

Minutes
Sixth Meeting of the
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
FOR THE
CD. JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA / EL PASO, TEXAS /
DONA ANA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT BASIN
ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Las Cruces, New Mexico.
February 19, 1998

Mr. George Avalos - Dona Ana County Transportation Dept.
Ms. Cecilia Williams - NMED
Mr. Bill Luthans - Co Chair - USEPA - Region 6
Mr. Archie Clouse - TNRCC
Dr. Enrique Suarez y Toreillo - FEMAP
Ing. Rene Franco Ruiz - Movimiento Ecologico Mexicano
Dr. Carlos Rincon - EDF
Biol. Ma. del Pilar Lopez Marco - PROFEPA
Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo - Co-President SEMARNAP - INE
Mr. Tom Martin - ASARCO
Dra. Rosalba Rojas - Secretaria de Salud
M. En C. Adrian Vazquez - UACJ
Ing. Oscar Ibañez - Presidencia Municipal Cd. Juarez - Dept. de Ecologia
Ing. Jose Treviño - Ecologia del Estado de Chihuahua
Dr. Chip Groat - UTEP

Mr. Bill Luthans (BL) welcomed everyone to the sixth meeting of the JAC. Touched briefly on the Strategic Planning Symposium held one day earlier at UT-El Paso.

Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo (VHP) - Welcomed everyone today and hopes this meeting will be a productive one.

All members on the JAC introduced themselves.

The current agenda was approved. BL asked if there were any objections to the minutes from the previous JAC meeting.

Biol. Pilar Lopez Marco (PLM)- suggested changing a point on the minutes by emphasizing that in the paragraph discussing SEPS, she is in agreement with the SEP concept but stressed that it is good to have an understanding of the mechanism involved in implementing a SEP and at this time it is not necessary to have a list of projects to undertake in the context of SEPs. The point was noted and the minutes were approved with the changes.

Progress Reports:

Air Quality Report on Exceedences by Oscar Ibanez (OI - Ecologia de Cd. Juarez)) & Jesus (Chuy) Reynoso (ChR - EPCCHED - El Paso City County Health and Environmental District)

OI - In Juarez during 1997, CO levels exceeded standards on several occasions from 18 October through the end of the year. Ozone levels were high during the summer months.

Chuy Reynoso - El Paso is non-attainment for three air pollutants: CO, ozone, & PM10. The city has several ongoing initiatives to reduce or control those levels:

Methods used to control **Carbon Monoxide**:

- Oxygenated gasoline
- Annual vehicle inspection program
- Controls on residential wood burning
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

Vehicle inspections have increased from 1991. We also inspect car lots to check on vehicle tampering. Regarding ozone, the city exceeded the levels twice last year.

Methods to control **ozone**:

- Stage I & Stage II Vapor Recovery Program to control VOC emissions.
- A Low Reid Vapor Pressure gasoline is distributed June 1 - Sept. 15
- Control of minor VOC sources, etc. Decrease in body shop inspections have gone down due to most of these closing for not being in compliance.
- Programs to reduce vehicle miles traveled are not working out as desired.

Methods to control **PM-10**:

- Paving of city streets & alleys
- Scheduled streetsweeping
- Woodburning controls.

Next item on the agenda is a report by Biol. Guadalupe de la Luz - INE SEMARNAP with an update regarding the distribution by PEMEX of oxygenated gasoline in Juarez. A response from PEMEX was received on 1-30-98. PEMEX, for various reasons, said this would not be possible to distribute oxy fuels in Juarez at this time.

OI asked to know what SEMARNAP can do to obligate PEMEX to provide oxygenated fuel to Cd. Juarez & why PEMEX is not interested in selling oxygenated fuel?

VHP - Emphasized PEMEX's response which states that "at this time" it cannot provide oxygenated fuel - not that they won't.

Carlos Rincon (CR) indicated that the PEMEX letter refers to metropolitan areas and other topographical areas of the country; he wants to point out that this border is a metropolitan and international area which requires the attention of everyone. He recommends that they continue this project of pursuing this request for distribution of oxy fuels in Juarez.

