



## EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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## AGENDA AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE\*

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

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**

**You can listen/talk and/or view the meeting via:**

Computer, tablet or smartphone

<https://meet.goto.com/443225773>

You can also dial in using your phone.

**United States: +1 (571) 317-3122**

Access Code: **443-225-773**

- I. **Call to Order**
  - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway
  - A. Minutes of January 25, 2022 Meeting
- II. **Building Energy Exchange St. Louis**
  - Cara Spencer, USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter
- III. **Reconsideration by EPA of Decision in December 2020 to Retain the 2012 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard and the 2015 Ozone Standard**
  - Cody Brown, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
- IV. **American Fuels Report**
  - Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Regional Clean Cities
- V. **Update on Activities of the States**
  - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
  - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- VI. **Other Business**
  - Next Meeting Date is May 24, 2022
- VII. **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 25, 2022  
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  
Catherine Werner – City of St. Louis  
Mallory Box – Citizens for Modern Transit  
Mike Henderson – Missouri Department of Transportation  
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association  
Aaron Cadman – St. Louis County, MO  
Amanda Schomaker – Madison County Transit/ RideFinders

**Others Present:**

Krishna Kunapareddy – Boonslick Regional Planning Commission  
Francisco Cortalezzi – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Mike Hutcheson – Ameren  
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation  
Christine Favilla – Sierra Club IL  
Jed Wolkins – EPA Region 7

**Staff:**

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, Lubna Shoaib, John Posey,  
Jason Lange, Rachael Pawlak, Jim Wild, 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 26, 2021 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

## 2. 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Report

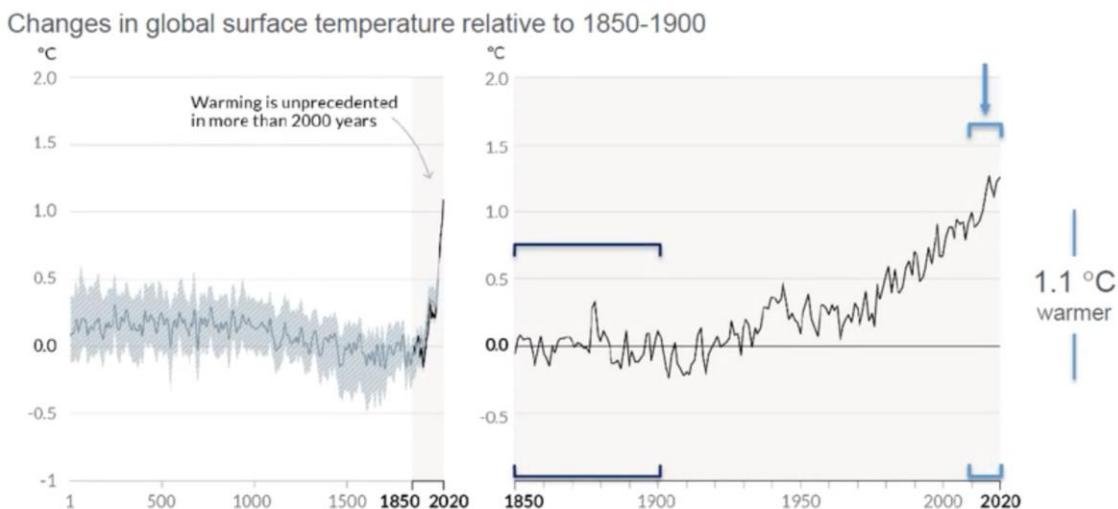
- John Posey, PhD, East-West Gateway

The IPCC is a United Nations (UN) body that was established in 1988 by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It was created to assess climate science studies and produce reports every few years. The panel has completed five assessment reports over the last 30 years and the sixth report is being released now. There are three working groups in the IPCC: Physical Science Working Group; the Impacts and Adaptation Working Group; and the Mitigation Working Group.

The sixth assessment report assessed and reviewed 14,000 scientific publications, has 234 authors from 65 countries, and received more than 78,000 review comments. The current report has just under 4,000 pages and contains a large volume of information.

