

**The Minutes of the  
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting  
Alamo Area Council of Governments  
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas  
Wednesday, June 23, 2004, 8:30 a.m.**

**Executive Committee Members**

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal County Commissioner  
Vice Chairman Nelson Wolff, Judge, Bexar County  
Councilman Chip Haass, City of San Antonio  
Walter Ague for Mayor Ed Garza  
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County  
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson County  
Mayor Jack H. Leonhardt, Greater Bexar CCC  
Mayor Raymond Ramirez, City of Floresville  
Mayor Adam Cork, City of New Braunfels

**Technical Committee Members**

Renee Green, Co-Chair, Bexar County

**AACOG Staff**

Dean Danos, Deputy Director  
Peter Bella , Director Natural Resources  
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Manager  
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Assistant  
Dorothy Birch, Public Education Coordinator  
Brenda Williams, Environmental Modeler  
Isabel Chacon, Natural Resources Specialist

**Advisory Committee Members**

Dan Titerle, SAWS  
Rebecca Gray , American Lung Association  
Charissa Barnes, TSIA  
Kevin Butt, Toyota  
Stanley A. Dabney II, Alamo Cement Company  
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County  
Gary Raba, Greater SA Chamber of Commerce  
Bill England, Harmony Hills Neighborhood Ass.

**Guests**

Bryan Kirk, Seguin Gazette-Enterprise  
Debra Engler, SAWS  
Bill O'Connell, Wilson County News  
Tony Wood, Team Integrated Engineering Inc.  
Liza Meyer, City of San Antonio  
Theresa Haan, Randolph Air Force Base  
Kate Williams, TCEQ (available by phone)  
Jerry Needham, Express-News

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**I. Roll Call**

Commissioner Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called. Dean Danos called the roll and declared a quorum.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Millikin asked the Committee for consideration of the April 28th, 2004 minutes. Chairman Millikin mentioned a correction on the spelling of Guadalupe and the misplaced name of Mr. Riley under "AACOG staff." Mayor Wolff made the motion to adopt the minutes as corrected. Mayor Cork seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for discussion. There being none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Citizens to be Heard**

Chairman Millikin asked staff for the list of citizens signed up to speak. There were no citizens signed up to speak.

**IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report**

Peter Bella asked the committee to refer to the ozone and particulate matter report handout. Following the information on the handout, he gave the committee an update on the four highest eight-hour ozone concentrations in 2004 as of April 27, 2004, an overview on the fourth highest eight-hour average ozone readings for San Antonio from 1999-2003, and the 3-year average of 4<sup>th</sup>-highest 8-hour ozone values for Cams 23 and Cams 58. Mr. Bella

also provided the Particulate Matter report on the PM 10 CAMS 301 and PM 2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less. He also pointed to information providing a TCEQ report on Saharan dust episodes. He said that Particulate Matter Readings indicated high values during June on both the fine and course readings during the period of the Saharan dust episodes. He said that nevertheless the values reflected remained well below the federal standard measurements.

#### **V. Public Education Committee Report**

Dorothy Birch gave an **update on the air quality health alert program**. She reported that Ozone season had started on April 1<sup>st</sup> and thus far there had been no air quality health alerts issued. There had been ten days that reached the moderate level on the air quality index. Mrs. Birch reported that they currently had 1,435 recipients on the AQHA notification list, an increase of one hundred and fifty three individuals since last month's update. She thanked the City of New Braunfels for the purchase of twenty air quality health alert flags.

**Outreach effort update**. She reported that so far this year, over 20,500 promotional, educational, or informational items were handed out to the public. She reported that during the first quarter of 2004, media outreach efforts included nineteen television pieces, twenty radio pieces, thirty five newspaper or other print pieces, seventeen governmental, civic, or business group presentations, ten school related presentations, twenty three events or public meetings and fourteen new news items issued.

**Summer Advertising Campaign**. In the coming months the committee could expect the beginning of several summer advertising campaigns including:

- 1.) "Clean Up in the Evening" campaign in August that would include four remote events at gas stations rewarding drivers who fill up in the evening with KISS sunshades
- 2.) Billboard poster designed by students at Gillette Elementary
- 3.) Car maintenance campaign doing a full reprint of the Car Care 101 booklet and working with the Texas Independent Automotive Association about car care check lanes at local businesses
- 4.) "Drive Less" Commute Solutions campaign that will include traffic sponsorships on KISS radio and news brief sponsorships on Telefutera TV.
- 5.) Basic air quality education campaign featuring "Drive Clean Across Texas" butterfly valve and/or singer commercials plus additional car care spots on WOAI TV.

