

Minutes

Air Quality Task Force

Friday, February 8, 2008, 11:00 A.M
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of October 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mook called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and requested introductions of those in attendance. Mr. Mook asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. The Task Force approved the minutes as written.

2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Mr. Jim McGraw of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Mr. Rob Kaleel of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency attended the meeting by conference call. Mr. McGraw reported that the State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions for the 1997 PM2.5 standards are being reviewed and that the 2006 SIP will be going out for public comment in a few weeks.

In March or April, the IA DNR will have the 2007 data gathered, and parts of Eastern Iowa will likely be designated as non-attainment. Non-attainment boundaries usually will coincide with the MSA boundaries, but those boundaries will be under consideration for adjustment. They may be larger or smaller than the MSA boundaries. In the early fall, a re-designation request will be submitted to the EPA. The EPA could take action in December of this year or wait another year to re-designate areas. A committee will need to be formed of stakeholders to make recommendations of the non-attainment boundaries. That group of stakeholders is still to be determined.

Mr. McGraw stated that as the air moves from west to east across Iowa, the PM2.5 increases due to the transport of fine particulates. Once the air enters eastern Iowa, there is already a high volume of background particulates in the air. The threshold for PM2.5 is 34 micrograms for 24 hours. Mr. McGraw also provided a reminder that March 12th is the deadline for the US EPA to revise the ozone standard.

Mr. Kaleel, IL EPA, reported that a letter was submitted to the US EPA in December concerning PM2.5. The letter recommended that the Illinois portion of the Quad Cities be considered in attainment status. Mr. Kaleel also reported that the PM2.5 SIP, which will be submitted in April, will have recommendations for the St. Louis and Chicago areas and no new requirements for the Illinois Quad City area. Mr. Kaleel also said that there are times when fine particulate exceedences may be referred to as "cold exceedences," which occur during a particular set of circumstances including temperatures are around freezing, humidity is high, and there is very little wind. Recent exceedences in the local area may fall under this category.

There are two coal-fired power plant projects in the works. One of the power plants is in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area. The other is an Alliant Energy facility in Marshall Town, which has submitted a permit application to add an additional boiler.

The Iowa DNR has adopted the 2006 EPA rule called “care effect”. The rule applies to any 25 megawatt electrical generating facility. It is a cap and trade program that will place limits on SO₂ and NO_x, which are precursors to ozone and PM_{2.5}. By making a reduction in those, an over all reduction of ozone and PM_{2.5} in areas down wind is also likely. The intent is to see a national reduction in PM_{2.5} and ozone.

3. Clean Cities Program/Cool Cities Program. Ms. McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission, reported that the Clean Cities Program is through the department of energy with a goal of reducing the consumption of petroleum. The program promotes the use of alternative fuel vehicles, the use of blended fuels, and the fuel efficient vehicles. It is a two-year process to be designated as a “clean city” through the program. The program no longer has a significant amount of money; it’s down to approximately \$10,000 pre designated city, but has the same reporting requirements. The program has fewer incentives to be officially designated as a “clean city” and the designation must be renewed every 5 years. The direction given to staff was that an additional position would need to be created that would not be cost beneficial. Public works personnel are already working in the direction of becoming a “clean city” without the official designation. Another option is to partner with the Clean Cities program in Chicago.

Mr. Tim Ridder, City of Rock Island, reported that the City of Rock Island signed on to the Cool Cities agreement in June with the goal of reducing emissions to pre-1990 levels. The City is currently doing an emissions inventory, but the data is relatively hard to come by. Once the inventory is completed, community-wide goals are established. It may make sense and be more beneficial to set the community-wide goals for the entire Quad Cities Area rather than for the individual cities. A suggestion was made that the Air Quality Task Force could act as a committee to assist in establishing those goals.

Mr. McGraw stated that the Iowa data that will be needed to perform the inventory can be accessed through the IA DNR and refined down to the city or county level.

Mr. Kaleel likewise stated that the Illinois data could be accessed through the statewide emissions inventory, which is refined to the county level with the most recent data available being from 2005. He said that he and his staff would be happy to provide assistance in analyzing the data.

4. Staff Report on Local Activities. Ms. Milliron, Bi-State Regional Commission, reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Iowa Climate Change Advisory Council (ICCAC) that took place on December 16, 2007 at St. Ambrose University. In the 2007 legislative session, Governor Culver signed into law SF 485, which established the ICCAC to develop multiple scenarios designed to reduce statewide

greenhouse gas emissions including one scenario that would reduce such emissions by 50% by 2050. The Council shall also develop short-term, medium-term, and long-term scenarios designed to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions and shall consider the cost-effectiveness of the scenarios. The Governor and the Iowa DNR asked the Center for Climate Strategies to assist the ICCAC in developing its recommendations. At the meeting in December, the Council recommended the following: developing multiple scenarios for a statewide reduction in greenhouse gases with targeted goals of 50% and 90% by 2050; adopting a baseline year of 2005 for the purposes of calculating statewide greenhouse gas emission reductions in future years; adopting other baseline years for the purposes of economic opportunities and incentives as needed; and GHG reductions for interim years including 2012, 2020, and 2050. The ICCAC is having its next meeting today, February 8, 2008 in Des Moines followed by an April 11th meeting in Des Moines and a June 12th meeting in Council Bluffs.

Bi-State staff is also working on administrating the ICAAP grant that was received. An article was run in the Go Green news tab with ICAAP dollars. A working plan and budget is being prepared for the remaining funds with an ICAAP kick-off expected in the spring. Funds will be focused on promoting the ambassadors program and educational type advertising in local publications.

5. Other Business. In other business, Mr. McGraw stated that there are local ordinances that can be implemented to reduce emissions.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 11, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Mook adjourned the meeting by consensus at 11:47 a.m.