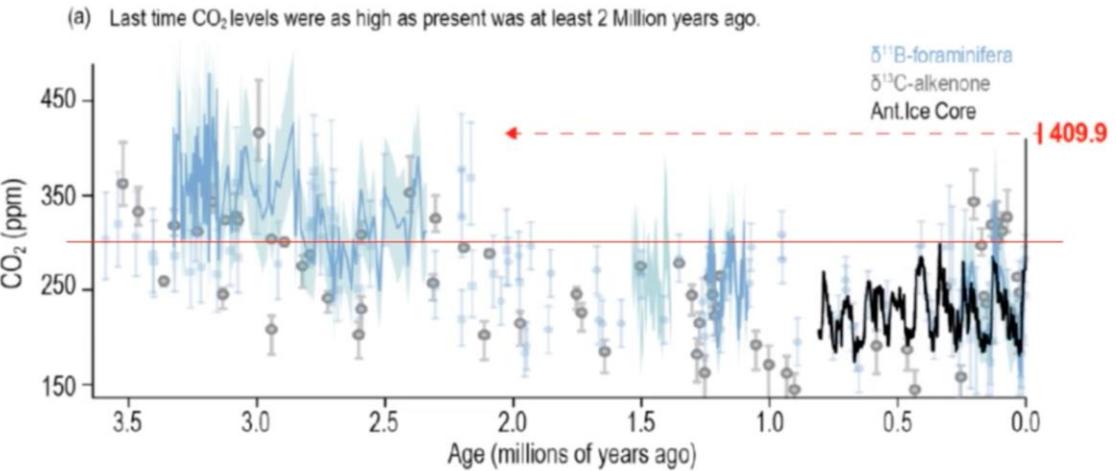
The IPCC found that human influences have warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented over the last 2,000 years. In figure 1 below the graph on the left shows the mean global temperature over the last 2,000 years. The graph on the right illustrates how the temperatures in recent decades are way outside the normal range and compared to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century global temperatures have warmed by 1.1 degrees. The report finds that the last time carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels were this high was at least two million years ago.

**Figure 1**



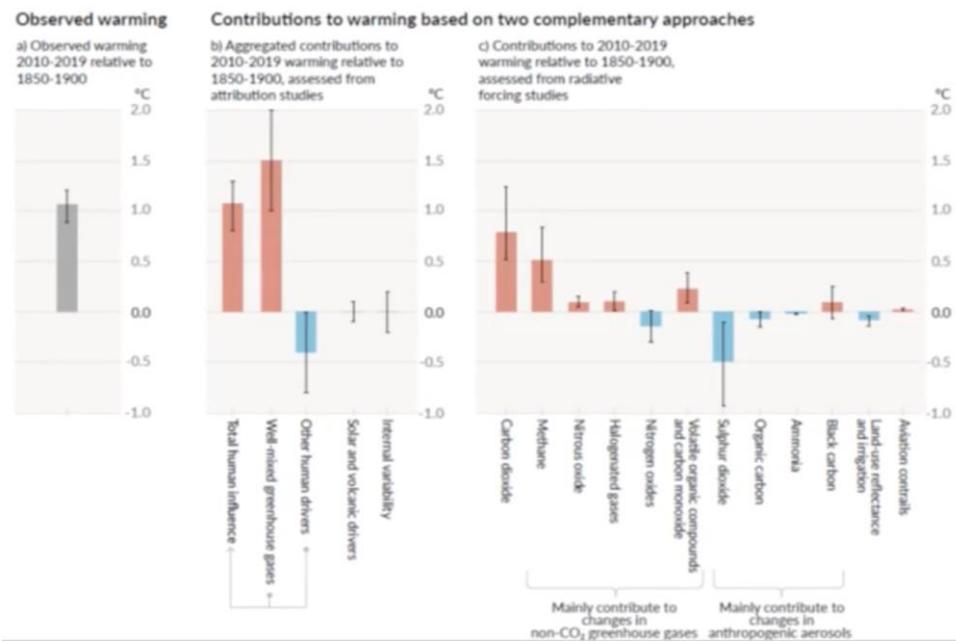
The different colors on the graph in Figure 2 below represent different datasets for the time series. It is thought that the most reliable dataset on atmospheric concentrations is usually considered the Antarctic Ice Core data, which is represented by the heavy black line on the right side of the graph. This time series goes back 800,000 years. The fine red line that goes all the way across the graph represents 300 parts per million (ppm) of CO<sub>2</sub> and it can be seen that the global concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> has never exceeded 300 ppm. The dashed red line represents the CO<sub>2</sub> level in 2019, which was outside the normal range at around 410 ppm.