**Clean Air Awards Program**. Mrs. Birch said she would be mailing out application forms at the end of July with a press conference being scheduled coinciding with the August AIRCO meeting.

Judge Wolff asked how this year's lack of air quality health alert days compared to the previous years. Mrs. Birch responded that last year at this same time (mid June) there were already four episodes recorded with the majority recorded in August and September.

Forrest Mims stated that he had a satellite photograph dated April 27<sup>th</sup> which showed images of pollution over the Gulf of Mexico. He stated that every violation in San Antonio is associated with the East Coast blob which has not been over us this spring except for a couple of days; that's why we are safe. Lower temperatures have also helped.

#### **VI. Clean Air Plan Update**

- a. **Approval of 3<sup>rd</sup> Semi-Annual Report, due June 30, 2004**
  - i. **Conceptual Model Update**

Steven Smeltzer gave a report on the technical aspects of the semi-annual report. Mr. Smeltzer explained that there were two parts contained in the semi-annual report. The first part contained the completed summary of the State Implementation Plan. The second part

was a continuing planning process with updates to the conceptual model. Using a power point presentation, Mr. Smeltzer discussed transport and stagnant episodes, control strategies and the Texas Air Quality Study II. He explained the study that is going to occur in 2005-2006 was designed to improve the understanding of factors that control the formation and transport of air pollution. He said a the detailed study would be made over the eastern half of Texas to help understand the sources of pollution in the Houston area. However, he continued, the data will include refined meteorological data and might be beneficial to San Antonio if a 2005 or 2006 photochemical modeling episode is created. He discussed the two potential episodes (in May and September 2003) identified in the conceptual model and said there might be a need to plan for a SIP after 2007.

Mr. Mims was concerned that transported air conditions caused greater problems than stagnated air. He questioned the report showing the stagnated episode only causing 70 parts per billion. He asked Mr. Smeltzer if there were any stagnated episodes that caused a violation rather than a moderately high 70 ppb. Mr. Smeltzer explained that the data was an average ozone over the San Antonio and the four county area.

Chairman Millikin said it was recognized through the five years of data that there was enough bad air quality years generated through stagnant air in and by the region. He said what was not needed was transported air from the outside to add to the problem. He pointed to the need to generate interest in low Reid vapor pressure as a statewide strategy.

Mr. Bella added that it was difficult to say whether stagnated or transported episodes were of greater importance given that there was only one data set of each available for the San Antonio region.

Renee Green, chairperson of the Technical Committee said that the technical committee had reviewed the information and presentation provided by Mr. Smeltzer and had recommended approval by the Executive Committee of the third semi-annual report.

Chairman Millikin placed the item for consideration on the floor. Mayor Adam Cork recommended approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Semi-Annual Report including the Conceptual Model Update. Judge Quinney seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Approval of Transportation Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Credit Letter to TCEQ**

Mr. Bella asked the committee to refer to a handout entitled TERP Credit Approval. He explained the Texas Emissions Reduction Program was created to aide Houston and Dallas in their efforts. However, funding was made available to all the non attainment areas and the near non attainment areas including the San Antonio region. Mr. Bella said that San Antonio contracts signed totaled about a half a ton a day NOX reductions which is greater than any other reductions to the TERP program in any other region of Texas except for Houston and Dallas. The letter before them intended to show the region's support for TERP and to help TCEQ in their arguments to the legislators to continue the funding of the TERP program. Currently funds will be collected through 2008 and the program with no other funding source will die. Mr. Bella said the letter asked for a continuation of the program. He said that AACOG would continue to be aggressive in workshop planning efforts as the region currently awaits for the second round of TERP grant funding. He asked that the committee take a look at the draft letter text provided in the handout. He said that the draft

text was approved by the technical committee and gave support to the concept of TERP and the continuation of the program.

Chairman Millikin brought the committee up to date on meetings held with TCEQ Commissioners regarding the San Antonio region's SIP. He said the first meeting was the April 30<sup>th</sup> TCEQ Commissioners' Work Session. He explained that during that meeting newly appointed Commissioner Soward was not very supportive of the SIP's control strategies because they required state rule making. He felt that Early Action Compacts such as in the San Antonio area should entail local options and have very limited responsibility for the state. Chairman Millikin explained that there was a subsequent meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup> with Chairman White to answer some questions. On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, there was another meeting with Commissioner Soward. Chairman Millikin reported that "there has been a 180 degree turn from where the commissioner stood on April 30<sup>th</sup>." As a result, the Commissioners are supporting the control strategies submitted by the region. He expressed his gratitude to the TCEQ Commissioners for the amount of time spent meeting with members of the committee and AACOG staff.

