



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

**AGENDA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*
Tuesday, March 30, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING – GOTOMEETING**

DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK, EAST-WEST GATEWAY’S OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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I. Call to Order

- Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

A. Minutes of January 26, 2021 Meeting

II. Opportunities and Challenges When Using Low-Cost Sensors for Air Quality Monitoring

- Jay Turner, Washington University

III. City of St. Louis’ Electric Vehicle Charging Ordinances

- Maurice Muia, Climate Advisory St. Louis, MO

IV. Update Activities of the States

- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources

V. Other Business –

- The next meeting is on May 25, 2021

VI. Adjournment

* Please note that this meeting will serve as a part of the Inter-Agency Consultation

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MINUTES
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
10:00 am – 11:00 am
VIRTUAL MEETING - GoToMeeting

Members Present:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
David Bloomberg – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Kathrina Donegan – St. Louis County Department of Health
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association
Betsy Tracy – Federal Highway Administration Illinois
Francisco Cortalezzi – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Mallory Box – Citizens for Modern Transit
Christopher Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation
Mary Foshage – City of St. Louis
Jack Fishman – St. Louis University

Others Present:

Andy Knott – Sierra Club MO
Michael Hutcheson - Ameren
Mark Leath – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Jed Wolkins – EPA Region 7
Kevin Herdler – St. Louis Clean Cities
Amanda Schomaker – Madison County Transit
Morgan Geile - AMEREN
Bruce Morrison – Great Rivers Environmental Law Center
Christine Favilla – Sierra Club Piasa Palisades Chapter

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski Jennifer Vuitel Aaron Young Gena Jain Maureen McCarthy

1. Call to Order

- Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The meeting of the Air Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC) was called to order by Chair Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG). The minutes of the October 27, 2020 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

2. 2015 Ozone Designations Remand – Jefferson and Monroe Counties

- Jed Wolkins, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

The decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in the Clean Wisconsin v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) case is as follows. “In sum, EPA has, without explanation, treated similarly-situated areas – Jefferson and Boles (Township) – differently and drawn conflicting conclusions from the same data. “Such inconsistent treatment is the hallmark of arbitrary agency action,” and requires further explanation from EPA.” For Jefferson, the designation of attainment has been completely remanded (returned) to EPA for review. For Monroe County in Illinois the decision by the Court used different wording for the remand of the designation, “The outcome the EPA ultimately reached [for Monroe] may be reasonable; however, not only must an agency’s decreed result be within the scope of its lawful authority, but the process by which it reaches that result must be logical and rational.” In their proposal EPA said that on days that monitors in the core St. Louis area violated the standard, the emissions were blown in from the South and South East (Monroe and Jefferson Counties). EPA didn’t have a way to justify excluding those counties. For Monroe, the designation of attainment has been remanded to EPA for review. The EPA has not yet taken action on the remand and action will not be taken until individuals appointed by the new administration are at Headquarters to get input from. Until things are resolved, the EPA should not progress with decisions that rely on these attainment determinations. This includes Missouri’s request to remove the inspection and maintenance program in Jefferson County.

3. American Fuel Report

- Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Clean Cities Program

The National Biodiesel Board had their virtual conference the last week of January. There were over fifty media outlets that participated and over 1,100 tweets about the conference. St. Louis Clean Cities recently completed the re-designation of their commitment with the Department of Energy (DOE) so they will continue to operate in St. Louis for at least the next five years.

Several years ago fuel powered heaters were installed on buses. There has been a problem where electric transit buses are not able to complete their routes with their heaters running. The DOE is working on a solution that would involve installing either propane or diesel fueled heaters on the buses. This would defeat the purpose of the electric buses so other solutions are being looked into.

There is currently an open application period for EPA Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grants. EPA Region 5 has \$6.5 million, maximum \$3 million per project, available. EPA Region 7 has \$3.1 million, maximum of \$1.5 million per project, available. There is information about funding opportunity information sessions on the EPA website. The application period closes on March 16, 2021. Award decisions will be made in April and May and will be announced between June and October.

St. Louis Clean Cities is now part of a partnership of U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Programs that recently won over \$1.8 million in DOE funding to significantly advance electric vehicle (EV) adoption in their states. The overarching goal is to substantially increase EV adoption rates across consumer and fleet markets in 14 states. The project – originally titled “DRIVE (Developing Replicable, Innovative Variants for Engagement) for EVs in the USA” – will be based on a model designed to attack several interrelated market barriers utilizing proven best practices. After winning the award, the partnership decided to shorten the project name to “DRIVE Electric USA” multiple reasons but in part because it simply and cleanly reinforces what the project aims to achieve through the exemplary behavior of 14 (mostly “fly-over”) states where EV adoption efforts are needed to help drive the American economy toward a cleaner and more fair transportation system. In addition to accelerating EV adoption, the project will advance state-of-the-art, innovative approaches to reduce interrelated EV market barriers and plans to create a “Replication Playbook” that other states can utilize to further their own initiatives. The activities, outputs and outcomes in the project are built on seven “Priority Areas” of focused work:

1. Create and strengthen branded, statewide “Drive Electric” programs in each state, and build capacity into those programs through funded time
2. Educate consumers by developing multiple, local EV “chapters” in all states
3. Directly engage and educate all of our utilities and regulators
4. Advance infrastructure in all states via statewide corridor, regional and community EVSE planning, including a focus on limited-income communities
5. Educate state and local government officials about EV policy best practices
6. Engage dealerships & OEMS to develop state-based, preferred EV dealer programs including light-duty and medium/heavy-duty OEMs
7. Significantly increase fleet EV adoption across many types of fleets and sizes of vehicles

This information and more can be found at <http://www.tncleanfuels.org/2020/12/15/drive-electric-usa/>

St. Louis Clean Cities also received a grant from the 2020 Innovative Vehicle Technologies Projects for their St. Louis Vehicle Electrification Rides for Seniors (SiLVERS) project. This project will be taking place at North Newstead Association and Northside Youth and Senior Services. There will be five electric vehicles and each location will have charging stations. Currently, the only available cars are Chevy Volts, which are too small to use for food deliveries and for seniors to enter and exit from. St. Louis Clean Cities is working to find more suitable vehicles. This and the DRIVE Electric grant are for three years.

4. Update Activities of the States - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

The proposed rulemaking to implement aerospace coating Control Technology Guidance (CTG) for the Metro East area has had several hearings and has now been sent to second notice by the Illinois Pollution Control Board. There were no comments against this so it is expected there will

be no issues with its approval. If approved it will go into effect in the next several months with a compliance date of July 1, 2021.

- Missouri Department of Natural Resources

There will be a Missouri Air Conservation Committee (MACC) meeting on January 28, 2021. There will be a public hearing for the Missouri State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision – Maintenance Plan Supplement for the Jefferson County Nonattainment Area for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Standard. This action will incorporate into the SIP monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements for SO₂ emission limits from three Ameren facilities. This revision is a supplement to the 2017 maintenance plan. The limits are included as an addendum to a 2015 Consent Agreement. The adoption for this action is currently scheduled for March 24, 2021 MACC meeting. The comment period is open and will close on February 4, 2021.

There are two actions that will be voted on at the January 28 meeting. The first is the Maintenance Plan for the Jackson County Nonattainment Area for the 2010 SO₂ Standard. The second is the Redesignation Request for the Jackson County Nonattainment Area Under the 2010 SO₂ Standard. Jackson County is in the Kansas City area.

In regards to ozone, based on preliminary measurements in 2020 two monitors in the St. Louis area are expected to violate the 2015 ozone standard (2018-2020 data). Once certified, the data will cause the area to be bumped up from marginal to moderate nonattainment. MoDNR is currently working to determine if there were any exceptional events that can be shown to have contributed to any of the exceedances that have caused the violation.

On December 7, 2020 the EPA signed a final rule to sustain the primary and secondary PM_{2.5} standard without revision. In addition, on December 23, 2020 the EPA signed a final rule to attain the primary and secondary ozone standard without revision. These could both become the subject of future litigation. If so, it is currently difficult to estimate how EPA under the new administration will move forward.

MoDNR is currently working to develop its regional haze plan for the second ten-year planning period, 2018 – 2028. The air program identified eight facilities to analyze for potential control measures. The analysis is nearly complete and the air program is working with these facilities to confirm information and to discuss potential control options. This SIP is due in July 2021.

On January 19, 2021 the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the Affordable Clean Energy Rule back to the EPA. MoDNR has stopped working on the rule and will be awaiting further action by the EPA to address the court decision.

MoDNR recently awarded \$1.7 million in VW Trust fund to applicants to install light duty electric vehicle charging stations at nine locations around the state. Additional information is

available on the MoDNR website. An application period for the state DERA program recently closed. MoDNR is using VW funds to match the EPA grant. Awardees will be announced in the coming weeks. The department is in the process of amending their VW Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. There was a webinar and will be a survey for stakeholders to gather input on this. The amendment will be proposed in the coming months.

5. Other Business

All of the OneSTL Sustainability Labs will be taking place virtually on Zoom this year. The first lab will be an input session for participants to say what topics they would like to see in the labs this coming year. More information about OneSTL and the sustainability labs can be found at www.onestl.org

Since the United States has rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, the OneSTL Energy and Emissions Working Group is going to update the greenhouse gas reduction target that they are working on. The group will be asking for input for the baseline target in the near future. The group is also working in conjunction with Renew Missouri on their commercial solar group purchasing program. If you or anyone you know may be interested in installing solar panels on a commercial building more information can be found at www.renewmissouri.org

On January 15, 2021 there was an article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch about the pollution levels during the pandemic. The article highlights research that shows NO_x levels are improving.

Stanford and the University of California – San Diego have been looking at historical data and modeling monitoring data and satellite imagery. Their research has determined that smoke from wildfires is attributed to half of the PM_{2.5} pollution in the western U.S. states.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting will be March 30, 2021. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.