



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

**AGENDA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*
TUESDAY, May 24, 2022
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
East-West Gateway Board Room and Virtual**

The East-West Gateway Offices are now open to the public. You are welcome to attend this meeting in person or virtually on the GoToMeeting platform.

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I. Call to Order

- Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
A. Minutes of March 29, 2022 Meeting

II. Metropolitan Congregations United Community Air Project

- Beth Gutzler, Metropolitan Congregations United

III. Connected2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Update on Community Engagement Activities

- James Fister, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

IV. Report on the World Health Organization 2021 Air Quality Guidelines and 2022 Ambient Air Quality Database

- East-West Gateway Council of Governments

V. Update Activities of the States

- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

VI. Other Business

Next meeting will be on June 28, 2022

VII. Adjournment

*Please note that this meeting will serve as a part of the Inter-Agency Consultation Process as detailed in the Missouri Transportation Conformity SIP.

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MINUTES
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 29, 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
Catherine Werner – City of St. Louis
Mike Henderson – Missouri Department of Transportation
Amanda Schomaker – Madison County Transit/ RideFinders
David Bloomberg – Illinois EPA
Mike Foley – Citizens for Modern Transit
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation

Others Present:

Kevin Herdler – St. Louis Regional Clean Cities
Cara Spencer – USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter, Building Energy Exchange St. Louis
Stephanie Doolan – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Cody Brown – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Roger Walker – RegForm
Krishna Kunapareddy – Boonslick Regional Planning Commission
Francisco Cortalezzi – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Stacy Allen - Ameren
Jed Wolkins – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Emily Fortier

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, 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 January 25, 2022 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

2. Building Energy Exchange St. Louis

- Cara Spencer, USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter

The mission of the Building Energy Exchange St. Louis (BE-Ex STL) is to advance building energy performance by mobilizing professional expertise, funding, and technical resources the real estate industry needs to address affordability, improve health and comfort of residents, and position St. Louis as a resilient and carbon neutral region. Buildings are the focus because they have an enormous impact on the environment. According to the national average our buildings account for 12% of our water use, 39% of our CO two emissions, 65% of waste output, and 71% of electricity consumption. St. Louis buildings have an even bigger impact since they account for 80% of our greenhouse gas emissions. In 2018 the St. Louis community was responsible for 6.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. The Building Energy Exchange is housed at the USGBC Missouri Gateway Chapter.

The city has taken very concrete steps to improve building performance through significant legislative action. In 2017, the City passed a benchmarking ordinance that requires buildings 50,000 square feet and larger submit their energy consumption to the city of St. Louis through the building division. Following that in 2020, the city passed the Building Energy Performance Standards, which puts a cap on the amount of energy that a building can consume per square foot. Earlier this year Kansas City and St. Louis were named to the National Building Performance Standards Coalition. The Coalition is an administration initiative to support the passage of local building energy performance standards in order to cap energy consumption per the square footage of a building. Implementing benchmarks at the local level is just the first step in getting those building energy performance standards in place.

In 2017 and 2018 the majority of the 983 buildings in the City complied with the benchmarking requirement and submitted their energy consumption to the City's Building Division. Over 500 buildings submitted usable data for both 2017 and 2018 and there were 44 different property types. As part of the legislative process the target energy consumption was set so that 65% of all buildings would have to take action to reduce their energy consumption.

St. Louis is utilizing the low goal data because St. Louis buildings tend to be less energy efficient than the national average. Energy usage varies by building type so it is important to look at them by type and square footage instead of lumping them together in fewer categories. The city is looking at the efficiency effort to make sure it is being implemented in a way that is feasible for properties.

There are four main compliance paths for Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS): performance, early adopters, narrow the gap alternative compliance, and custom alternative compliance. The performance path requires that a building's Energy Use Intensity (EUI) be equal to or lower than the EUI standard for its property type. The early adopters path incentivizes building owners to invest in deeper energy retrofits in two different ways. The narrow the gap alternative compliance path requires that for each cycle a property comply by reducing its EUI

by 50% of the difference between its 2018 property baseline EUI performance and the EUI standard for its property type and to submit required documentation. The final path of custom alternative compliance requires that if a property has any unique characteristics or situations that prevent it, within reason, from meeting any other compliance pathways, the owner can apply to use a Custom Alternative Compliance Path. Compliance is achieved through application approval by the Building Division, which becomes a binding agreement between the City and owner. The Custom Alternative Compliance path is for unique situations and for people that are going to have a hard time attaining compliance.

The City is trying to put St. Louis on a sustainable path in a way that works for everyone. This is where the Building Energy Exchange St. Louis (BE-Ex STL) comes in. BE-Ex STL grew out of work that the City of St. Louis was doing on energy efficiency, benchmarking, and building performance standards. The initial focus of the energy exchange was compliance with the City's BEPS. BE-Ex STL started within the USGBC with funding from key partners such as Ameren, Spire, Washington University, and others to put together a hub of resources for the real estate community. The exchange wants to connect property owners to the resources and financial assistance needed to make the investments in their properties.

BE-Ex STL launched last week alongside their sister organization, the Building Energy Exchange – Kansas City. BE-Ex STL is loosely modeling itself after the energy exchange in New York and a similar organization in Washington D.C. BE-Ex STL is trying to take the best practices nationally and bring them here to St. Louis and localize them to this market.

