

**Executive Summary
Minutes**

Eighth Meeting of the
Joint Advisory Committee on Air Quality Improvement for the
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico
Air Basin
Instituto Municipal de Investigación y Planeación (IMIP)
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico
August 27, 1998

JAC Members Present:

For Mexico:

Ing. Luis Raul Cordova - Co-Chair - Alternate for Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo, INE
Quim. Pilar Leal - Alternate for Biol. Ma. del Pilar Lopez Marco, PROFEPA
Dra. Andrea Gavalera - Alternate for Dra. Rosalba Rojas
Ing. Jose Treviño - Ecologia del Estado de Chihuahua
Ing. Oscar Ibañez - Cd. Juarez Ecology Dept.
Quim. Adrian Vasquez - UACJ
Dr. Enrique Suarez - FEMAP

For the U.S.:

Bill Luthans - Co-Chair-USEPA Region 6
Dr. Elaine Barron - an El Paso Physician
Fabian Macias - Alternate for Ms. Cecilia Williams - NMED
Tom Martin - ASARCO
Danny Vickers - EDM International
Dr. Carlos Rincon - Environmental Defense Fund
Bob Currey - Alternate for Dr. Chip Groat - UTEP
Jesus Reynoso -El Paso City-County Health and Environmental District(EPCCHED)
Victor Valenzuela - Alternate for Archie Clouse - TNRCC

Welcome and Introductions

Luis Raul Cordova (LRC) welcomed all to the 8th meeting of the JAC.

Arch. Luis Felipe Siquieros (LFS) welcomed members of the JAC and the public to the Institute for Municipal Planning and Research. He commended the committee for the work it does and indicated the importance of the work, decisions, and recommendations made by the JAC.

Bill Luthans (BL) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda and Minutes

LRC - The Agenda was approved.

BL - The minutes of the May 14, 1998 meeting were approved as submitted.

New Members

BL welcomed to the committee Jesus (Chuy) Reynoso (ChR), Air Program Manager for El Paso City County Health and Environmental District (EPCCHED).

LRC - provided an update on the search for a replacement for Hector Quevedo. Several names have been submitted from the local universities.

Air Quality Reports

Air quality reports were submitted by JR, OI, and Fabian Macias (FM)

JR presented reported that in EP ozone concentrations were greater than 125ppb on two occasions between the months of May to July. JR also presented a chart showing a summary of 8hr ambient ozone data representing the new 8hr ozone standard. Ozone concentrations met or exceeded 85ppb on 6 occasions during the same 3 months.

Oscar Ibañez (OI) indicated data for Cd. Juarez was compiled during the months of January through August. His graphs indicated that Juarez exceeded the IMECA for ozone (.110ppm) on 3 occasions; the graphs also showed the number of days Cd. Juarez air quality has been reported as good, moderate, and unhealthful. Also, there have been 12 PM exceedances between Jan-Aug.

Fabian Macias (FM) stated there are 7 ozone monitors in Doña Ana County; 3 are in the SLP area. He overlaid his graphic data with JR's and demonstrated that the ozone levels in closely correlate with those in El Paso.

JAC Letter to PEMEX

LRC presented a letter sent by INE to PEMEX requesting the distribution of oxygenated gasoline in Juarez. PEMEX has yet to formally respond to this request, yet there has been some communication between PEMEX and Chevron which will be presented by Joe Creagh.

Joe Creagh, Environmental Manager for Chevron in El Paso, indicated that a representative from Chevron's Logistics and Trading Dept. has been in contact with PEMEX and will be meeting again with PEMEX personnel in MX D.F. during the next few days to continue pursuing the distribution of oxy-fuels in Juarez.

Health Report

Andrea Gavalera provided an update on health-based activities taking place on the JAC. She gave a report on a meeting that took place in San Diego CA regarding recommendations and activities identified in the JAC Strategic Plan.

Dedicated Commuter Lane

Danny Vickers (DV) presented an update on the Dedicated Commuter Lane (DCL) that is being proposed to be installed at the Stanton Street Bridge. He showed a plan view of the proposed facility identifying vehicular flow. He also described the method used by US Customs to identify individuals authorized to enter the US through the DCL. A computer chip will be installed in a vehicle while its driver would be required to pass a security check.

Paso del Norte Air Quality Task Force (PDNAQTF - also TF)

Next Daniel Chacon presented a series of slides identifying the Goals of the PDNAQTF and its relationship with the JAC.

JAC Strategic Plan

Carlos Rincon & Allyson Siwik presented a status report from the JAC Strategic Planning Committee.

JAC Strategic Plan/Cd. Juarez Air Quality Plan Comparison

Adrian Vazquez (av) presented a comparison between the Cd. Juarez Air Quality Management Plan (PROAIRE) and the JAC Strategic Plan currently under development.

Update on PROAIRE Activities

Oscar Ibanez (OI) presented an update on activities described in the PROAIRE. The national reforestation program currently is taking place in Juarez.

JAC letter on Cd. Juarez Vehicle Verification Program

Enrique Suarez (ES) has a letter to be sent by the JAC to the Co-chairs of the Air Work Group which could be forwarded to the new environmental authorities for the State of Chihuahua.

Project XL

Soumen Ghosh, NMSU, presented issues involved with Transboundary Emissions Reductions Credits (ERC) Trading Program as part of EPA's XL Program. Mark Rodriguez from El Paso Electric presented technical points of this project should it join with Mexico's Federal Electric Commission to reduce emissions from several of its power plants.

Observations and comments by the public:

Octavio Chavez (Och) made reference to the February JAC meeting with regards to the statements made by New Mexico to look into distributing oxygenated fuel in Doña Ana County.

Fabian Macias responded that Cecilia Williams would be the best person to answer this issue at the next meeting of the JAC.

Jose Treviño (JT) indicated that on 3 October, 1998 there will be a change of government authorities for the State of Chihuahua, and there will more than likely be a new person to replace him. He took this opportunity to bid farewell to the JAC on behalf of himself, the outgoing administration and Governor of the State of Chihuahua.

Agreements

- 1) Continue with the proposal by Chevron regarding the use of ethanol instead of MTBE as an oxygenate in Cd. Juarez.
- 2) The Strategic Planning Technical Commission will obtain greater involvement from members of the JAC to head up projects identified in the Strategic Plan.
- 3) Maintain JAC member attendance list and apply the rules regarding meeting attendance as stated in the Bylaws.
- 4) Move forward with the letter to the AWG which will then be forwarded to the new Legislators and leaders for the State of Chihuahua regarding the negative impact on Cd. Juarez air quality due to the lack of an active vehicle emissions verification program.
- 5) Submit to the AWG an update on the JAC Strategic Plan.
- 6) Reorganize the oxygenated gasoline Technical Commission to include New Mexico.
- 7) Authorize Adrian Vazquez and Chip Groat to represent the JAC at meetings of the good Neighbor Environmental Board.
- 8) Propose at the upcoming meeting of the AWG to be held in Tijuana, B.C. to establish a nexus between the JAC and the Environmental Health Work Group (EHWG), and to establish a Pilot Project to conduct an Epidemiological Surveillance effort in the Paso del Norte Airshed; establishing that the JAC and the EHWG support these types of joint activities.

Next meeting date set for 3 December in New Mexico.

Meeting adjourned.