

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Friday, August 13, 2010, 11:00 A.M

Bi-State Regional Commission
Rock Island County Office Building
Third Floor Room 320
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of June 11, 2010 Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order by Mr. Nitzschke. Introductions of those in attendance were requested. Participating by conference call included Nick Page and Matthew Johnson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR) and Jan Loyson, Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, there was a motion by Mr. Dueysen to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Riches and passed.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. Mr. Matthew Johnson, Iowa DNR, joined the meeting by conference call. Mr. Johnson informed the Task Force that a new Transport Rule became effective July 6th. This new rule would help areas dealing with NAAQS standards for SO₂ and NO_x. Mr. Johnson announced that the next PM_{2.5} workshop would be Thursday, September 2nd. Results of the workshops will be reported to the Iowa legislature as part of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) development for PM_{2.5}.
3. Presentation on Iowa Emissions Inventory for PM_{2.5}. Mr. Page from the Iowa DNR provided a slide presentation to the Task Force. His presentation included PM_{2.5} Emissions Estimation, Emissions Summaries and Emissions Inventory Resources. The slides included how PM_{2.5} is estimated from point sources, non-point sources, mobile sources (on-road and non-road), event sources, and biogenic sources. Mr. Page noted that non-point sources contributed to 80% of PM_{2.5} emissions and point sources contributed to 12% of PM_{2.5} emissions. He went on to say that 96% of Transportation, Communication, Electricity, Gas and Sanitary Services PM_{2.5} emissions come from electric power generation facilities. Over 35,000 tons of PM_{2.5} emissions of nonpoint sources come from agriculture production. NO_x emissions are pretty evenly distributed among the six categories. On-road sources contribute to 24% of NO_x emissions and mainly come from light duty gasoline vehicles and heavy duty diesel vehicles. Off-highway diesel vehicles contribute most of the non-road NO_x emissions, emitting nearly 50,000 tons. NO_x in terms of biogenic emissions is highest in June and July. Point sources are responsible for 87% of SO₂ emissions and non-point sources are responsible for 12% of SO₂ emissions. Non-point sources are the cause of 98% of NH₃ emissions. Agriculture production is the main source of NH₃ emissions with nearly 250,000 tons of emissions. Biogenic sources are responsible for 64% of VOC emissions, with non-point sources contributing to 14% and on-road sources contributing another 10%. Most of the on-road VOC emissions come from light duty gasoline vehicles. VOC emissions from gasoline vehicles are higher than VOC emissions from diesel vehicles due to combustion. VOC emissions are higher in June, July and August. Most of this information is from EPA's National Emissions Inventory

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eiinformation.html> noted Mr. Johnson. The University of Iowa is currently doing a study on pollutant sources. Another good source of information is Dr. Stanier's presentation located on the DNR website.

Following the presentation, Mr. Page addressed questions. Ms. McCullough indicated that it appeared rural interstates are high contributors to NO_x and VOC, why is that? Mr. Page explained that DNR looks at vehicle miles traveled (VMT), not number of vehicles in their inventory. Rural interstates carry greater vehicle trips per mile than urban trips. For example, I-80 between Des Moines and the Quad Cities is considered rural (except by Iowa City). In fact, the vast majority of Iowa's interstates are considered rural. Mr. Shea asked about the Transportation, Communication, Electricity, Gas and Sanitary Services and whether there is a further break-down of the category? Mr. Page indicated it does break-down. They were grouped by their SIC (Standard Industrial Classification).

4. QC in Motion” Transportation Alternatives Challenge Follow-Up and Bi-State Clean Air Partnership. Ms. Waterman provided an update on activities related to Bi-State's Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) grant. In May 2010, Bi-State encouraged local employers to educate and/or provide incentives for their employees who bicycled, bused, and/or walked to work. Staff is working to expand upon the initiative by organizing public and employer-specific “Commuter Challenge” trainings this fall. Four public events will be held at local Hy-Vee stores during the month of October and will include presentations from QC transit systems and the QC Transportation Alternatives Group (QCTAG). In addition, Christy Filby of Activate Quad Cities has offered to provide flyers to employers who have committed to being healthy workplaces and/or participated in the 2010 Moonwalk event. Staff will also be manning a booth for Healthy Families Day on Saturday, September 18, 2010.
5. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. Ms. McCullough informed the Task Force that the new ozone standards have not yet been set. They are expected to be announced by the end of the month. She went on to note that there have been two exceedances in the State of Iowa for ozone; these occurred in western Iowa. Also, she mentioned that there have been almost twice as many PM_{2.5} exceedances in the State of Iowa this year. Ms. McCullough passed around a handout titled “The Blue Skyways Collaborative Ideas for Iowa.” The Blue Skyways Collaborative seeks to improve air quality and to assist communities that are potentially addressing nonattainment for the first time.
6. Other Business. No other business.
7. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 8, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:50 a.m.