

# Minutes

## Air Quality Task Force

Friday, December 12, 2008, 11:00 A.M  
Bi-State Regional Commission  
1504 Third Avenue  
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of October 24<sup>th</sup>, Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. Introductions to those in attendance were requested. Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Nitzchke motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Dueysen seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. McCullough noted that the Transportation Policy Committee had approved an expanded geographic coverage for the Air Quality Task Force to include Henry, Mercer and Rock Island Counties, Illinois as well as Muscatine and Scott Counties, Iowa. She reviewed the Task Force mission to work toward voluntary air emission reductions focused on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). For the last decade, the Task Force has focused on education and reduction efforts for ozone. Within the last two years, greater attention has been on fine particulates due to regulatory changes.

2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Mr. Jim McGraw, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR), reported the status of PM 2.5 designations. Information on areas of nonattainment for fine particulates is on track to be finalized December 18, 2008. The month of December has traditionally the worst time for PM 2.5 exceedances in Iowa. In 2008, monitoring confirmed 4 exceedances at Blackhawk Foundry monitor and 5 exceedances at Garfield School monitor in Muscatine. However, the level of exceedances appear to be less in 2008 and may allow these areas of Scott and Muscatine Counties to remain in attainment. Currently, IADNR is working to validate data for 2008 which may show attainment. Verification is expected to be completed on later than February 20, 2009. Another track is to work with the local industries near the violating monitors to implement control strategies that will help reduce emissions.

Mr. McGraw spoke of articles published in U.S.A Today and the Des Moines Register on air toxics focusing on relative toxicity and indicated Iowa schools were highly ranked for toxics. The information is based on a toxic release inventory, a self-reported survey of industry with limited EPA review. These articles contained some invalid information and other data was not taken into consideration, such as meteorology and terrain of the area. A letter to the editor should be coming out in the Des Moines Register from IADNR related to these clarifications. The USEPA is due to release another Air Toxic Assessment in March 2009. As a result, there may be additional media coverage.

3. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. Bi-State staff has been working with multiple groups and organizations on the fine particulate nonattainment issue since Spring 2008. The area is waiting for the USEPA release on nonattainment designations and doesn't expect to hear much prior to the release of information on the Scott County and Muscatine County status. The area continues to support the scientific reports by IADNR and ILEPA which identify narrow boundaries around the violating monitors near Blackhawk Foundry and Garfield School. In any case, the new PM2.5 threshold places the Quad Cities and Muscatine Areas close to nonattainment and strategies are being developed to work on voluntary emission reductions. There are a number of communities looking at banning burning of leaves and yardwaste. Consideration is being given to engine idling ordinances or policies. Staff has plans to work with the Chicago Clean Cities program to develop a local alternative fuels and vehicles workshop and to promote automobile alternatives and energy conservation. Ms. McCullough noted that several local Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) grants were being recommended to the Iowa Department of Transportation Commission for approval. ICAAP projects included two employee shuttles by MusaBus and River Bend Transit, a Quad City riverfront bus circulator by the three metro public transit systems and an education grant to continue public education by Bi-State Regional Commission.

Additionally, Bi-State staff is administering a study being conducted by the University of Iowa on conditions related to winter episodes of fine particulates emissions. Professors conducting the study are comparing IADNR data with LADCO data to add to the study results. Results are expected sometime in February.

Through the Quad City Development Group, a consultant has been assisting with communications to USEPA from a scientific perspective and outline a case for narrowly defined nonattainment areas. Local officials attended a meeting with USEPA officials at headquarters. They were impressed with the area's approach toward voluntary emission reduction efforts.

4. Other Business. Mr. Ridder noted Rock Island's progress toward rehabilitating a hydroelectric dam on the Rock River to power municipal facilities. Suggested agenda items for next meeting include asking for a regulatory update from resource agencies and the national outlook on air issues with change in administration.
5. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday February 13, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.
6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:45 a.m.