

**The Minutes of the  
Air Improvement Resources Executive/Advisory Committees Meeting  
Alamo Area Council of Governments  
Wednesday, August 22, 2007, 10:00 a.m.  
Alamo Area Council of Governments  
8700 Tesoro, Suite 100, San Antonio, Texas 78217**

**Executive Committee Members**

Chairman Jay Millikin, Comal Co. Commissioner  
Judge Marvin Quinney, Wilson County  
Judge Mike Wiggins, Guadalupe County  
Councilman Jim Tremblay, BCCC

**Technical Committee Members**

Renee Green, Bexar County, Chair  
Nick Page

**Guests**

Debra Engler, SAWS  
Tom Spaits, Capitol Cement  
Frank Elston, Baptist Health Foundation  
Dub Smothers, Citizen

**Advisory Committee Members**

David Newman, City of San Antonio  
Pete Donahoe, Holt Company  
Forrest Mims, Guadalupe County

**AACOG Staff**

Gloria Arriaga, Executive Director  
Dean Danos, Deputy Director  
Peter Bella, Director, Natural Resources  
Steve Smeltzer, Environmental Manager  
Brenda Williams, Program Coordinator  
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 the lack of a quorum. Chairman Millikin proceeded with the meeting avoiding action items on the agenda until a quorum was attained. (Later, a quorum was met with the arrival of Councilman Tremblay)

**II. Citizens to be Heard** There were none.

**III. Approval of Minutes** Chairman Millikin asked the floor for approval of the Minutes for June 13, 2007. Councilman Tremblay made the motion for approval of the minutes. Judge Quinney seconded the motion. Chairman Millikin called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Ozone and Particulate Matter Report**

a. AACOG's Ozone and Meteorological Monitoring Operations

Mr. Bella reported the following on the current ozone standard in the San Antonio MSA:

- The 2005-2007 three-year average is presently at 80 parts per billion at CAMS 58. CAMS 58 is one of the TCEQ regulatory monitors.
- The San Antonio Northwest CAMS23, the second TCEQ regulatory monitor is presently at 78 parts per billion.
- If the Fourth-Highest Average at Camp Bullis for 2007 is below 82 parts per billion, the region's three-year average will show attainment.

Mr. Bella pointed out that the highest value on the monitor readings was 99 ppb with the lowest reading being 72 ppb. He said the issue for discussion and action later on the agenda asks how far the standard should be lowered. He explained that one of the proposals from the EPA recommended lowering the standard as low as 70 parts per billion. The dilemma he explained is that if air coming into the San Antonio region (transport) is on the verge of already being in violation how can the committee make

changes that will affect and lower transport coming into the region that shows values less than 70 ppb.

**V. AIR Public Education/Outreach Update**  
**Item was postponed.**

**VI. Clean Air Update**

a. Houston: Reclassification from “moderate” to “severe” 8-hour non-attainment

**Item was postponed.**

**VII. Business of the AIR Executive Committee**

a. **Action Item:** Consideration of and possible Approval of comments for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the proposed revisions to the 8-hour ozone NAAQS

Mrs. Green explained that the handout before them was a draft resolution Mr. Bella composed as recommended and approved for their consideration during the Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Technical Committee meeting of August 13, 2007.

Mrs. Green commented that the approval vote was not unanimous only because of the second whereas where there was some debate on the wording citing health based studies. She said the wording was edited and accepted for the committee’s review but was pending approval by Dr. Guerra, Director of the Metropolitan Health District.

Commissioner Millikin asked if the committee wanted to accept the draft resolution to include comments on the health based studies pending approval by Dr. Guerra.

Councilman Tremblay made the motion to accept the draft resolution inclusive of the whereas citing the health based studies comments pending Dr. Guerra’s approval of the language. Judge Quinney seconded the motion.

Commissioner Millikin asked for further discussion. There was none. The motion passed three to one with Commissioner Millikin voting against the motion.

Discussion was held on the possibility that the language be amended once reviewed by Doctor Guerra and whether that would require another review by the committee. It was decided that if the language changed in anyway it would require a re-vote. Mr. Bella said if necessary he would send out any changes for their approval.

The proposed draft resolution approved for the committee’s consideration is as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the San Antonio region, acting together through the Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Committee of the Alamo Area Council of Governments, was one of the first regions to partner with the US Environmental Protection Agency by signing an Early Action Compact, and continues to work proactively to improve regional air quality and reduce ozone-forming pollution;

**WHEREAS**, the health-based studies cited to support the proposed revisions to the standard were conducted in areas known for chronic ozone exceedances; the AIR Committee questions the applicability of these studies to all areas of the Country, such as San Antonio, which experience only occasional episodic ozone exceedances;

**WHEREAS**, transport of polluted air plays a significant role in development of higher ozone levels in our region. If the standard is lowered to the point that air coming into our region exceeds the standard, local controls by definition cannot and will not bring us into attainment. Traditional nonattainment tools, which depend on implementation of local controls within the nonattainment region, are inadequate to meet the ozone challenge we face;

**WHEREAS**, given the effects of transport, EPA should work with states to consider changing the permitting of and the effects of significant pollution sources from which emissions are transported over hundreds of miles. For example, recently the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) area successfully petitioned for reclassification from "moderate" to "severe" 8-hour ozone nonattainment. It is not practical to allow nonattainment areas such as HGB to reach attainment by 2019 or 2020 while mandating that areas such as central Texas attain by 2013 despite overwhelming transport from HGB or other nonattainment areas;

**WHEREAS**, the accuracy of ozone analyzers is specified by their manufacturers to be no better than plus or minus 1 percent (+/- 0.01 of the actual concentration of ozone), changing the standard from two to three decimal points is inappropriate;

**WHEREAS**, EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee could not agree conclusively upon a methodology by which to determine a secondary ozone standard;

**WHEREAS**, EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee could not identify a "bright line" to establish a clear cut standard;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The San Antonio region does not agree with lowering of the standard from its current level of 0.08 parts per million.
2. The San Antonio region recommends that EPA retains a measurement standard rounded to the nearest hundredth part per million measurement of ozone.
3. The primary and the secondary ozone standard should remain the same standard.

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In addition to the above language, the AIR Technical Committee drafted the following statement, contingent on revisions and approval by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD).

**DRAFT WHEREAS**, *data gathered by emergency room technicians in the San Antonio region on local Air Quality Health Alert days suggests little or no correlation between increases of ozone levels during occasional episodic ozone exceedances in our region and emergency room visits;*

**IX. Adjournment.**

With no business to conduct, Chairman Millikin adjourned the meeting.