

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes
6/10/2021

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) Members Present (joined via Webex or on the phone)

Rob Altenburg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kimberly Coy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Duckett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Fiorentino	<input type="checkbox"/>
Josie Gaskey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jayne Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Guzek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Homan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judy Katz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles McPhedran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gary Merritt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patrick O'Neill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Richard J. Shaffer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Shimshock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Slade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Stewart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Tissue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Walliser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Winek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Joe Duckett joined after the administrative items.

Department Staff Present (joined the Webex or on the phone):

Darek Jagiela	Deborah Wehr	Rebecca Day
Mark Hammond	Kirit Dalal	Bryan Oshinski
Sarah Pinter	Krishnan Ramamurthy	Allen Landis
Hayley Book	Jennie Demjanick	Jesse Walker
John Krueger	Sean Nolan	Sean Wenrich
Viren Trivedi	Stephen Hepler	

Others Present (Individuals who joined the Webex or on the phone):

Alex Charlton, Exelon	Ashley Partington, VIM Technologies, Inc	Benjamin Dannels, Greenlee Partners
Josephine Martin	Kristian Macoskey, Civil and Environmental Consultants, Inc	Jackson High
Joe McCay, Williams	Robert Barkanic, The Barkanic Group	Nick Kowalski, Twenty20 Strategies
Laura King, ERM	Matthew Page, Trinity Consultants	Armon Fouladi
Bill Kesack, CMI	Josh Raulerson, Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Mike Nines, MGKF
Glendon King	Jennifer Flannery, CEC	Michelle Leslie, NRG
Miriam Baril, Boeing	Jeremy Hancher, EMAP	Nicholas Leone, All4
Ethan Story, Center for Coalfield Justice	Katherine Thompson, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance	Reilly Manz, The Delta Institute
Andrew Ritter, Range Resources	Leann Leiter, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance	Laura Edinger
Evan Endres, The Nature Conservancy	Jeaneen Zappa, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance	Nicole Wilson, Earthres Group Inc

Sage Lincoln, CAA	Joe Cullen, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance	Bill Schleizer, The Delta Institute
Robert Routh, CAA	Bruce Burcat, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition	Samuel Stasko, Eastern Research Group, Inc
Charlie Lyons	Teresa McCurdy, TD Connections, Inc.	

CALL TO ORDER

Patrick O'Neill, AQTAC Chair, called the 6/10/2021 meeting to order at 9:16 AM through Webex.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Patrick O'Neill took roll call for the AQTAC committee members. Jayme Graham moved to approve the April meeting minutes. John Tissue seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved. Patrick O'Neill mentioned that the meeting is being recorded and the recording of the RGGI meetings have been posted on the RGGI website.

Mark Hammond mentioned that PA is doing airplane monitoring using NASA technology that is weather dependent. Due to clouds in the northeast it has been hard to complete monitoring, but it will give great real-world data on methane emissions. Other active internal projects include source testing review and realignment as well as a pilot project on permitting.

PRESENTATION

Bruce Burcat, Director of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition gave a presentation on Renewable Energy Generation Dispatch.

Discussion

AQTAC asked with more solar and wind adoption, is there more need for backup power and related costs? Mr. Burcat explained that PJM is a balancing authority, setup to immediately respond to use transmission systems to bring in additional power as needed, from renewable or other sources. Battery storage and other technologies are coming online to bolster the system and traditional wind and solar renewable reliability is also improving with decreasing costs.

The committee discussed “backup power” and the need for large battery storage or small natural gas facilities. Mr. Burcat explained that costs of storage are high today but are coming down, so prices may not increase going forward. He further explained that just because an area purchases 100% renewable energy, it doesn't mean that only renewable energy is being transmitted to and powering that area. It means that somewhere in the grid that specific amount of renewable energy is being generated and transmitted according to need within PJM resources.

The committee questioned values on slide 4 which came from American Clean Power. The Committee also questioned the pricing for a Renewable Energy Credit and tax credits. Mr. Burcat stated that the prices fluctuate, but the current low price for REC credit is \$4-\$10 per megawatt hour and can be higher for solar, \$16-\$20 for megawatt hour. He said that renewable

energy needs the tax credits because capital costs are high for renewable energy, so incentives are needed for a project to be developed. Over time this may phase out, but at this time it's needed for funding. He indicated that all power generators receive incentives.

Follow up – Mr. Burcat will send information on subsidies in renewable and traditional energy.

PRESENTATION

Reilly Manz from the Delta Institute – Pennsylvania RGGI Engagement Initiative

Discussion

AQTAC asked if job loss/dislocations affect a community, would it be considered an environmental justice community? Mr. Bill Schleizer from Delta responded they would be considered a fossil fuel transition community, and RGGI investment considerations would be similar to environmental justice communities. Those communities are being engaged.

The committee expressed concern over the lack of outreach and low responses to the Delta Institute's survey. The Delta Institute indicated that they are working to improve this by using existing outreach networks and community discussions, and that they need help with reaching grass roots organizations, especially those that may not have websites. Patrick O'Neill recommended reaching out to EPA Region III for a list of organizations to contact. Charles McPhedran offered to provide contacts and networks.

