

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**  
**AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Draft** February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**Attendance**

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC or Committee) members present via Teams or in-person.

Rob Altenburg <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Guzek <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Richard Shaffer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Tissue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scott Brown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Heath <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Shimshock <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maryjoy Ulatowski <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kimberly Coy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Charles McPhedran <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Slade <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shaun Vozar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joseph Duckett <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Nines <input type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Stewart <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Walliser <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Call To Order & Administrative Items**

Chair John Tissue called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

John Tissue requested a motion to approve the 11/6/25 meeting minutes. Joe Duckett made a motion to approve. Rob Altenburg seconded. Hearing no opposition, John Tissue approved the minutes.

**Public Comment Period**

One individual signed up in advance of the meeting to provide the following summarized comment. A copy of the entire written comment was sent to the AQTAC members after the meeting.

**Thomas Bailey, Concerned PA Citizen from Penn Hills**

Tom Bailey stated that since his last comment in 2025, he became aware of two artificial intelligence data centers under development near his home, including one that plans to generate its own electricity by burning natural gas. He raised concerns about increased greenhouse gas emissions, especially considering the nearby Homer City electric generating plant and the Commonwealth's Climate Action Plan calling for emissions reductions. Mr. Bailey questioned whether rising emissions would harm Pennsylvania's air quality and urged the committee to address this issue at a future meeting. He also called for thorough environmental reviews in the permitting process for the data centers.

**Presentation**

Proposed Compliance Assurance Policies (CAP) Revisions  
Presented by Todd Starner, DEP

**Discussion**

John Slade asked if the policy is removing regional manager forgiveness discretion for penalties. Nancy Herb clarified that DEP is not changing the procedure for evaluating late penalties or forgiveness discretion.

Joe Duckett commented that the major changes on the CAP seem to be penalties and formatting and asked if there were any other substantive changes like changes to emission limits. Todd Starner responded no.

John Tissue commented that there can be very large penalties calculated that are often negotiated to much lower values. If a small mistake is found and data is resubmitted to improve accuracy, the idea of getting a large penalty may discourage the facility to report the correction. Nancy Herb stated DEP will discuss this concern.

**Presentation**

Legal Authority for Delegation of Federal Plans in 40 CFR Part 62

Arun Sharma and Sean Wenrich, DEP

**Discussion**

Joe Duckett asked if the delegation enables DEP to adopt the federal regs or requires DEP to adopt them. If there is a change made at the federal level, would that require DEP to adopt that? Sean Wenrich explained this does not require DEP to adopt the federal plan but allows DEP to independently enforce the federal plan.

Charles McPhedran asked if DEP gets approval, will they have more flexibility with the program to make changes to it. Sean Wenrich responded that if DEP wants to make changes, they will need to make their own state plan and get that approved by EPA.

Christie Heath asked if this is just related to federal plans, not federal regulations and asked for more information on the stakeholder input and response to comments. Sean Wenrich explained that the delegation is exclusively for emission guidelines and how they are related to 40 CFR Part 62. Sean Wenrich further explained that the comment response document is still under review.

John Tissue asked for clarification about the differences between the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Part 62. Sean Wenrich explained that both the NSPS and the emission guidelines are promulgated in Part 60. The NSPS is for new sources. The emission guidelines are for existing sources. Section 62 is where state specific state and federal plans are located.

Joe Duckett asked how this relates to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Jesse Walker responded that the NAAQS are for the six criteria pollutants. Changes in the emission guidelines or NSPS are independent of changes to the NAAQS.

**Presentation**

2025 Ozone Year in Review

Presented by Bryan Oshinski, DEP

**Discussion**

John Shimshock asked why some of the ozone monitoring locations seem close together. Bryan Oshinski explained that some sites only monitor one or two pollutants whereas other sites monitor for more. Sean Nolan discussed the monitoring requirements for ozone, including the requirements for downwind monitors.

Charles McPhedran asked how the preliminary ozone design values compare to just after the 70 parts-per-billion standard was adopted in 2015. Bryan Oshinski explained that some progress has been made. Sean Nolan indicated that he does not know the data for 2015 and would need to time to get that data together as the presentation was focused on only the last year. AQTAC and DEP discussed the potential for a presentation on the history of the ozone data in Pennsylvania.

