

Minutes

68th 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

Location:

Ciudad Juárez City Hall
Avenida Francisco Villa # 950 NTE.
Third Floor, Zona Centro, C.P. 32000
Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua

Alternative Location:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
401 E. Franklin Avenue
Conference Room 570
El Paso, Texas, 79901

January 19, 2017

JAC Members Attending (Absences and alternates indicated)	
U.S.	México
Arturo Blanco, U.S. EPA	M.I. Ana Patricia Martínez, SEMARNAT
Lorinda Gardner, TCEQ	Ing. Lily Gonzalez, PROFEPA
Michael Baca, NMED	Psic. Darío Cárdenas Monárrez, COESPRIS
**Jacob Kidd, City of Las Cruces	Dra. Cecilia Olague, SDUE de Chihuahua
Karl Rimkus, City of El Paso	Lic. Viridiana Vázquez, CANACINTRA Juárez
**John P. Quinn, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold	Ing. Jurgen Ganser, Dirección de Ecología de Ciudad Juárez
Elaine Barron, M.D., Citizen?	Lic. Lilia Ana Mendez Renteria, IMIP ¿?
Alberto Correa, Capitulo Paso del Norte?	M en C René Franco, Franco y Asociados
David Dubois, NMSU	Dra. Alba Y. Corral, UACJ
Wen-Whai Li, Ph.D., P.E., UTEP	Ing. Joaquin Marrufo, COCEF
Claudia Valles, El Paso MPO	Lic. Brenda Ríos Prieto, SEMARNAT
Carlos A Rincon, US EPA	Biól. Gerardo Tarín, SEMARNAT
* Alternate	** Not Present

The 68th meeting commenced with words by Carlos Rincon who introduced the Mayor of Ciudad Juarez, Armando Cabada, and mentioned it was the first meeting of 2017 in Ciudad Juarez presided over by an

independent Mayor. The meeting coincides with the new administration of state and municipal authorities and the first session where Arturo Blanco participates in EPA region 6.

Opening and Welcoming Remarks by Honorable Mayor Héctor Armando Cabada Alvidrez

Thanked the City and City Council for supporting Ecology Department. Finally thanked their hospitality for the accomplishment of this meeting. The Municipal President Armando Cabada welcomed the members of the JAC as well as the presence of government officials and points out that the ecology theme is of importance for its administration. The pollution problem has been promoted in social networks with the aim of generating awareness and celebrates that the meeting of this committee is in Juárez.

Welcoming Remarks and Introductions by Co-Chairs: Arturo Blanco, US EPA -Dallas and Ana Patricia Martínez of SEMARNAT-Mexico

Ana Patricia mentioned that there is a quorum with 20 members of the JAC participating in the meeting and proceeds to the approval of the agenda and the minutes. There were no public comments.

Presentation and Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes

Message from the Co-Chairs: Arturo Blanco, US EPA -Dallas and Ana Patricia Martínez of SEMARNAT-México

Arturo Blanco announced Guy Donaldson of EPA region 6 who will be Co-Chair of the JAC following the retirement of Mark Hansen. He provided announcements of the coming Border 2020 meetings. The Environmental Education Task Force meets on February 2, 2017 in El Paso; The Waste Task Force meeting is on February 7, 2017 and the Regional Workgroup meeting is on February 14, 2017 in Ysleta del Sur Pueblo.

Ana Patricia commented on some achievements and pending tasks of the JAC, such as improving the air quality measurement, updating the vehicle emission measurement system, accreditation of verification centers, verification in major cities of the state, putting in operation the ProAire of Chihuahua, the relocation of the brick kilns and implement the State Plan for Climatic Action.

Discussion on Public Comments & JAC Member Announcements

Paso del Norte Air Quality Report, *Carlos Rincon, US EPA*

The air quality data does not reflect any concerns for this period.

Introduction of new JAC members

- Secretaría de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología (SDUE) Gobierno del Estado de Chihuahua - Dra. Cecilia O. Olague
- Comisión Estatal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios - Psf. Jesus D. Cardenas
- Ecología del Municipio de Ciudad Juárez- Director Jurgen Ganser

A Regional Initiative to Address Public Health Risks Associated with Extreme Heat, *Gregg Garfin, University of Arizona*

Dr. Garfin was seeking future collaboration by Mexican counterparts who are interested in understanding historical climatology and vulnerabilities to heat in the region, including identification of particularly vulnerable populations and indicators for preparedness for future heat episodes. This project also seeks to

identify and document science, communication and public health needs and gaps, and establish specific information requirements and other needs to follow-on-work to develop concrete information products, plans, requirements, and processes identified.

