

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
 Minutes
 August 13, 2020

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) Members Present (joined via Webex)

Rob Altenburg	X	Jayne Graham	X	Gary Merritt	X	Kevin Stewart	X
Kimberly Coy	X	Joseph Guzek	X	Patrick O'Neill	X	John Tissue	X
Joseph Duckett	X	Michelle Homan		Richard J. Shaffer		John Walliser	X
Michael Fiorentino	X	Judy Katz	X	John Shimshock	X	Michael Winek	X
Josie Gaskey	X	Charles McPhedran	X	John Slade	X		

Department Staff Present:

Mark Hammond	Lindsay Byron	Bob Bonner
Sean Nolan	Viren Trivedi	Jennie Demjanick
Kirit Dalal	Rebecca Day	Jesse Walker
Allen Landis	Jesse Walker	Krishnan Ramamurthy
John Krueger	Sarah Pinter	Sarah Pinter
Nick Lazor	Darek Jagiela	Charles Zadakis
Hitesh Suri	Deborah Wehr	Regi Sam

Others Present:

Nicholas Leone – All4 Inc	Maggie Green – All4 Inc
Miriam Balal – Boeing	Nick Troutman – PA Senate
Jiazheng Li – Philadelphia AMS	Jeremy Hancher – Widener
Jennifer Flannery - CEC	Vincent Brisini – Olympus Power
Mark Beston – ERM	Bill Kesack -Compliance Management International
Michael Sherman – Range Resources	Andrew Zwally – Greenlee Partners
Robert Barkanic	John Schmelzle – Power Eng
Travis Gery – K&L Gates	Romeo Sagisag
Megan Uhler – All4 Inc	Abby Foster – Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council
Dennis Yuen – Philadelphia AMS	
Joe McCay – Williams	
Lauren Barr – The Bravo Group	

CALL TO ORDER

Patrick O'Neill, AQTAC Chair, called the August 13, 2020 meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. through Webex.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Patrick O'Neill made a roll call for the AQTAC committee members.

Approval of Minutes

Joseph Guzek and Charles McPhedran joined the Webex late and were not accounted for in voting on the minutes.

February 13, 2020 meeting minutes

The following changes to the minutes were requested; Page 4, add a sentence that Patrick O'Neill took over as meeting chair; Page 7, second paragraph, clarify that it should say Pennsylvania is "going it alone" instead "going low." **Follow-up Item:** the group requested follow up on the information that was to be provided by Hayley Book.

Joe Duckett moved to approve minutes as amended and Kevin Stewart seconded.
13 committee members approved, 2 abstained (M. Fiorentino and K. Coy).

April 16, 2020 meeting minutes

No changes to the meeting minutes were requested. On Page 9, clarify that the request was for a review of HFC alternatives' downsides. **Follow-up Item:** request HFC alternatives' downside analysis from Lucas Hershey.

Kevin Stewart moved to approve the minutes and Josie Gaskey seconded.
The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

May 7, 2020 meeting minutes

The following changes to the minutes were requested; Page 3, correct spelling of Winek; Page 7, correct spelling of O'Neill, Page 11, clarify that Elizabeth Kim's phone line connection was lost, she wasn't intentionally cutoff; Page 13, correct typo to state that Patrick double-checked; **Follow-up Item:** The technical support document related to the RACT III (NO_x) should be provided to the group when available. **Follow-up Item:** the public comments and DEP responses to RACT III issues were requested to be provided to AQTAC, specifically to Sierra Club and Maryland's comments. **Follow-up Item:** the group requested that the Q&A document related to RGGI questions AQTAC submitted to Hayley Book be included on the AQTAC website so they are part of the meeting record, and that a note of this will be included in the May minutes.

Kevin Stewart moved to approve minutes as amended, Joe Duckett seconded.
The minutes were approved unanimously.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of the current style of highly detailed minutes. It was decided that the new Department liaisons would provide a condensed summary of the discussion, while maintaining a detailed record of motions and votes taken, as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. Additionally, if a speaker wishes to have the minutes reflect something said, they can specifically request that.

Introduction of New AQ Bureau Director

Patrick O'Neill introduced the new AQ Bureau Director, Mark Hammond. Mark offered an overview of his background and career, which spans 25 years as an air quality consultant and environmental attorney. The committee and Mark engaged in a brief discussion that touched on a number of relevant topics.

Old Business – Follow up

DEP Update on Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) by Allen Landis.

The Governor issued a revised Executive Order extending the deadline for a draft until September 15th. With that time, Policy has collaborated with DCED and the Department of Labor and Industry on how to best address just transition concerns and fairness for workers and communities, made information available on the website in Spanish, met with environmental justice groups, and held a RGGI 101 public webinar. Around 300 people attended the webinar, which can be viewed along with economic and health benefit modeling on the DEP RGGI website. RGGI materials will be brought to the September 15th Environmental Quality Board (EQB) meeting.