On the issue of vehicle importation into Mexico Biol. de la Luz identified the various laws currently in place in Texas and Chihuahua requiring emissions inspection and vehicle importation and registration. This issue would be raised at the upcoming AWG meeting to take place in March in San Diego.

It was requested that the local government officials provide statistical information regarding the number, type and characteristics of vehicles that circulate illegally across the streets of Cd. Juarez in order to have a better idea of the magnitude of this problem.

On the vehicle importation issue OI volunteered to form the group along with CR to continue enforcement of this regulation. Wanted to point out that the State Police issues temporary permits to buyers of imported vehicles allowing the buyer to drive the vehicle while the paperwork completed.

BL - Asked what other recommendations he'd like to make to the Air Work Group regarding the used car lots.

OI - Maybe we should have some type of cooperation between U.S. & Mexico. Furthermore, maybe we could come up with a type of database showing the vehicle information and the owner,

and make sure that all environmental requirements are met before importing the vehicle into Mexico.

BL - Basically looking for some type of rule/regulation or ordinance where both countries could help control this problem; perhaps the American govt. is not taking enough responsibility regarding vehicle exportation. By law, the rule is that a dealer can sell to another dealer a vehicle that is not in compliance with environmental laws. This could be another recommendation for the Air Work Group to look into.

The next issue presented by Matthew Witosky-(MW - EPA) and Luis Raul Cordova (LRC -INE-SEMARNAP) involved formation of a SEP Technical Commission which could have its first meeting sometime in late March. There have been 5 volunteers on the Mexican side and 4 for the American side to head up this project.

CR - From the previous meeting, he remembers that Pilar expressed interest in this project and wanted for her to participate.

PLM indicated she is not totally convinced with the mechanisms behind implementation of binational SEPS. She would like more specific details and know how these SEPS will be enforced in Mexico. More specifically, she'd like to know the mechanisms behind the SEPS in general.

LRC - Recommended that the Technical Committee's first project be to analyze the mechanisms behind SEPS as a foundation for their use in a binational context. He requested that a formal analysis be undertaken to determine if it is possible to apply SEPs in an official manner within a binational context and establish how this could be accomplished either by the AWG or through the enforcement arena. This was agreed.

Allyson Siwik - EPA provided a presentation on accomplishments made during the Strategic Planning Symposium held one day earlier. There are various ongoing and proposed projects that can take place within the basin. The JAC can choose to select from these projects the area in which it may want to focus. Yesterday, almost 50 people met for a series of presentations focusing on regional air quality problems. Many ideas and recommendations came forth. A group of people met today to consider next steps to yesterdays session. One thing they came up with is a matrix for the identification of projects for JAC Strategic Plan.

The matrix may cover the following: specific projects, cost effectiveness, significance of impact, feasibility, emission reductions, visibility, equity, resistance, and short/long term goals. What you get through this matrix is a consensus by the JAC of what needs to be done. Regarding mobile sources, it was agreed by everyone that this is something requiring attention. We had discussions on regulation at the state, local and federal levels. We had several proposals on behalf of PROFEPA and several proposals on economic incentives.

LRC presented the next item on the agenda. He invited the members of the Mexican delegation on the JAC to submit nominations for an administrative liaison. He currently has 4 nominations and would like to look at a few more before the next JAC meeting.

CR made a motion to formally designate Victor Valenzuela as the Administrative Liaison for the American delegation. PLM seconded the motion.

Octavio Chavez made a presentation regarding an INTERNET web page for the JAC. He indicated the system encountered technical difficulties due to hackers entering the system and it was not yet on-line. The Paso del Norte SIMCA will contain information regarding local air quality. Second, ITESM has created a BBS named AIRNET which is an on-line platform for those people interested in discussing air quality issues over the INTERNET.

Mark Rodriguez from El Paso Electric (EPE) read a prepared statement which identified a concept EPE is looking at to improve the air quality. To achieve this goal EPE needs authorities from both sides of the border to modify and create incentives for business to participate. Economic incentives should be given a top priority and he asks the JAC to come up with the institutional & human capacity to get the community to participate in this.

