

AGENDA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING – GOTOMEETING

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- I. **Call to Order**
 - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway
 - A. Minutes of October 26, 2021 Meeting

- II. **2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report**
 - John Posey, PhD, East-West Gateway

- III. **Maintenance Plans Discussion**
 - A. Proposed Missouri Maintenance Plan for the St. Louis Nonattainment Area for the 2015 Ozone Standard
 - **Mark Leath, Missouri Department of Natural Resources**
 - B. Proposed Illinois Maintenance Plan for the Metro-East St. Louis Nonattainment Area for the 2015 ozone standard
 - **Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

- IV. **Update on Activities of the States**
 - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
 - Missouri Department of Natural Resources

- V. **Other Business**
 - Next Meeting Date is March 29, 2022

- VI. **Adjournment**

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

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

Members Present:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Betsy Tracy – Federal Highway Administration Illinois
Mark Leath – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Chris Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation
Rory Davis – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Mike Henderson – Missouri Department of Transportation
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association
Jeremy Rogus – St. Louis County

Others Present:

Francisco Cortalezzi – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Kevin Herdler – St. Louis Clean Cities
Stephen Krabbe – EPA Region 7
Stacy Allen – Ameren
Steven Donatiello – Spire
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation
Christine Favilla – Sierra Club

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, Amir Poorfakhraei, Roz Rodgers,
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 August 24, 2021 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

2. Upcoming Grant Opportunities from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Under the American Rescue Plan Act

- Stephen Krabbe, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) provides \$100 million for the EPA to address health outcome disparities from pollution and the COVID–19 pandemic with \$50 million targeted specifically to advance environmental justice and \$50 million for enhanced air quality monitoring. The \$50 million to enhance air quality monitoring is divided into the following components: Grant Competition for Community Monitoring (\$20M); Direct Awards to Air Agencies for Continuous PM_{2.5} Monitoring and Other NAAQS Pollutants (\$22.5M); Enhanced Regional Capacity for Short-term Community Monitoring Needs (\$5M); and Administrative Support (\$2.5M).

There will be a grant competition that will solicit proposals from community groups, state, local and tribal air agencies individually or in partnerships to conduct monitoring of pollutants of greatest concern in communities with health outcome disparities. The EPA’s primary objective in issuing these grants is to enable communities to monitor their own air quality and to promote monitoring partnerships between communities and state, local and/or tribal governments. One way the money can be spent is for a mobile monitoring platform. Each region could have access to a mobile monitor with more expensive sensors that can be moved to areas that communities are concerned about. They can monitor the area for a week or two and gather the data and then the equipment would be collected to be used somewhere else in the region.

For this grant competition partnerships are strongly being encouraged. Using expertise from various areas is helpful and works to bring the monitoring community together and work more directly. Regions could leverage existing air quality experts, expand community monitoring and advisory groups, and/or help to establish those in other areas.

There was an EPA hosted insight and feedback session in early August 2021 and early October about the competitive grants. It is anticipated that the request for applications will open the first week of November 2021. The specific information about who is eligible for the funding will be made available with the request for applications. The request for applications will close at the end of December, which is 60 days after it opens. Then the applications are scored, the selections will be made, and then the awards will be distributed by summer 2022. There will be no match requirements for the competitive grants.

For the \$22.5 million in direct awards to air agencies, for continuous PM_{2.5} monitoring and other NAAQS pollutants monitoring equipment, the EPA Regions will distribute funds for direct awards to State, Local or Tribal air agencies (SLTs) for communities with environmental justice concerns who face disproportionate exposure to these pollutants and health risks which are also associated with increased vulnerability to COVID-19. The SLTs will use these funds to replace existing filter-based monitors or otherwise enhance existing monitors in and near those communities. Each region is putting together proposals based on their needs, previous work, and

input from outside agencies that might want support from the EPA. For example, EPA Region 7 is working on a sensor loan program that would purchase low-cost sensors and make them available to the public. The priority for the funding is to upgrade PM_{2.5} Federal Reference Methods (FRMs) monitoring equipment to continuous Federal Equivalent Methods (FEMs) equipment. Other priorities for the funding are to upgrade other NAAQS pollutant monitoring sites, upgrade certain gas monitors and/or equipment not meeting performance goals, and invest in other PM monitoring projects.

