

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**  
**AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Final Amended Minutes 10/14/2021

**Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) Members Present (via Webex or in person)**

Rob Altenburg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	R. Scott Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kimberly Coy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Duckett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Josephine Gaskey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jayme Graham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Guzek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Heath	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Homan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charles McPhedran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Nines	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patrick O'Neill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marianne Payne	<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"/>	*Joined after roll call	

<b>Department Staff (joined via Webex or in person):</b>			Kirit Dalal
Deborah Wehr	Matt Toth	Susan Foster	John Krueger
Mark Houser	Kerry Campbell	Susan Hoyle	Chris Trostle
Krish Ramamurthy	Bob Bonner	Jennie Demjanick	Jesse Walker
Brian Trowbridge	Sarah Pinter	Mark Hammond	Nancy Herb

<b>Others Present (joined via Webex or in person):</b>		Jim Erb, API
Melanie Stine, PAA	Heather Empfield, Cogicgp	Zachary Kahn, Tesla
Frank Kummer, Philadelphia Inquirer	Benjamin Dannells, Greenlee Partners	Steven Douglas, Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Alissa Burger, Electrification Coalition	Stephanie Wissman, American Petroleum Institute	Marie McConnell, Electrification Coalition
Emily Eyster, PA Senate	Bill Kesack, CMI	Mark Beston, ERM
Richard Allan, Pugliese Assoc.	Rachel Gleason, PA Coal Alliance	Michelle Leslie, Energy Foundation, Clean Power Co.
Laura Legere, Pittsburgh Post Gazette	David Hess, PA Environment News	Celia Kosinski, Electrification Coalition
Julia Rege, Alliance for Automotive Innovation	Nick Zuwiala-Rogers, Clean Air Council	Amy Richards, American Petroleum Institute
Glendon King, PA House	Mark Huncik, CS	Greg Vitali, PA House
Laura King, SLR Consulting	Nick Troutman, PA Senate	Jeremy Hancher, EMap Widner
John Schmelzle, Power Engineers	Robert Routh, Clean Air Council	Wayne Weikel, Alliance for Automotive Innovation
Nick Leone, All 4	Joe McCay, Williams	Haley Bova, Long Nyquist
Michael Yoder, RTO Insider	Lee Ann Briggs, EMap Pitt	Jennifer Rick, PA House

**CALL TO ORDER & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

Chairman Patrick O'Neill called the meeting to order at 9:16 am and welcomed the 4 new AQTAC members. He asked for committee members present in the room as well as online to introduce themselves to take the roll call. DEP staff and public attendees in the room also introduced themselves.

Patrick O'Neill gave an overview of the AQTAC purpose by reading the by-laws. He mentioned the regulatory process and requested that someone from DEP present the lengthy PA regulatory

process at the next meeting. **DEP Follow up item.** The option to form ad-hock sub committees was also mentioned.

Bureau of Air Quality Air Director Mark Hammond gave his comments of welcome and invitation for active participation from the committee. He stressed the need for technical advice early in the process and moving forward DEP will ask for advice earlier as the need arises. Mr. Hammond directed the committee to an environmental blog by former DEP Secretary David Hess on the regulatory process. [PA Environment Digest Blog: 2021 \(paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com\)](http://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com)

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the 5/17/2021, meeting were approved unanimously with one small typo identified on page 2. John Tissue made the motion which was seconded by Joseph Guzek.

The minutes from the 6/10/2021, meeting were approved unanimously. Mr. Guzek made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Tissue.

### **Election of Officers**

Chairman O'Neill will recommend a change to the by-laws at the next meeting to shorten this term of the election and to change the cycle of election to the even numbered years due to both elections and appointments being done in the odd numbered years. He will circulate the text prior to the next meeting and present it to AQTAC for a vote. **Chairman Follow up item.**

Chairman O'Neill asked for committee input on postponing the election. No objections to postponing were stated; however, it was pointed out that Chairman O'Neill would be serving as chair an extra meeting.

Mr. Tissue agreed to take nominations from the committee members for chair and vice chair and will circulate those names to the entire committee a week prior to the next meeting in December. **Follow up item.** DEP will figure out the logistics of taking the vote for the December meeting.

