

**The Minutes of the  
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committee Meeting  
Alamo Area Council of Governments  
Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 9:00 a.m.  
8700 Tesoro, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78217**

**Executive Committee Members**

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner  
Councilman, Chip Haass, City of San Antonio  
Mayor Raymond Ramirez, City of Floresville  
Mayor Bruce Boyer, City of New Braunfels  
Judge Donald Schraub, Guadalupe County  
Mayor Patrick Heath, City of Boerne  
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson County  
Councilman Jim Tremblay, Bexar County  
Council of Cities

**Technical Committee Members**

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair  
Nicolas Page, MPO  
Lisa Meyers, City of San Antonio

**Guests**

Terri Landan, Guadalupe County  
Stanley Dabney II, Lackland AFB  
Charles Brown, AFCEE  
Christine Gutierrez, Council Aide, District 10  
Dub Smothers  
Debra Engler, SAWS

**Advisory Committee Members**

Mike Riley, City of Seguin  
Charissa Barnes, TSIA  
David Newman, City of San Antonio  
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County  
Kevin Butt, Toyota  
Pete Donahoe, Holt Co.  
Bill Bushman, AFCEE  
Rod Smith, New Braunfels Chamber of  
Commerce

**AACOG Staff**

Al Notzon, Executive Director  
Dean Danos, Deputy Director  
Peter Bella, Director, Natural Resources  
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Manager  
Brenda Williams, Program Manager  
Berti Vaughan, Administrative Assistant

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**I. Roll Call** Chairman Millikin called the meeting to order. He asked that the roll be called. Dean Danos called the roll and declared a quorum. Chairman Millikin welcomed Councilman Jim Tremblay to the committee and introduced Tom Hornseth, Comal County Engineer and Vice Chair of the Air Technical Committee.

**II. Citizens to be Heard** There were none signed up to speak.

**III. Approval of Minutes** Chairman Millikin asked for a motion to approve the March 1, 2006 minutes. Judge Schraub moved to accept the minutes. Mayor Heath seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for discussion. Mike Riley asked that his representation be changed from Guadalupe County to City of Seguin under the advisory committee heading. Peter Bella pointed to page three under b.1, the last sentence and asked that "was well received" be added to the end of the sentence. Chairman Millikin asked for the vote to approve the minutes with the two corrections. The motion passed.

**IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report**

Mr. Bella referred the committee to the tables on the ozone and particulate matter handout. He gave an explanation for each of the tables on the report beginning with the table with the four highest eight-hour ozone concentrations in 2006 displaying the fourth highest reading at 60 parts per billion. This reading was well below the 85 ppb threshold as of April 24, 2006. He noted the three monitoring sites operated by the TCEQ monitors; San Antonio Northwest CAMS23, Camp Bullis CAMS58, and Calaveras Lake CAMS59 as the most important because

they were regulatory monitors. He explained that monitoring was also taking place through six sites being operated by AACOG. Two of the six monitoring sites were not on line due to some technical problems and that was being addressed through the new monitoring contract. Mr. Bella said that the three-year record for 2005, 2006, and 2007 was of particular interest to the region because it would be used to judge attainment for the region after the Early Action Compact expires.

Mr. Bella reported that the particulate matter update reflected the region well in attainment for PM 10 and PM 2.5 national ambient air quality standards.

## **V. AIR Public Education Committee Update**

### **a. Ozone Season Kickoff and Outreach Events**

Brenda Williams presented the committee with a one-page report containing a streamlined version of outreach efforts. She asked that they read the report at their convenience and highlighted the following information:

- On April 8<sup>th</sup> staff had conducted the first of two ozone season kickoff events. She said the LiveGreenFest Clean Air Drive event was an extremely successful event with over 4000 persons attending Eisenhower Park. The event was a collaboration between CPS energy, the City of San Antonio, the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy organization and AACOG.
- The second ozone season kickoff event is scheduled for Saturday, May 20 from 10 to 2 at the Seguin Learning Center.
- A Propane Workshop is scheduled for May 12 as the first of a series of workshops being conducted that encourage businesses to adopt emission reduction measures that also save them money. The first workshop will focus on fuels and vehicle profits.
- The Walk and Roll Corporate challenge is scheduled for the month of June. Corporate entities will compete and challenge each other to accrue the most “smart miles” from their employees.

### **b. City of San Antonio/AACOG AQHA Banner Promotion**

Mrs. Williams reported that AACOG staff had been working with City of San Antonio staff to establish a database of city facilities, hospitals, medical facilities, assisted living centers, and schools interested in having a banner. She added that her goals were to make the banner promotion an educational campaign and to expand the banner program into other areas outside San Antonio.

Councilman Haass thanked them for their work and suggested that as the Air Quality Health Alert Season began they call for a press conference pointing to the banners and their locations after each episode.

Chairman Millikin thanked Mrs. Williams and Councilman Haass for extending the banner effort to the community. He said he would encourage participation in Comal County.