**Figure 2**



One of the revised elements of this report are the refined estimates on attribution, which is an accounting exercise for how much of a change is caused by one factor and how much is caused by another set of factors. The first red bar in the middle graph in Figure 3 below shows the total human influence on global temperature. This indicates that almost all the observed warming of global temperatures is attributed to human causes. The middle red bar in the middle graph in Figure 3 shows the amount that is attributable to greenhouse gas emissions. By themselves the emissions would have been enough to increase the temperature by 1.5 degrees but a portion of that is offset by the blue bar that goes down into negative territory on the graph. The blue bar mostly represents aerosols that we put into the atmosphere. The bars on the graph on the right in Figure 3 represent other gasses that have contributed to warming. Historically CO<sub>2</sub> has been the biggest driver of change in temperatures, but methane is also significant.

**Figure 3**



One new aspect in this report is the revised and improved estimates of the carbon budget which may be slightly more optimistic than the last estimates in the fifth assessment report. The total cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1850 is estimated to be 2,390 gigatons. The IPCC estimates that if to have a 50 percent chance of remaining below two degrees of warming, would have a total budget of 1,350 more gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub>. To have a two-thirds chance of staying underneath 1.5 degrees of warming, budget would be 400 gigatons. Pathways to reaching some of these targets are going to be discussed in volume three of the report which will be released in March 2022.

Another noteworthy aspect of the sixth assessment report is the higher volume of information on regional climates. Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes. Chapter 11 of the report provides a hypothesis to explain why central North America is an exception, “Crop intensification, irrigation and no-till farming have attenuated increases in summer hot extremes in some regions, such as central North America...” and to that they have a medium level of confidence. There is more agricultural crop cover. This may be the first time that IPCC has elevated to that level of a finding, at least one with medium confidence that it is human causes driving the changes. Central North America has seen an increase in heavy precipitation and the IPCC has a medium level of confidence that humans have caused this. In the past the IPCC has been very cautious about making this claim that greenhouse gasses are causing the changes in precipitation. The reason for that caution is that the attribution studies just have not been there before. Over the last five years there have been a series of new attribution studies and those studies are now

sufficient to give the IPCC a medium level of confidence that the changes in precipitation patterns are caused by humans.

The 2021 Glasgow Summit was a meeting of an entity called the Conference of Parties (COP), which was set up by the 1990 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change treaty. The treaty established the COP to implement the goals that were agreed to and it called for an annual meeting of the parties. The Glasgow Summit is the 26<sup>th</sup> of those gatherings. Over the years there have been some blockbuster COP meetings such as the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 that produced a very ambitious plan to limit emissions. The Kyoto plan would have imposed emissions targets on every country in the world but many countries, including the United States, never ratified it. Within ten years the Kyoto Protocol was widely regarded as a failure. The COP Paris Accord of 2015 introduced a new paradigm which is a bottom-up approach where each country is supposed to make nationally determined contributions, or commitments, to reduce emissions.

The United States returned to the 26<sup>th</sup> COP in Glasgow and brought with it some commitments that it had made earlier in the year. One commitment is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and another is to achieve carbon-free electricity by 2035. This meeting also saw a push to insert language about phasing out coal power, however India and China intervened. Language turned into phasing down reliance on coal instead of phasing out coal completely. The United States led the formation of the global methane reduction coalition which includes over 100 countries including China. China made a surprise announcement that they will co-operate to achieve the 1.5 degree goal.

Currently there are teams of authors working to produce the fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA) and are also conducting engagement workshops. There are upcoming sessions on transportation, mitigation, water, health, and other topics that may be interesting to sit in on. Dr. Posey was on the author team for the mid-west chapter of the fourth assessment and attested that he used a lot of the input that came out of those engagement sessions.

### **3. 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**

Based on the three year running average of 2019 to 2021 monitoring data all of the monitors located in the St. Louis nonattainment area, both for Missouri and Illinois, are in compliance with the 2015 ozone standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb). On January 21<sup>st</sup> the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) sent their early data certification letter to the EPA to certify all of the ozone monitoring data on the Missouri side for St. Louis. On December 21, 2021 MoDNR posted their maintenance plan and redesignation to attainment

request for the Missouri side of the nonattainment area. That request is currently out on public notice through February 3 and is open for review and comments. There will be a public hearing at the Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) meeting in Jefferson City on January 27<sup>th</sup> for those two items. The current plan is to propose the MACC adopt them on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Maintenance Plan looks out ten years and shows how the area will stay in compliance with the 2015 ozone standard after the redesignation to attainment takes place. The Redesignation Request is a technical document showing that Missouri has met all of the statutory requirements for redesignation. The Missouri side of the nonattainment area removed the reliance on the Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program. There is also a proposed motor vehicle emission budget for the year 2019 in 2035.