Chairman Millikin asked for approval to submit the TERP Credit Letter. Mayor Adam Cork motioned for approval of the letter. Judge Quinney seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The motion was put to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **c. Credit for Transportation Emissions Reduction Measures (TERMS)**

Mr. Bella gave the Committee an update on the on-going TERMS process. He reported that AACOG staff was documenting and bookkeeping roadway projects in conjunction with TXDOT, the MPO, and a number of local agencies around the region responsible for roadway projects. He explained that by cataloguing some of the roadway projects, credit could be available to the region when those projects qualify or can be shown to help reduce either congestion or travel time and help reduce the pollution for on-road vehicles. Mr. Bella said a system existed for calculating that credit and staff was doing that book keeping update. Mr. Bella referred to the table in the handout which listed the number of projects available and the reductions available through the calculations performed using the proper protocol. Mr. Bella pointed out that the effort gave the region a total credit of over 2 and 1/2 tons a day in reductions just from doing bookkeeping on the currently approved and funded projects. It was to their advantage to correct their emissions inventory and update the understanding on the roadway projects. He said that upon conclusion the document will be submitted to TCEQ and will not be placed in the modeling/SIP credit section. However, if there was a need to go to Transportation Conformity, that is if the region ever goes to full nonattainment, there would be credit available then, under that program.

#### **VII. AACOG Staff Reports Report to Guadalupe County**

In response to a request from Guadalupe County, Mr. Bella and staff prepared a model for ozone concentration transported from the four counties participating in the Early Action Compact. Mr. Bella asked the committee to look at the handout labeled Zero-Outruns for Comal, Guadalupe, and Wilson County and also asked that they refer to a copy of slides for his presentation. Mr. Bella explained what staff had done was to perform a series of zero outruns to show the model concentration transported from each county using the 2007 EAC AACOG photochemical model. The idea being that the Photochemical model allowed for removal of human man made precursors that are generated in a region. He explained that separate runs were generated on all counties and they recorded changes in the maximum

predicted 8-hour ozone levels within the entire region's air shed. Mr. Bella pointed to the individual runs for each zero-out simulation. The difference in Comal due to the zero-out was recorded as great at 10.1 ppb and in Guadalupe as great as 8.2 ppb ozone reduction and in Wilson County as great as 1.5 ppb. No artificial change in wind direction was incorporated in the model.

Mr. Bella's report asked the question where the air comes from on high ozone days. The graphs indicated air transported into Bexar County comes from different areas in different times. He used a graph showing wind patterns coming in at the SA Airport and drawing a ring around a fifty mile radius showing the direction and when the wind traveled during ozone exceedance days using dots. The dots correspond to air parcel positions given by the Hysplit model. He pointed out that typically air crossing into Bexar County comes from the northeast, east, and southeast. He said that staff used the Hysplit model to find that information out. The Hysplit model is operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

**Back Trajectories Counts for All Ozone Exceedance Days,  
1997-2003 with County Air Parcel Counts**

<b>County</b>	<b>Counts</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Wilson	<b>84</b>	<b>24.5%</b>
Guadalupe	<b>115</b>	<b>33.5%</b>
Comal	<b>66</b>	<b>19.2%</b>
Other Counties	<b>78</b>	<b>22.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Mr. Bella's report concluded the following:

- that winds carrying air which produces high ozone in SA region typically pass through this three county region, based on 1997-2003 data.
- Zero-Out runs: impact from these outer counties can change downwind ozone concentration levels by as much as 10 parts per billion.
- Air Movement patterns suggest changes in ozone precursors in these surrounding counties are likely to influence local ozone production in San Antonio/Bexar County.

Mr. Mims disagreed with the methodology used in the report. He argued that "counting the dots method is found nowhere in the EPA rules and regulations or guidelines. He said he inquired with EPA and it was unknown to them. They said they decided on wind direction using the Wind Rose method which lowers Guadalupe County to approximately 22% not 33.5%. We discussed this in the Air Tech Committee and they had decided we would not be presenting this because it is highly misleading."

Mr. Bella said that was incorrect.

Renee Green, Chairman of the Air Technical Committee offered a correction to Mr. Mims statement. She said what had been accepted by the Air Technical Committee was the dot method and also the Hysplit model and Conceptual model.

Mr. Mims requested that the technical group look at some actual data or numbers from the monitors to try to verify the models because he saw some significant problems with the model report.

Mr. Bella replied that what was requested of staff was to model ozone transport.

Mr. Mims responded that he was making a second request that the technical committee look at the measured ozone in the region.