## **VI. Clean Air Plan Update: Attainment Issues**

### **a. New Point Sources in Texas**

#### **i. TXI: Final letter on permit, TCEQ acknowledgement, and Meeting**

Steve Smeltzer gave a power point presentation focused on analyzing two new point sources from Cemex Cement Company and TXI Cement Company. Both companies had applied to TCEQ for permits to expand their plant operations. Mr. Smeltzer explained that Cemex had already been approved through the TCEQ process to incorporate expansion and after calculating emissions, the Cemex Company application would not increase overall emissions from their site. However, after analyzing the TXI plant expansion it was found that their

operation would significantly increase air emissions. As a result of the findings, staff had responded to TCEQ through the comment period expressing concerns over the TXI plant application. Mr. Notzon reported that staff was monitoring the TCEQ permit application process and that a meeting had taken place with TXI to discuss their concerns. Chairman Millikin said they had met with TXI in a meeting hosted by TCEQ and that the meeting had been beneficial. TXI was willing to work with the agency as long as they were not at a competitive disadvantage with other similar companies. Mr. Notzon commented that TXI recognized it was important they remain in attainment because nonconformity could also affect other industries dependent on their cement product. As a result non-attainment could have a direct impact on their bottom line.

Peter Bella pointed to the list of applications to TCEQ with the question being how much more can the air absorb and maintain attainment. On the other hand there is the question of continued growth and prosperity and how to work these together. Mr. Bella said that they had an excellent example of how they can work with the cement industry. He said it was conceivable that the local manufacturers could plan their maintenance schedules to occur during the height of the ozone season. This would reduce their emissions during critical days. He also pointed to a larger picture because at this time there is no federal guidance to the states on how the states should treat air permits vis-à-vis 8-hour attainment. He commented that on the one hand it is the state's responsibility to make sure that the state implementation plan works. On the other hand there is discussion about how air permits and their impacts on eight-hour attainment areas should be considered. Mr. Bella said staff would continue to work with the cement industries and monitor air quality permit policy as it was developed.

Mayor Heath asked if there was some indication why the TXI application doesn't show any effect from their reduction technologies, second would we intend to comment during the second comment period and third how soon might we have the next set of meetings with these industries on the various issues that have been raised during these discussions? Mr. Bella responded that there would be a second memo with comments if requested by the committee. Mayor Heath replied that he thought it was appropriate that they follow up with a second memo. Mayor Heath asked why TXI did not list reductions due to the emission reduction technologies noted in the air permit. Mr. Bella said that TXI had made a concession to add selective non-catalytic reduction technologies which is the best available control technologies for the given processes they employ. He said the concessions they made were to put the selective non-catalytic reduction controls on the existing kiln now rather than later after the 2007 timeframe. Mr. Smeltzer estimated the concession would reduce emissions 30%. In response to the next set of meetings scheduled, Mr. Bella said he would sit down with TCEQ to figure out a schedule for future meetings. He would follow up and keep them informed.

c. **Action Item:** Consideration and Approval of Update: Inspection & Enforcement of Early Action Compact SIP Rules

Mr. Bella gave the committee an update on the various meetings, research, and investigations being made by staff on options for inspection and enforcement of the EAC SIP rules within the San Antonio Region. There was no action on this item.

d. **Action Item:** Consideration and Approval of Letter to Chairman White

Mr. Bella provided a draft letter as approved by the air technical committee concerning inspection and enforcement for Stage I Vapor Recovery and Equipment Degreasing regulations and requesting the ranking of inspection for compliance and enforcement of the SIP measures in the San Antonio region as the top priority performance measure for the area. Mayor Heath made the motion to approve the letter to Chairman White. Mayor Boyer seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion unanimously passed.

- e. **Action Item:** Consideration and Approval of Comments: EPA's Proposed Exceptional Event Policy

Mr. Bella gave a power point presentation on EPA's proposed exceptional event policy and the comments given by the AIR Technical committee for EPA's consideration. He said comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before May 9, 2006 by EPA.

The AIR Technical Committee formalized the following comments for review, consideration, and possible adoption by the AIR Executive/Advisory Committees during their April 26, 2006 meeting, the final AIR Executive/Advisory meeting prior to the rule comments deadline of May 9.

**Comments by the AIR Technical Committee:**

1. EPA should treat agricultural burning as an exceptional event.
2. The rule should include a provision according to which the state will review any requests by local areas to flag ozone data as being caused by an exceptional event.
3. The EPA should perform a general case-by-case evaluation without threshold criteria, instead of using percentile as a criteria. This option leaves the widest latitude for consideration of events.
4. The EPA should allow finalization of flagging by the state and submission of appropriate demonstrations no later than 6 months prior to regulatory determination.
5. EPA must provide a reasonable explanation & documentation for their decision to deny any request for the flagging of data.
6. EPA should not impose a minimum requirement for demonstrations.
7. States should be required to do to protect public health with prompt public notification that an event is occurring or is expected to occur and public education on how to reduce individual exposures to air pollution due to an event.
8. EPA should treat fireworks as an exceptional event where States can show that the use of fireworks displays is integral to significant traditional national, ethnic, or other cultural events.

After discussion on each item it was decided to keep the recommendations as submitted by the Air Technical Committee.

Chairman Millikin asked for a motion for approval from the floor. Judge Quinney made the motion to approve the comments as submitted by the AIR Technical Committee. Mayor Ramirez seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin asked for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

- VII. Other Issues**
  - a. Ozone Monitoring for 2006-2007  
Was not discussed.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Chairman Millikin recommended that future meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. The committee agreed. The meeting was adjourned.