- The group requested that answers to the questions submitted after the main meeting be resent. **Follow-up Item:** Allen will resend the Q&A and if questions remain after reviewing that document, follow-up questions may be asked.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM -Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan, Lindsay Byron

- The group presented questions concerning increased precipitation and drought and the use of “could” for predicting future outcomes and concern if the outcomes don't occur. Lindsay clarified that while precipitation is projected to increase in the Commonwealth overall, much of the increase is projected to occur during discrete precipitation events, meaning droughts would happen in between these large events. Additionally, it is projected that winter precipitation will increase at a greater rate than summer precipitation, but, due to higher temperatures, this increased winter precipitation is not likely to fall as snow. She further clarified that an analysis of uncertainty is taken into account in the report, which can be shared with the committee. **Follow-up Item:** Lindsay will share this information with the committee.
- Mark Hammond added that the climate act passed by the Governor and Legislature has very specific mandatory requirements for the Department. The fact that the impact may change down the road doesn't change the statutory mandate.
- The committee further questioned how the subsidies to natural gas and petrochemical plants recently approved by the legislature affect this plan going forward. Rob Altenburg added that, for example, Cornell's leakage rate would contribute an additional million tons of methane pollution. Lindsay did not have impact information on the legislation readily available and was uncertain if it had been completed with regard to greenhouse gases.
- Gary Merritt mentioned as an informational item that the Climate Advisory Committee is also looking at addressing the changes to water quality planning, such as design structures and the state water plan that could be needed as a result of these changes in precipitation events. A statewide water committee has just been started to look at this.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Annual Network Monitoring Plan, Nick Lazor

- The group discussed the rationale for discontinuing the Marcus Hook PM speciation monitor and if relocating the other monitors still allow for comparison between data from previous years. Nick answered that EPA pays for the speciation monitors, which means there are a limited number of sites. It was moved to Lebanon County where there have been issues, but Chester County remains in the same place, which is about 2 miles from Marcus Hook. For the other monitors, as long as the relocation is within 0.5 miles, EPA considers it to be the same site and they can be compared.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Ambient Air Quality in PA During COVID-19 Pandemic, Sean Nolan

- The group discussed the trends observed during the COVID shutdown period and the relationship to overall air quality including global warming. Sean discussed the limitations of this data due to the short time frame of the shutdown, it's occurrence outside ozone season, the impact of localized meteorology and the interactions of pollutants. Sean added that the trends were what he expected due to the decreases in vehicle miles traveled and that further exploration of the data is warranted. John Slade added that in relation to ozone formation, Pennsylvania is primarily NO_x limited rather than VOC limited. *Follow-up Item:* Sean will provide a graphic showing NO_x/VOC/Ozone relationship.
- The group referenced a webinar given elsewhere, it was indicated that during the enforcement moratorium period, there was reason to believe some sites may have been taking advantage and producing more pollution than normal (specifically near the Montgomery County monitor). Nick Lazor added that nothing was seen in the day to day monitoring data that seemed unusual.
- Related to the start of ozone season, the group questioned this year's values. Sean indicated that there have been more exceedances this year than last year. Pittsburgh had none last year, and 4 or 5 this year, likely due to favorable meteorology and contributions from out of state. Jayme added that the area is still well within attainment due to 3-year averaging – at least within the Allegheny County. The exceedances haven't been high, in the low 70s.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM - Report of Rulemakings/State Implementation Plan Revisions, Kirit Dalal

- The group discussed when the fee package would take effect. John Krueger answered that the fee package is for all permits, not just Title V, and it has been passed by the EQB. It will be brought to IRRC in September with a planned effective date of January 1, 2021. It was reported that Representative Metcalf has said he will recommend his committee oppose the regulation which will likely delay publication of the regulation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were provided.

OTHER AQTAC BUSINESS / OPEN DISCUSSION

The committee discussed that the next (October 2020) and future foreseeable meetings will continue to be done via Webex, since in-person meetings are not being held by the Commonwealth.

Follow Up Items:

- Hayley Book to provide follow up on the information from the Feb 13th meeting, such as benefits from CO₂ reduction and health benefits. (*Public Webinar information including benefits from CO₂ reduction can be found on the Climate Change website: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/RGGI.aspx>*)
- Request to Lucas Hershey concerning requested information on HFC alternatives' downside analysis. (*Information will be presented to AQTAC when available.*)
- The technical support document related to the RACT III should be provided to the group when it is ready.
- The public comments requested in the NO_x RACT section should be provided to AQTAC.
- Allen Landis will provide for posting the Q&A document related to CO₂ questions AQTAC submitted to Hayley Book on the AQTAC website so they are part of the meeting record. (*Posted to the AQTAC website 8/26/2020 under the May 7th meeting's agenda.*) Hitesh Suri will make a note of this to be included in the May minutes. (*Revised minutes posted.*)
- Allen Landis will resend the RGGI Q&A to AQTAC members and if questions remain after reviewing that document, follow-up questions may be asked. (*Responses to all questions are included in the document posted to the AQTAC website under the May 7th meeting's agenda.*)
- Lindsay Byron will share uncertainty analysis information with the committee. (*Emailed to AQTAC 9/10/2020.*)
- Sean Nolan will provide the graphic showing NO_x/VOC/Ozone relationship. (*Emailed to AQTAC 9/10/2020.*)
- Mark Hammond requested that the committee re-read the bylaws to have a common understanding on the purpose of AQTAC and type of advice (technical) the committee should be giving to DEP.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by several members, seconded by Joe Duckett.

With no further business before AQTAC, Patrick O'Neill adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m. EST.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Day, Air Quality Program Specialist, assisted by Deborah Wehr, Air Quality Program Specialist. For additional information about AQTAC, please contact Kirit Dalal (kdalal@pa.gov) or visit the AQTAC Web page at:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Air/BAQ/AdvisoryGroups/Air-Quality-Technical-Advisory-Committee/Pages/default.aspx>