MoDNR expects to submit the redesignation request and maintenance plan to EPA in early April 2022 once the MACC adopts them. The EPA is still planning to propose a reclassification (bump-up) from marginal to moderate nonattainment, however, if the documents are submitted and acted upon before the date that redesignation would become effective then the nonattainment area would be reclassified to attainment.

B. Proposed Illinois Maintenance Plan for the Metro-East St. Louis Nonattainment area for the 2015 Ozone Standard

- **Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**

Much of what is happening on the Missouri side is happening on the Illinois side of the nonattainment area. The potential bump up from marginal to moderate would trigger moderate elements that would be required in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Those elements would not be required until fall or winter 2022. So if the redesignation to attainment happens before those requirements actually take effect, then the area is just redesignated to attainment.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is working to complete their documents now and they will soon be put up for public comment. The focus at the moment is to get the Chicago area redesignation to attainment for the 2008 ozone standard signed off on so it can be submitted to the US EPA later this week. If the Chicago area is not redesignated it will be bumped up from moderate to severe nonattainment status with additional requirements. Once Chicago is taken care of, the focus will turn to the St. Louis region. IEPA will not be separating the redesignation request and maintenance plan and will be submitting them as one package. It is not definitive if there will be a public hearing.

Just like if the Missouri portion is redesignated to moderate, if the Metro-East portion of St. Louis is bumped up re the additional moderate requirements will not take effect until later in the year. The goal is to have the request and maintenance plan up for public notice in early

February. Information about documents being put out on public notice will be posted on the IEPA website.

#### **4. Update on Activities of the States**

- Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois is focused on finishing work on the Maintenance Plans and Redesignation Requests for the Chicago area and the Metro East area. Illinois EPA is working on an update to their Regional Haze SIP and their start up, shut down and malfunction rule.

Pointed out that EPA has begun the process to reconsider the 2015 ozone standard and if there needs to be changes. Ms. Lawrence, EWG, said that this item will be discussed at the March AQAC meeting.

- Francisco Cortalezzi, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The 2021 application period for the Volkswagen Trust Fund closed last fall. There are projects in the different subcategories underway. It is typically in late summer when there is a call for projects that older motor vehicles and engines can be replaced and taken off the road in order to meet the latest emissions standards. MoDNR has begun meeting with the Volkswagen electric vehicle charging stations working group to set up priorities for the upcoming application period in 2022. The main goal is to help to remove the barrier to greater electric vehicle adoption. More information about application periods and project categories can be found on the Volkswagen Trust page of the MoDNR website.

At the MACC meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> there will be several more items up for public hearing. One is a construction permits rule amendment to be consistent with federal requirements. The amendment allows for waste pharmaceuticals to be disposed of by certain incinerators. There will be two rule makings and a non-regulatory plan for controlling methane emissions from municipal solid waste landfills. There will also be hearing on a voluntary consent agreement with Ameren that is being proposed to be put in the sulfur dioxide SIP for the Ameren facility located in St. Charles County. In addition to the ozone redesignation request and maintenance plan there will be two items up for adoption. The first is an amendment to the consent agreement update for a facility located near Kansas City and the other is an amendment to the vehicle emission inspection rule. The purpose of the amendment is to exempt vehicles that are registered in Franklin County from the Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program (GVIP) starting in July of 2022.

A bill regarding which counties would be part of the GVIP was pre-filed for the 2022 legislative session.

**5. Other Business**

In the Mero East the Illinois EPA awarded grants to the Triad, Edwardsville and Collinsville school districts to purchase a total of five all-electric school buses and charging infrastructure. The grants are funded by VW settlement dollars through the Driving Cleaner Illinois Program. Similar grants were awarded to eight school districts in the Chicago area (12 all-electric buses).

**6. Adjournment**

The next virtual meeting will be on March 29, 2022. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.