### **DISCUSSION**

John Krueger, Assistant Bureau Director of Air Quality led a discussion on Significant Digits and ePermitting.

Mr. Krueger mentioned the 3 current DEP BAQ forms which are currently in use: Request for Determination, Online Asbestos Notification, and Online GP5/GP5A application. He asked for feedback on current barriers/problems of those who have used these forms and for volunteers for future development of new air quality forms. Feedback and volunteers can be emailed to the AQTAC Liaison ([RA-EPAQATAC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPAQATAC@pa.gov)) and Mr. Krueger.

Committee members asked if experience with other states could be shared, if issues with PSIMS (online stack testing reports) problems could be reported and suggested that DEP do beta testing on new forms. Mr. Krueger said yes, please send all suggestions, and that there was a workgroup committed to test forms pre-COVID-19.

Mr. Krueger mentioned the OnBase public upload system and that DEP regional offices are going paperless. A question was posed on how the paperless environment affects public records review. Mr. Krueger said electronic review it is currently under discussion, but it is complex due to confidential business and personal information and the volume of paper files. A Committee member recommended DEP consider ways to include electronic signatures, municipal notice and ePayment options. Various members questioned and mentioned experience with ePayments.

Mr. Krueger transitioned to a discussion on significant digits. He explained that there can be a large difference between the order of magnitudes reported for criteria pollutants vs. air toxics and the number of decimal places available due to using emission factors and spread sheets for calculating emissions. Air Quality is considering a tenth of a ton as a *de minimis* level (less than 200 lbs) for inventory purposes and is requesting feedback from the committee on the appropriateness of that one decimal place for their industry. Feedback can be emailed to the AQTAC Liaison ([RA-EPAQATAC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPAQATAC@pa.gov)) and Mr. Krueger.

The committee brought up several items to consider: emission factor accuracy can be misleading; if there is a *de minimis* limit, those close to zero might be lost; concern over rounding; concern as to significant digits vs. significant emissions; past DEP guidance documents from approximately nine years ago; and EPA guidance documents for stack testing and rounding. The committee mentioned that there is a difference for facilities reporting emissions for the inventory and calculations used for compliance which would affect how they report. The reply would be different if the inventory being used as a compliance tool.

## **PRESNTATION**

Chris Trostle, Environmental Group Manager of the Mobile Sources Section, and Mark Hammond, Bureau of Air Quality Director, gave a presentation on the proposed rulemaking to amend the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program for Zero Emission Vehicles.

## **Discussion**

Joe Duckett asked about the partial zero emission vehicle (PZEV) designation. Mr. Trostle and Brian Trowbridge of the Mobile Sources Section said that the PZEV designation would not receive credit under the new program, that is only used for older technology.

A member questioned the automatic update of the PA rule with California's future rules including California Air Resource Board (CARB)'s proposed Advanced Clean Cars 2.0 (ACC2). Mr. Hammond confirmed that the Commonwealth is not going to commit to adopting a future yet-to-be-finalized rule, and will adopt only what is currently in place. The Committee asked for the calculated emission benefit for the PA ZEV rule. Mr. Trostle said it is about a hundred tons of NOx and VOC for the program.

Other members brought up several items for DEP to consider: coordination with the PUC and other agencies that drive investment in infrastructure; looking at the urban HAP emission reductions, lifecycle costs, incentives for consumers, and lack of available charging stations.

## **PRESNTATION**

Kerry Campbell, Environmental Program Manager of the DEP Energy Office gave a presentation on the 2021 Climate Action Plan.

### **Discussion**

Relating to the ZEV discussion, Mr. Campbell noted that there are about 1,000 public charging stations in PA now and the Driving PA Forward grant program incentivizes direct current fast charging stations.

The committee members questioned specifics of the plan concerning flooding, high heat strategies and near future actionable strategies. Mr. Campbell invited the committee to read the full Climate Action Plan (CAP) available on the DEP Climate Website here:

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/climate> He indicated that the plan is not a DEP specific plan, it was written for the entire state population to learn what each person can do to take action.

