two regulatory compliance officers, one compliance supervisor and a program administrator.

The operations carried out are supervising the monitoring network equipment and developing a plan for the gradual replacement of this equipment as necessary. He is also in charge of developing a GIS web site for the air quality network and coordinating activities with the State of Texas to improve data validation process and training. The field technicians also receive training to improve the program's efficiency and its sustainability.

There are five regulatory compliance officers for inspection and surveillance, a compliance supervisor and a program administrator.

This is the second year this team carries out the oversight of fuel underground storage tanks, according to instructions from the federal energy sector.

Finally, they are in coordinate with the Fire Department and with Zoning to watch over body shops, for their air emissions.

PROAIRE REPORT FROM CHIHUAHUA

Dzoara Tejeda and Alfredo Ruiz presentation on the results of an Evaluation and Proposed Measures to Improve the Air Quality Management Program in the State of Chihuahua 2016-2025 (ProAire Chihuahua), for the three air basins identified in Chihuahua.

The evaluation was based in the 2013 Emissions Inventory and the main emitting sources reported are CO, VOC, SO₂, NO_x, PM. The sources considered are stationary, area and mobile sources. The stationary sources were identified as the main emitter of sulfur dioxide, with 92%; area sources, which are the main ammonia emission sources with 99%, second emitter of volatile organic compounds with 27% and carbon monoxide with 32%. Mobile sources are mainly responsible for carbon monoxide with 68% and nitrogen oxides with 50%. Natural sources are the main emitters of particulate material (PM10 83% and PM2.5 79%) and it is the second most important source of nitrogen oxide emissions, with 34%.

Dr. Tejeda submitted a report of the monitoring network condition in Cd. Juarez and the conditions of air quality for the 2012-2015 period. She mentioned the days above the standard for ozone, during the 2005-2012 period and the performance of the air quality index for the three pollutants, including carbon monoxide, during the 2005-2014 period.

Lic. Alfredo Ruiz stated that SEDUE has a strong commitment with ProAire and that they will ask the new state administration, which takes office in October of this year, to have this as their main priority.

The next steps for ProAire Chihuahua will be to have electronic feedback of the results, from the groups, in two weeks; determine costs and indicators of measures; have work meetings with those responsible for the measures in order to establish goals and to agree on proposed indicators (to be defined in June); prioritize

measures; identify Financing sources and mechanisms for measures defined by ProAire; integrate and have the ProAire consensus document and its publication.

Finally, Dr. Tejeda invited the JAC members to participate in the next ProAire work groups which will take place on May 25-26.

CRIDEA PRESENTATION

Dr. Esmeralda Cervantes reported on the creation of the Cd. Juarez Alternative Energy Research and Development Regional Center (CRIDEA Spanish). This center is focused on the research of alternative energies, teaching and certification and training procedures.

The Northern part of Mexico and especially the State of Chihuahua has one of the highest solar irradiance rates, which makes it a strategic place for the development of solar energy technology; however, the state has little investment and research in this sector. A few projects that have been identified within the state of Chihuahua are related to the generation of energy for isolated communities in the Sierra Tarahumara; in irrigation systems; self-sustainable housing and street lighting among others.

The Center will be located in the old customs building at kilometer 72 and will include: the Colegio de Chihuahua (COLECH Spanish), the Environmental Observatory and a Board of Directors which will include CANACINTRA, National Association of Solar Energy, UACJ, UACH, UTCJ, ITCJ, UTEP, NMSU, CMIC, SEDUE, and the School of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers, INECC, Municipality of Juarez, BECC and UNAM.

The current needs to start-up this project are: installation of solar and wind energy stations, with a 1.5 MW turbine, \$2 million cost; heliostats and a 1.0 MW tower, cost of \$2.5 million cost; 0.5 MW photovoltaic, \$1.3 million cost; photo thermal for hot water, \$0.6 million cost and a test lab with a cost of \$0.75 million dollars.

The start-up and development of projects will have a total annual cost (in salaries) of \$845,000.00 pesos and operation costs of the old customs building in kilometer 72. The total annual budget (salaries, training, water and electricity) will be five million pesos.

AIR MONITORING NETWORK REPORT FOR CIUDAD JUAREZ

César Diaz, Director of Ecology for the Municipality of Juarez reports on relevant actions carried out this year to improve communications and acquire data from the Cd. Juarez monitoring network.

He stated there was support from CIMAV to install software that will allow them to receive information from three remote automatic stations and download it to a public internet site belonging to the municipal government (www.juarez.gob.mx), where the pollutant levels will be published almost in real time, as well as the records of particulates.

Mr. Diaz added that a few days ago he attended at a workshop organized by INECC to present the new data acquisition system. This will allow them to obtain air quality data from stations located throughout the country and with that procedure INECC will validate air quality data.

FINAL AGREEMENTS

EPA Region 6 Administrator Curry will take a message to Washington highlighting the work carried out in these 20 years by the JAC.

Karl Rimkus will continue to work with Ciudad Juarez to find a (legal) possibility to transfer monitoring equipment as a donation, because of the maintenance and renovation work being done to the monitoring network in the City of El Paso, Texas.

The ProAire Chihuahua workgroups will meet May 25-26; during this stage measures and actions necessary to prevent and reduce air pollution in the Northern border of the state will be identified. On the first day the workgroups will focus on emission sources (fixed, mobile and area) and on the second day on the cross axis (health impact, environmental education and communications and capacity building).

The Municipality of Juarez will make a formal presentation of the new system for air quality data acquisition, to communicate to the public air pollution levels in the city, in real time, on its Internet web site.

The next meeting will take place September 22, in Doña Ana County, NM.