

# Minutes

## Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Friday, August 12, 2011, 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 17, 2011 Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order by Mr. Mook. Introductions of those in attendance were requested. Participating by conference call included Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Matthew Johnson and Jim McGraw, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR). Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as written by consensus.
2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Status/Issues. There were no reports given.
3. Presentation on Impacts of New Ozone Standard. Mr. Bannon, from MidAmerican Energy, presented on potential impacts a new ozone standard may have. In March 2008, the 8-hour ozone standard was set at .075 ppm. Due to litigation, in September 2009, EPA stated it would reconsider the proposal. EPA proposed a new standard of .060-.070 ppm. EPA missed its most recent self-imposed deadline of July 29, 2011 and has not released a new deadline date. Mr. Bannon displayed a map of the United States showing which places are in compliance with 75ppb standard, and which places would be in compliance with 60ppb standard. It is estimated that 85% of locations would fail at 60ppb. The EPA proposes to place new monitors near Sioux City, Ames, Iowa City and Dubuque, along with some rural locations yet to be determined. Mr. Bannon ended the presentation stating that there is a lot of uncertainty about where the EPA will set the standard at, especially since they did not set a new deadline. Most utilities have to consider if it is cost effective to run the plant and what is the alternative, will some plants shut down in the future? Mr. Bannon added that MidAmerican Energy is adding 400MW of wind energy this year and more for next year. He went on to talk about potential fuel switching from coal to natural gas.
4. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues and "Make Air Quality Visible" Efforts. Ms. McCullough directed the Task Force to the environment excellence sheet in committee members' packets for their review. She stated that Mr. Mook nominated Bi-State for the award and went to Des Moines to receive it on Bi-State's behalf. Ms. Lentsch stated that she is looking at emission calculators in regards to vehicles to better understand the amount of emissions specific to the Bi-State region. Mr. Harper provided a brief overview of the SmartWay program. The task force suggested looking at the landscape industry, specifically

the small-spark engines, in terms of reducing emissions. Ms. McCullough stated that Bi-State has been looking into a lawnmower buy-back program. Ms. McCullough stated there have been 2 ozone exceedances in Muscatine through July 28<sup>th</sup>. She went on to state that Muscatine also had 18 exceedances of SO<sub>2</sub>, and no lead or PM10 exceedances for the area.

5. Other Business. Mr. Mook stated that the joint fugitive dust project between Bettendorf and Davenport is now in operation. Mr. Bannon stated the MidAmerican Energy is looking at calculators regarding air pollutants for employees' use.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday October 14, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:55 a.m.