For the direct awards the EPA is currently working with the SLTs to determine their priorities. Most of the requests that have been received focus on upgrading PM_{2.5} network equipment and equipment for monitoring other pollutants in order to have quicker access to data. The funds can be used to replace existing filters and filter-based monitors to have continuous monitoring, unless there are equipment maintenance issues. The goal is to automate the PM_{2.5} monitors. It is still being determined if new equipment will require more staff and how can work within that constraint since the direct funds are one-time awards and can't fund additional people to maintain the monitoring networks.

EPA is asking that those who are requesting the direct award funds to consider what else could be done if staffing was not an issue. It is anticipated that everyone will know more about the potential sources of funding as the process of assessing the proposals continues. It is possible that there could be some help to alleviate most of the agencies concerns about staffing.

For the direct awards there have already been an insight and feedback sessions, but comments are still being accepted. Over the fall and winter of 2021 and into 2022 the EPA Headquarters and Regions will be working together on what is thought to be the best way to allocate the money. The plan is to begin the distribution of funds in the fall of 2022. The money will be allocated to the projects that fit the highest priorities first and then move on from there.

3. Overview of the 2021 Ozone Season

- Maureen McCarthy, East-West Gateway

The ozone season will officially end on October 31st. As a reminder ozone is formed when hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides chemically react with the oxygen in the lower atmosphere. Temperatures of 85 degrees and higher help ozone formation and the level of wind can cause the ozone to remain stagnant or carry it to other areas in the region. High ozone levels affect sensitive groups like children and the elderly and can cause multiple health issues such as asthma.

The Ozone Data Sharing Project begins on March 1st each year and ends on October 31st and monitors the data from the 12-hour period from 9 am – 9 pm each day. East-West Gateway (EWG) receives the ozone data from our partners in Missouri and Illinois and acts as an initial quality assurance for the data. EWG combines the data and produces weekly and monthly reports

that are sent to our state and regional partners. In addition to those reports EWG also produces a monthly Air Quality Index (AQI) calendar. The calendar is produced using the EPA's AQI which is a color-coded scale that indicates the level of health risk associated with the different levels of air pollution.

The map below shows the current non-attainment area for the 2015 ozone standard. Due to a court decision the EPA was required to revisit the designations for Jefferson and Monroe Counties and as a result those counties are being reclassified as non-attainment.

MAP

There are ten different monitors within the non-attainment area, four in Illinois and six in Missouri. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) operates the Illinois monitors and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) operates the Missouri monitors. Due to the re-addition of Jefferson and Monroe Counties to the non-attainment area, the Arnold West monitor is once again included on the list of non-attainment area monitors. In addition to the monitors within the non-attainment area there are also the transport tracking monitors located just outside the non-attainment area that track the air entering and leaving our region.

There were 22 exceedances recorded in total for the 2021 ozone season. Those 22 exceedances occurred over twelve different days. There were twelve exceedances recorded in Missouri and ten exceedances recorded in Illinois. All ten monitors within the non-attainment area recorded exceedances this season. The running five-year average of exceedances for the St. Louis region, starting in 1999, has been on a downward trend. The three year average is also on a downward trend. The preliminary three year average design value for 2019 – 2021 is still being quality assured but is estimated to be 69 ppb.

In addition to tracking the exceedances during the ozone season EWG also keeps track of the incomplete data. Incomplete data occurs when there are four or more hours at a monitor during one 12-hour period that did not report ozone values. This may occur if there is a power outage, equipment malfunction, or maintenance. For the 2021 ozone season all of the incomplete data was due to equipment malfunctions.

All of the ozone data can be found on the EWG website. If there are any questions you can contact Maureen McCarthy at Maureen.mccarthy@ewgateway.org or Carol Lawrence at Carol.Lawrence@ewgateway.org.