The committee questioned the renewable energy investments chart. Mr. Schleizer indicated that the chart didn't reflect private investments driven by the RGGI marketplace.

John Shimshock criticized the DEP's lack of public hearings on RGGI in Indiana County, and mentioned that staffing levels at gas plants are a fraction of those at coal plants. Coal plants provide economic benefit to the communities. Delta responded that they have had conversations with Senator Joe Pittman's office dating back to April and Senator Pittman has connected Delta with other contacts in that area.

Follow up – send Delta presentation to AQTAC with links to survey.

PRESENTATION

Sean Nolan gave a presentation on the 2021 PA Ambient Air Monitoring Network Plan.

Discussion

AQTAC asked several questions concerning the current and future status of the Beaver County monitors, i.e., locations & pollutants specific to the future operation of the ethane cracker including appropriateness regarding residence time and location downwind. Sean Nolan responded that DEP hasn't looked at the downwind ozone from ethane and methane sources and is looking at this to establish a baseline and monitor going forward. VOCs are currently monitored at the Beaver Valley site, Vanport is a long-standing lead monitor, Hookstown is

farther to the west. Residence time is longer due to the river valley and light wind speed. The plan is proposed, and DEP will accept additional comments during the public comment period.

The committee questioned how the boundaries for Adams and Franklin County monitors were determined. Sean explained for Adams County, the area must be downwind of Routes 15, 30, the Gettysburg National Military Park, and Gettysburg at the same time. For Franklin County, the heaviest population growth is the area to the north and east of Chambersburg. That is factored in plus the wind rose information and terrain to establish the area.

Kevin Stewart mentioned a current comment concerning Annville in Lebanon County relating to black dust deposited on vehicles and inside houses and asked if there any monitoring in Lebanon County for that issue. Sean indicated that Lebanon County monitoring measures ambient air. Regarding Annville, this can be submitted during the comment period, and the Southcentral Regional Office can be contacted about the specific complaint.

PRESENTATION

Sean Wenrich gave a presentation on Permit Protocol and Exemption List Update.

Discussion

AQTAC asked if new small engine or turbine exemptions are due to them already meeting strict emissions standards. DEP said yes, for engines, anything under 100 horsepower or based on NOx emissions of 6.6 TPY and lb/hour etc. They are all subject to federal NSPS standards and Tier standards, and they have to meet those limits whether they have a permit or plan approval or not.

PRESENTATION

Kirit Dalal gave a Report on Rulemakings/State Implementation Plan Revisions.

Discussion

DEP clarified that the court case *Sierra Club v. EPA*, 972 F.3d 290 (3d Cir. 2020) requires case-by-case for coal-fired power plants which are currently being reviewed and does not allow presumptive RACT for RACT III. RACT III will likely be published at least two months after the EQB vote on May 19th and will be a 60-day comment period once it is published.

Public Comments

There was a question in the chat from a participant which was answered by the presenter. No participants registered to give comment.

AQTAC BUSINESS / OPEN DISCUSSION

Patrick O'Neill opened the meeting for other AQTAC business/open discussion.

Joe Duckett mentioned earlier Bylaws of AQTAC versus those online now. He stated that the purpose in the bylaws is to advise DEP on technical, economic, social impacts of proposed rules and regulations.

The committee discussed as state opens back up, how members feel about going back to meeting in person. DEP is tentatively going back in July but hasn't heard the plan yet for employees or advisory committees. *(DEP employees have returned to the office part-time, and committee meetings will be held both in-person and virtually.)*

Old Items to follow up for next meeting

- DEP will reach out to the DOH for a presentation on the Oil and Gas health effects. *(DOH has not committed to a presentation.)*
- The TSD related to the proposed RACT III rulemaking should be provided to AQTAC when it is ready. *(AQTAC will be notified when/where information is publicly available.)*
- The public comments and DEP responses to RACT III issues (5/7/2020 meeting) were requested to be provided to AQTAC, specifically to address comments from Sierra Club and Maryland. *(AQTAC will be notified when/where information is publicly available.)*

New Items to follow up for next meeting

- Bruce Burcat will send information on renewable energy subsidies. *(AQTAC Liaison forwarded information to AQTAC members in an email on 6/14/2021.)*
- Send Delta Institute presentation to AQTAC with links to survey. *(Presentation was posted on AQTAC website on 6-10-2021)*
- Presentation on fly over data mentioned by Mark Hammond. *(Still gathering data.)*
- DEP still interested in members providing technical presentations related to the grid and energy sources.

Retiring Committee Members Recognized

- Judy Katz
- Gary Merritt

Next Meeting: The next AQTAC meeting is scheduled for 9:15. AM on Thursday, 8/12/2021, as a Webex Meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

John Tissue made the motion to adjourn, Jayme Graham seconded.

With no further business before AQTAC, Patrick O'Neill adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rebecca Day and Deborah Wehr, Air Quality Program Specialists (AQPS). For additional information about AQTAC, please contact the AQTAC Liaison (RA-EPAQTAC@pa.gov) or by visiting the AQTAC Web page at: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Air/BAQ/AdvisoryGroups/Air-Quality-Technical-Advisory-Committee/Pages/default.aspx>