The Committee questioned the connection between the ZEV rulemaking and the CAP, specifically what sector of transportation is responsible for the bulk of GHG emissions. Mr. Campbell mentioned the DEP grant programs that address reducing emissions and increasing infrastructure related to transportation. Rob Altenburg shared that 85% of transportation GHG emissions come from cars and trucks.

John Shimshock of AQTAC presented his analysis of the Climate Impact Assessment 2021 (IA) and a 2018 PA Dept. of Agriculture report. The IA gave specific agricultural impacts from climate where the Agriculture report did not give such specific impacts from climate. Mr. Campbell said the predictions in the IA and in turn, CAP, primarily relied upon climate impacts, not other factors. Penn State University Department of Agriculture was the source of agriculture information in the CAP.

### **PRESNTATION**

Kirit Dalal, Division Chief of Air Resource Management, gave a Report on Rulemakings/State Implementation Plan Revisions.

### **Discussion**

The compliance timing and implementation of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative was questioned. Mr. Hammond stated that those details are still under discussion. He also gave a detailed update on the case-by-case RACT II facility permits status.

John Walliser mentioned a Bloomberg Article pertaining to natural gas well methane leaks that he would like to have distributed to the committee. (*Note: Mr. Walliser sent the article to AQTAC members on 10-14-2021*).

### **Public Comments**

Robert Routh from the Clean Air Council encouraged swift adoption of the ZEV rulemaking to make cleaner vehicles more available to Pennsylvania consumers and improve Pennsylvania's air. (*Note: The comments were distributed to the AQTAC members on 10-13-2021*).

Julia Rege from the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a trade association, offered to send information to DEP on the ZEV rulemaking and encouraged DEP to adopt the rule. She listed

three concerns: implementation timing, the need to include proportional credits, and incentives for consumers.

### **OLD & NEW BUSINESS / OPEN DISCUSSION**

Chairman O'Neill opened the meeting for other AQTAC business/open discussion. He mentioned there is a conflict with the April 14, 2022 meeting date. A member indicated April 7<sup>th</sup> would be a preferred date over April 21. **DEP follow up item.**

Joe Duckett asked if there is a plan to evaluate the progress of RGGI as it moves forward and he again questioned what technical information the committee was supposed to provide.

#### **Previous follow up items closed:**

- The TSD related to the proposed RACT III rulemaking should be provided to AQTAC when it is ready. ***Document available on EQB website under the May 19, 2021 meeting here: [2021 Meetings \(pa.gov\)](#) and the link was sent to members on 10-14-21.***
- The public comments and DEP responses to RACT II issues (5/7/2020 meeting) were requested to be provided to AQTAC, specifically to address comments from Sierra Club and Maryland. ***Case-by-case RACT being implemented and the comments on presumptive RACT are no longer applicable.***

#### **Follow up items**

- Presentation on fly over data. ***Report is in process, not ready for presentation yet.***
- Dept. of Health and Univ. of Pittsburgh presentation on the Oil and Gas health effects. ***Mr. Duckett will reach out to Pitt Public Health contacts.***
- Election year by-law change. ***Chairman O'Neill will circulate proposed by-law changes to the committee prior to the next meeting and present it to AQTAC for a vote.***
- Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. ***Members are to send nominations to Mr. Tissue prior to the next meeting and he will circulate those names to the members a week prior to the meeting.***
- Presentation on the regulatory process for the December meeting. ***(Request sent to Counsel on 10-20-2021).***
- Significant figures and ePermitting. ***Feedback can be emailed to the AQTAC Liaison ([RA-EPAQATAC@pa.gov](#)) and Mr. Krueger.***
- The April 14, 2022 meeting date. ***(DEP made room reservations for April 7, 2021 and updated the document posted on the AQTAC website with the new approved dates.)***

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Made by Joseph Duckett. Seconded by Kevin Stewart.

With no further business before AQTAC, Chairman O'Neill adjourned the meeting at 12:59pm with a motion made by Joe Duckett and seconded by Kevin Stewart.

Minutes prepared by Deborah Wehr, Air Quality Program Specialist (AQPS). For additional information about AQTAC, please contact the AQTAC Liaison ([RA-EPAQATAC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPAQATAC@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>