BL - The JAC is committed to this idea, but is there a way to bring in your idea into one of the work groups?

CR asked Mark to submit a concrete project to the JAC members for further consideration.

Cecilia Williams, Air Quality Bureau Chief presented the next item.

NMED Air Quality Bureau has several air quality activities in the Dona Ana County nonattainment areas. This includes the Sunland Park ozone nonattainment area (federal ozone standard) and the Anthony PM10 nonattainment area. With respect to Sunland park, it has had several ozone exceedences to date, EPA designated SLP as a marginal nonattainment area, NMED submitted a SIP to EPA addressing actions to be taken by the State of NM. Non-attainment effects businesses emissions reporting requirements, more stringent permitting requirements for larger sources of VOC, and several other issues.

Fabian Macias, Manager - NMED Monitoring Ops Section made a presentation regarding ambient monitoring and the organizational structure within the NMED Air Quality Bureau. He identified the following sections at NMED-AQB: SIP, permits, technical analysis, enforcement, compliance, SBAP - outreach, ambient air monitoring., and quality assurance. He provided an informative presentation on a variety of rules related to New Source Review, Title V of the CAA and other permitting and monitoring issues.

LRC next presented an update on the air quality plan for Cd. Juarez. The plan would provide a wealth of information including an emissions inventory, socio-economic quality of life and environmental issues including activities to reduce atmospheric emissions, plus an analysis on the air quality problems in Big Bend. A final draft would be ready sometime in April.

Robert Marquez made a presentation on the environmental brick kiln project and solutions for air quality improvement. He began with a global vision statement and feels that the brick kilns are a global problem and one solution would be to convince EPA and SEMARNAP that appropriate pollution control technology is feasible and makes economic sense. He presented a design for a smoke abatement device which actually achieved reductions in smoke generated from the brickmaking industry. Clays are used in this particular design to adsorb the smoke particles. Robert closed with the following recommendation: The JAC should recommend to SEMARNAP and EPA to continue support for brickmaking projects with emphasis on sustainable, creative local working solutions and research for global pollution control problems. He also recommended that the major players on the JAC provide funds for an international design contest co-sponsored by UACJ.

AC - supported Robert's recommendations and would like the JAC to support to his type of testing.

Cecilia seconded the motion.

PLM asked what the purpose of this testing was. It can be carried out in the US and then brought to Mexico when it is refined.

Oscar Ibanez indicated that this is the best opportunity for Cd Juarez academic institutions to build their technical and engineering foundations. Few if any sources of information are available

in Mexico that identify technical work carried out by Mexicans. This is the best opportunity to achieve those goals in and for Mexico.

Enrique Suarez (ES) seconded Oscar's motion (to get the UACJ involved in investigating the brickkilns) and also recommended funds be made available to continue this research effort.

PLM - indicated that PROFEPA has implemented a plan to change what and when the brick kilns burn.

VHP would like more information on this type of oven before approving this.

Robert indicated that his research has improved the efficiency of the normal oven regardless of changes that have been implemented in the types of fuels or scheduling of firing days for the brickmakers. His smoke abatement device has not only reduced smoke, it has reduced the amount of wood consumed during the firing process. This in itself has reduced emissions into the atmosphere and improves the economic well-being of the brickmakers because they spend less money for fuel. His main obstacle is having the authority from immigration to do these investigation in Juarez.

PLM indicated that the JAC should present a resolution to the Air Work Group regarding this issue. All agreed.

Matthew Witosky next proposed using a consent agenda format for upcoming meetings of the JAC. This would make meetings proceed smoothly and quickly. All agreed.

CR indicated that the seating arrangements at the Strategic Planning Symposium should be considered for upcoming JAC meetings. In this set-up JAC members would sit in a ring with the public gathered around behind them; the JAC would be seated with all members facing each other.

BL stated EPA will be accepting nominations to fill the post that John Cordova has vacated. A few nominations have been made and the person will be introduced at the next JAC meeting.

Next meeting is in El Paso on May 14th.

Meeting adjourned.