4. American Fuels Report

- Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Regional Clean Cities Program

There is an electric vehicle grant program helping to fund the St. Louis Vehicle Electrification Rides for Seniors (SiLVERS). The overall goal of this program is to increase electric vehicle

(EV) adoption and reduce transportation- related expenses for social service agencies in north part of the City of St. Louis. On September 30th there was a soft opening of this project with Forth Mobility, City of St. Louis, GM, Ameren, ampUp, and a few others. The grant covers 5 Chevy Volts and installation of a level 2 charging station to be used at Northside Youth and Senior Services and City Seniors. (Chevy Volts are currently under a recall but they can still be used. The issue is that the vehicles cannot be fully charged) Community partners include the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging, North Newstead Association, Northside Youth and Senior Services Center, and St. Louis City Seniors.

The other electric grant program currently working on is called Drive Electric USA. This program is taking place in 14 states, including Missouri. The priorities of this grant program are to build a statewide branded EV program and EV initiatives. There is a plan to have consumer education and actually develop local chapters throughout the state. A goal is to educate and engage with the utilities and regulators to figure out charging infrastructure planning in corridors, urban areas and rural areas. The grant program also wants to educate local and state policymakers and officials as well as car dealers. Beyond EV education, the grant program also wants to promote the electrification of fleet vehicles.

The National Biodiesel Board conducted a trinity study across the United States to look at the health benefits and financial savings associated with the use of biodiesel (B100). B100 can achieve these benefits by reducing pollution from markets that are the hardest to decarbonize: heavy-duty transportation and residential heating. The study uses a bottom-up approach, focusing on specific population groups such as those living in crowded urban housing. More information on this study can be found on the National Biodiesel Board website. National Biodiesel will be changing their name to Clean Fuel Alliance America.

Amazon has added 18 CNG/propane regional haul trucks to the St. Louis region which fuel at the Spire station on Cypress. Each truck has a 60 diesel gallon equivalent (DGE) per day. The trucks will offset close to 400,000 gallons of diesel a year. Propane and CNG has the same MPG and does not fluctuate in price like gasoline and diesel.

5. Update on Activities of the States

- Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Since there has been good ozone data in the Metro East, Illinois EPA has been working to get a request for re-designation to attainment for the 2015 ozone standard for that area submitted to the EPA. There has also been good ozone data in the Chicago area. If everything goes well Chicago could be redesignated to attainment for the 2008 ozone standard. Most of the Illinois EPA's efforts are being directed to Chicago at the moment in order to achieve the redesignation to attainment for 2008 standard. The goal is to have everything done before the next ozone season in order to avoid any early warm days potentially causing the redesignation effort to be stopped.

- Francisco Cortalezzi, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The recent Volkswagen Trust Fund application period closed on October 12th, 2021. There were 97 applications for school buses, 37 applications for trucks, 11 applications for emergency vehicles, and ten applications for EV charging stations.

There was a Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) meeting on August 26th, 2021. There were no actions for public hearing. The actions that were voted on included the Missouri State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision for the marginal non-attainment area planned for the Missouri portion of the St. Louis non-attainment area under the 2015 ozone standard. The plan was adopted and submitted to the EPA for approval in September 2021.

At the MACC meeting on September 30th, 2021 there were several items up for public hearing. This included a rescission of 10 CSR 10-6.300 Conformity of General Federal Actions to State SIPs. The purpose of this rule making is to rescind an unnecessary regulation that duplicates federal requirements. For the October 28th, 2021 MACC meeting there will be no actions to be voted on and no items up for public hearing. The next MACC meeting will be held on December 2nd, 2021.

The EPA proposed approval of the redesignation of the Jefferson County non-attainment area to attainment for SO₂ standard in July. MoDNR is anticipating final approval in December.

It looks like the St. Louis area will attain the 2015 ozone standard based on 2019-2021 data. MoDNR is working on the maintenance plan and will submit it to the EPA as soon as possible.

MoDNR began the formal consultation with the Federal Land Managers and the EPA for the Regional Haze Rule more than two months ago. A proposed draft regional haze planning period was sent to them by MoDNR with a deadline to receive comments by September 28th, 2021. There were comments received and MoDNR is working on the responses to those comments now.

6. Other Business

- Aaron Young, East- West Gateway

The OneSTL Sustainability Lab is today, October 26, and begins at 3:30 on Zoom. BiodiverCITY St. Louis will be presenting the projects they have been working on and what they are planning to do over the next year. A link to the meeting and more information can be found on the events page of the OneSTL website.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be in January 2022. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.