John Slade commented about the wildfires' impact on the attainment status. Bryan Oshinski explained that the Philadelphia non-attainment area would not achieve attainment after qualifying any data impacted by recent wildfire smoke. DEP discussed how EPA handles exceptional events and potential future changes.

Shawn Vozar asked if the Philadelphia non-attainment area was increased to "severe", how would that affect the Commonwealth in general? Joe Martini clarified that the attainment classification is currently considered "serious". There is likely going to be an increase to "severe" at some point. The implications would be most important for the Philadelphia area, but due to controls that may need to be put in to reach attainment there could be implications for other areas in the Commonwealth. Mr. Martini encouraged collaboration between AQTAC and DEP.

John Tissue commented that he supports a future presentation like what Sean Nolan suggested to discuss the history of ozone data in Pennsylvania. Mr. Tissue suggested the presentation would be valuable if it included information about changes in how ozone was regulated in addition to changes in the data.

**Presentation**

ACT 45 of 2025 (HB 416) Related to the Proposed Rulemaking for Administrative Amendments to 25 Pa. Code Chapters 121 and 127

Presented by Sean Wenrich, DEP

**Discussion**

Charles McPhedran asked if any applicant that varies from the general permit does so at their own risk. Sean Wenrich explained that even in a deemed approved situation the applicant must still abide by the terms and conditions of the general permit and if they do not, they may be subject to enforcement.

Christie Heath asked if DEP could speak to how they are managing the process in the interim phase as they are trying to get the regulations updated. Sean Wenrich said as soon as they were made aware of this new law, internal guidance and standard templates have been developed to make sure implementation is consistent.

**Presentation**

Regulatory Development and State Implementation Plan Update

Presented by Joe Martini, DEP

**Discussion**

Christie Heath asked if the Southeast PA area was bumped up to "severe", what would be the timeline and the ultimate compliance date? Joe Martini explained the differences between a voluntary attainment classification change versus EPA deciding to change the classification. The attainment date would be August 2033, which would allow more planning time to get the area into attainment. Additional discussion occurred regarding the ozone non-attainment area.

**Presentation**

AQTAC Guidance Document Review Update

Discussion lead by John Tissue, AQTAC Chair

**Discussion**

John Tissue summarized recent work on the project. John Slade gave updates regarding the status of AQTAC's review of the Source Testing Manual. Committee members discussed next steps for the project.

**Old & New Business / Open Discussion**

John Tissue opened the meeting for AQTAC business/open discussion.

**Old Business**

Action items from the previous meeting were discussed. All of the previous action items have been resolved with the exception of the Western PA Oil and Gas study. AQTAC would still like the opportunity to provide feedback on the study if DEP can put together a presentation for a future meeting.

**New Business**

Officer elections will be discussed at the May 14, 2026 meeting. A nomination committee will be discussed, and voting will be held in August 2026.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the platform AQTAC uses to review and comment on documents. Due to issues with AQTAC members accessing SharePoint, DEP has been directed to set up a Microsoft Teams group for the committee members. Details will be provided to the Committee via email before the next meeting.

AQTAC and DEP members discussed new or pending federal updates and how changes may impact the Commonwealth.

**Meeting Action Items**

The following action items were identified during the meeting:

- Sean Nolan offered a future presentation on ozone. AQTAC members would like to consider the regulatory history of ozone, in addition to the ozone data trends.
- Teams group will be set up for AQTAC members as a replacement for SharePoint.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before AQTAC, John Tissue requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Duckett made a motion to adjourn. Shaun Vozar seconded. John Tissue, hearing no opposition, adjourned the meeting at 11:51 am.

The next AQTAC meeting is Thursday, May 14, 2026.

*Minutes prepared by Kristina Snurkowski Air Quality Program Specialist (AQPS). For additional information about AQTAC, please contact the AQTAC Liaison ([RA-EPAQTAC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPAQTAC@pa.gov)) or by visiting the AQTAC Web page at: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/public-participation/advisory-committees/air-advisory-committees/air-quality-technical-advisory-committee.html>*