## **VIII. Air Technical Committee Updates**

### **a. 2012 Projection**

Mr. Smeltzer presented a power point report on 2012 projected photochemical modeling emissions inventory. The graphs included changes in the Emission Inventory and the 2012 design values. The presentation concluded that NOx emissions will decrease in 2012, VOC emissions will slightly decrease in 2012 and Photochemical Model demonstrates attainment in 2012 (82.51 ppb Design value).

Mr. Bella commented that it was very important to continue to do the updates and work with the AIR Advisory committee membership and others around the region to make sure that past changes occur so that AACOG staff can track those changes and make certain that the predictions come true.

Discussion was held on the NAFTA truck traffic. Mr. Bella informed the committee that he had communicated with the US Department Of Transportation on the subject and asked if the unfinished Environmental Impact Statement, which had been in the works before the Supreme Court decision came down, would made be publicly available. He reported that they were still trying to decide what information to release from the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The decision that there be an EIS completed before the border gates were opened came out of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court decision. Mr. Bella said the Supreme Court decision affirmed that the president has the authority allow the border to open. According to the US DOT, they are trying to work with all the partners on both sides of the border to make certain the transition goes smoothly when it does happens. Mr. Bella said that US DOT was unable to give him a timeline for when the order will come.

Chairman Millikin pointed out that it could come anytime between now and 2012. He expressed the need to keep track of that situation and if need be keep the region's US representatives informed of the Committee's position.

Renee Green noted that the emissions inventory Mr. Smeltzer used included a component for growth such as population growth, the CPS power plant coming on line and all other known increases in the region. She also let the committee know that Judge Wolff requested that the technical committee review the CPS Peak Saver Program to determine whether or not this resulted in savings in emissions reductions. She explained that the Peak Saver Program is where CPS voluntarily powers back every half hour using programmable thermostats.

### **b. Regional Transport**

Mr. Smeltzer gave a brief report on completed transport runs displayed on graphs in his power point presentation. He explained the use of Ozone Source Apportionment Technique (OSAT) runs for 1999 and 2007. The report concluded that San Antonio is strongly impacted by regional transport in the September 1999 episode, and Houston's contribution decreased significantly due to the controls in Houston's SIP (Especially Houston's Elevated Point Sources). And that attainment for the San Antonio area depends on:

- local control measures,

- TCEQ and EPA fully enacting both the State Implementation Plan revisions, currently proposed by the state of Texas notably for Houston,
- Continued support by TCEQ and EPA for and enactment of further state and federal air quality rules.

### **c. Zero-Out Runs**

Mr. Smeltzer reiterated information on the zero-out runs on all of the counties using three different methodologies all coming out roughly with the same results. The conclusions indicated:

- Wind Direction for 11 ozone exceedance days (average of the three methodologies) Wilson-26%, Guadalupe 29%, Comal 21%, other counties-24%
- San Antonio is strongly impacted by regional transport in the Sept. 1999 episode
- Contribution from Comal, Guadalupe, and Wilson Counties would be greater during a stagnated episode, and
- Also, contribution from Comal, Guadalupe and Wilson Counties would be higher in the 1999 Base Year

Chairman Millikin asked Judge Schraub if he had any comments on the meeting with TCEQ. Judge Schrab said he was still very concerned about “cleaning up air that is dirty when it gets to you and how do you clean up somebody else’s air.” Chairman Millikin said that perhaps a broader view of lower Reid vapor pressure would be beneficial to the region and the state. He hoped the state and EPA would support the initiative.

Mr. Bella added that he agreed with the concept of transport being a very important one. He pointed to the fifty-mile focus in the report as a response to the concern of local transport. Likewise, transport from the Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley Region, and other regions also have an impact on this region and he continues to work on the issue with TCEQ.

Renee Green updated the committee with some dates that Commissioner Soward gave to them during the meeting of June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The TCEQ will vote on the local recommended control strategies on July 14<sup>th</sup>. TCEQ will put the proposed rule making to the public for public comment and AACOG has graciously agreed to have one of those public meetings for TCEQ on August the 26<sup>th</sup> so there is an opportunity for the public to make comments on those rules.

Mr. Bella said the starting time for the meeting was at 10 a.m. on August the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Notzon made some comments on the Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP). He pointed to the dual benefits of the program for businesses as well as SIP credit. He thanked the businesses that did participate in the program offering the emission reductions and hoped that the committee continued to push the program during the next legislature. He said there was a TERP workshop on August 24<sup>th</sup> at AACOG sponsored by TCEQ.

Mr. Notzon also mentioned the need to maintain the interest in transport from other areas. He thanked the members of the committee who met with Commissioner Soward on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and pointed to the mentioned importance of the Early Action Compact in the region during the meeting.

## **X. Adjourn**

Chairman Millikin thanked everyone for attending the meeting and having no further business to discuss adjourned the meeting.