

Air Quality Subcommittee (AQS) Meeting Notes

January 10, 2013

Attendees

Gregory Becoat, EPA (teleconference)
Randall Carroll, MDE (teleconference)
Deanna Cucinnello, DNREC
Marc Dixon, FHWA
Heather Dunigan, WILMAPCO
Mike DuRoss, DelDOT
James Galvin, D/KC MPO
Jay Gerner, DelDOT (teleconference)
Tamika Graham, WILMAPCO
Brian Hugg, MDE (teleconference)
Howard Simons, MDOT
Cathy Smith, DTC
Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Phil Wheeler, DNREC
Tigist Zegeye, WILMAPCO

Acceptance of the Notes from the December 13 Meeting

- The notes were accepted.

Review of the Air Quality Conformity Analysis

- Mr. Swiatek, Mr. Simons and Mr. DuRoss provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *Drafts of the NCC and Cecil County Conformity Analysis.*
- Mr. Swiatek noted that these documents will be released for public review between January 14 and March 7. Formal Council adoption is expected March 14.
- Mr. Swiatek passed around the NCC Conformity document. He said that the document is very rough, and contains numerous placeholders for additional text.
- Mr. DuRoss discussed the document in detail. He said he updated the travel modeling process text. Assistance is needed for the PM section, which Mr. Wheeler agreed to provide.

- There was much discussion about exactly where the various budgets/baselines came from. The 2008 ozone budget figures shown in the draft were dropped, as they are no longer applicable.
- Mr. Wheeler said he would work on a concurrence letter from DNREC.
- Mr. Simons reviewed the draft Cecil County document. There were few minor changes to the text/dates in the document.
- Ms. Zegeye thanked both DelDOT and MDOT for their assistance with the documents, and the tight turnaround. Both Mr. DuRoss and Mr. Simons stressed the need for more time to prepare these documents in the future.

Air Quality Technical Scoring

- Mr. Swiatek provided an overview of this agenda item.
- Handouts: *WILMAPCO Project Prioritization Process (amended 7/10/08); WILMAPCO Prioritization Process Air Quality Scoring Criteria*
- Mr. Swiatek went through WILMAPCO's overall project prioritization process, with specific emphasis to air quality.
- Mr. Swiatek noted that the air-quality scoring criteria is the most subjective of the criterion, as it is the most qualitative. The group has talked over the years about fine-tuning this methodology, and has in the past looked to the purchase of the AQONE software, or similar project level emissions analysis software to better inform the scoring. WILMAPCO is waiting for final guidance on the CMAQ program, and the update of the software to MOVES, before pursuing the purchase of this software.
- The group recommended an editorial for the criterion: "not adding capacity" ought to be revised to, "not adding *roadway* capacity."
- The group agreed that the scoring system should remain unchanged in the interim, until such time that project level emissions software is purchased to help inform air quality scoring.

Other

- Mr. Becoat discussed a court ruling of interest to New Castle County and PM 2.5. A notice of proposed rulemaking was published November 19, 2012; no public comments were received during the 30 day comment period. On January 4, 2013 there was a court decision affecting PM 2.5 implementation rule. The court

challenged EPA's presumption that ammonia and VOCs need not be addressed with PM 2.5 unless the state showed they contribute significantly to PM 2.5 levels. The court has asked EPA to address all precursors, unless EPA can show they do not contribute significantly to PM 2.5 levels. All of this means that everything at EPA is on hold, including budget approvals. Approved budgets should be okay. EPA needs to figure out how to move forward given this ruling. He invited the group to send any questions they may think of to him after the meeting.