Pro Aire- Two Year Action Plan, *Dra. Cecilia Olague, SDUE*

The objective of Pro Aire was to reverse trends in air quality deterioration in the main cities or areas of the State of Chihuahua through the implementation of measures and actions carried out by the public and private sectors, and with the participation of citizens which will protect public health and the environment. Pro Aire is comprised of 20 measures in 6 strategies: 12 measures are directed or involved in the issuing sources (industry, motor vehicles, shops and services). 8 measures correspond to transversal axes (health, education and environmental communication and institutional strengthening).

Update: JAC Voting Members Seats

By-Laws and Operating Procedures

Two Year Action Plan 2015-2016 Air Quality Task Force

Ciudad Juárez Ecology Department Plan, *Jurgen Ganser, Ecología del Municipio de Ciudad Juárez*

Currently Ecology Department in conjunction with City Council requested the inclusion of the State Vehicle Registration in the requisite for vehicle registration which was approved unanimously. To this date Ecology Department is still in conversation with the State Treasury to achieve the mandatory requirement. There are approximately 500,000 vehicles registered in this city. Only 32% of those have registered their vehicles so that each vehicle is in its best mechanical conditions to circulate in the city. Similarly, communication with the Federal authorities is being established so that in the importation of used vehicles of foreign origin are required Importation Decrees, granted by vehicle registration centers and regulated by the Municipality of Juárez. On December 8, 2016, the awareness campaign for health "For a Better Air Quality" initiated to make citizens aware of the importance of carrying out vehicle registration on their cars and avoid burning polluting fuels. This campaign is carried out by distributing flyers twice a week in the main roads of the city and inviting motorists to go to any of the 32 vehicle registration centers.

Space-time Variation of Heavy Metals in Particulate Material Less Than 10 Micrometers in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, *Alba Y. Corral, UACJ*

The purpose of the study was to carry out a space-time analysis of the air quality based on the quantification of PM10 and heavy metals in air filters of the monitoring network. Of the 4 years evaluated in this investigation it was observed that only 3 monitoring sites, of 11 evaluated, comply with NOM-025-SSA1-2014. Ciudad Juarez does not meet air quality standards for health protection. The next steps are to do the characterization of the monitoring stations to identify emission sources that affect each sector of the city and to propose measures of mitigation, quantify the Pb and Zn one year after the study to determine the persistence of contaminants, and to evaluate the presence of heavy metals in biological samples of children, given their characteristic of bioaccumulation in the organism.

Cattle Ranching, Building or Destroying the Environment? *Alejandro Carrillo, Fundación Pasticultores del Desierto*

The group informed that they work with associates for specie conservation and soil improvement. Two thirds of the world is desertifying. In Chihuahua the deterioration is due to lack of grazing. Not reinventing the wheel, we imitate nature to maintain healthy pastures. We have been able to reverse the desertification with the holistic management in more than 100,000 hectares. We are a foundation created

by cattle ranchers, and we have 7,000 heads (herds of cattle) in those hectares working to restore the habitat. We seek diversity in species and soil life. Biodiversity is a parameter of ecosystem health and business vitality. We have 25 years of experience working in our properties restoring grasslands in the heart of the desert. We need to strengthen collaboration with our partners to scale this effort. We want to offer advice and continuous education, to build hydraulic networks and fences, to acquire adapted cattle genetics, to manage and protect the wild fauna and to build conservation works.

JAC Website, *Gina Posada, TCEQ-El Paso*

The URL – www.cccjac.org was provided to JAC meeting attendees. More information to come in the near future.

Proposal to change meeting order, *Gina Posada, TCEQ-El Paso*

The meeting order request was done by Gina Posada in hopes to coordinate with Mexican counterparts and give opportunity for collaboration. Participation is decreased due to the holidays in December. Meetings occur on the third Thursday of the months of September, January and May according to the fiscal year. The request is to change the meeting order to start with Ciudad Juarez in September, follow by the Las Cruces in January and in El Paso for the May meeting. No decision was made, but more discussion is pending.

Public Comments on Agenda Items- to integrated members of the health sector and community (more indigenous people), to incentivize vehicle fleet monitoring, to extend the monitoring network in Ciudad Juarez and cover for example Las Torres area,

Establish Next Meeting Date:

The JAC meeting date was scheduled for May 19, 2017 in El Paso. After a proposed meeting date by email the meeting was changed to May 25, 2017.