BE-Ex STL is a regional asset and resource. The Exchange is going to start with: the buildings in the City and County that are 50,000 sq. ft. and larger that have to comply with the BEPS, underserved sectors in both the City and the County, and public housing authorities and HUD properties. BE-Ex STL will partner with organizations to build the market for energy efficiency and will not compete with local professionals, vendors, and service providers. The purpose of the exchange is to be a trusted sources of information and to make connections to help build the energy efficiency industry.

Improving ventilation has been identified as a key aspect of reducing the risk of COVID and other illnesses. The Biden Administration just launched the Clean Air in Buildings Challenge in March 2022 that encourages increasing the ventilation of outdoor air inside buildings. This reduces the energy efficiency of buildings and will make it challenging for some to meet BEPS targets. This and other challenges are areas that BE-Ex STL is going to be working with partners on in order to meet the standards. Early communication with the Building Division is going to be key for making sure that when a buildings energy efficiency is reduced that it can still be put on a path to comply with the energy standards. The City of St. Louis is going to be issuing letters to property owners at the end of March to make them aware of the energy efficiency regulations. Property owners will eventually be given questionnaires to help BE-Ex STL quickly and inexpensively identify buildings that can more easily be adapted for energy efficiency.

BE-Ex STL is looking for advisors, board members, and people who want to get involved. Increasing energy efficiency in our buildings is one of the most effective ways a community can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and it is a vital step for St. Louis to become a more sustainable and healthier community.

3. Reconsideration by EPA of Decision in December 2020 to Retain the 2012 PM_{2.5} Standard and the 2015 Ozone Standard

- Cody Brown, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

Reviewing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) is a lengthy process with several long steps. The EPA is to review the NAAQS criteria pollutants every five years which is governed under sections 108 and 109 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). There are five phases in this process: planning, integrated sciences, risk exposure assessment, policy assessment, and the final rule making. The planning phase is where the process begins with a science policy workshop that brings the science community and the public together to look at the relevant issues and questions. Planning involves preparing an Integrated Review Plan (IRP) which provides a schedule to the process and lays out the steps. The integrated science phase is where the key science judgements/studies are reviewed and it is decided what will be done for the risk exposure assessment. The risk exposure assessment phase is where the quantitative characteristics of the exposure to a pollutant and ways to reduce risks to humans and the environment are developed. The policy assessment phase is when the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and EPA staff examine all of the options and then present those options to the Administrator. The final rule making phase is when a final decision is made after reviewing public comments and having a public hearing on the proposed action.

For the last PM_{2.5} NAAQS assessment there were about 1,800 documents reviewed and more than 60,000 comments from agencies and the public. In December of 2020 the EPA made the decision to retain the PM_{2.5} NAAQS at 12 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³). EPA decided in 2021 that the PM_{2.5} standard would be reconsidered. It is not clear where EPA is in the review process about that, but its recommendation will eventually be put out for public comment. If the PM_{2.5} standard is lowered to 9 or 8 ug/m³ there will be several areas in EPA Region 7 that will then be out of attainment. If the standard was lowered from 12 to 10 ug/m³ instead, there would be very few, if any, areas out of attainment. When going through the process of reexamining the PM_{2.5} standard, it may be possible for the EPA to review work that was done for the 2020 proposal process instead of starting from scratch. At the moment there is not any information about the review of the ozone standard.

When a standard is lowered, typically the old standard will stay in place for the maintenance areas that are required to continue with their maintenance plans. Sometimes the old standard gets revoked for conformity purposes but it is a process that can take years. If the PM_{2.5} standard is lowered, the EPA will set the NAAQS and within one year the states would submit designation recommendations to EPA. The three types of designations are non-attainment, attainment, and

unclassifiable. EPA will then review the recommendations and finalize the designations and then the states would have to begin to develop new SIPs.

4. American Fuels Report

- Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Regional Clean Cities

Mr. Herdler announced that Steve Nagle passed away last Wednesday. Steve had been Community Planning Director at Gateway and was an advocate for Clean Cities and many other environmental issues.

The St. Louis Vehicle Electrification Rides for Seniors (SiLVERS) program with Northside Youth and Senior Services is using five Chevy Volts to deliver food and transport people.

The next project Clean Cities is doing is a rideshare program that has already been approved for St. Louis. This program will make available up to seven electric vehicles (EVs) for ridesharing in our communities. For now there is not any other information about the program.

Clean Cities was at Kiener Plaza yesterday to help kick off the STL Downtown Mobility Link. This is a one year City of St. Louis project utilizing Polaris EVs as shuttles for people in the downtown area and north St. Louis. It is building upon a 2018 project which ran for five months with over 14,000 riders.

Drive EV Missouri, a program for educating people about EVs, is doing very well. So far there have been 475 test drives and from that there have been about 15 sales as a result. Clean Cities will be at Earth Day365 this year and will have EVs there.

The U.S. Departments of Energy and Transportation have released Round 6 of the alternative fuel corridor regulations. There have been some changes in this round. If DC fast charging is to be installed it has to be within a mile of the interstate and be 600 kW. This might be too high of a requirement this early in the program and may be too expensive for some thus hindering the number of project applications that are submitted. It was acknowledged that propane and natural gas may be good fuel sources to reduce carbon production.

5. Update on Activities of the States

- Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Action on the Alton Township SO₂ non-attainment area redesignation is expected to move forward and be approved by EPA Region 5. EPA is still reviewing the aerospace coating regulation that was submitted as a SIP revision.

Illinois EPA is continuing to work on the Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Metro East for the 2015 Ozone Standard. Illinois EPA has sent their transportation budgets and have shared that information with Lubna Shoaib at East-West Gateway for the transportation

modeling. Illinois will also share the budgets with the members of the Inter Agency Consultation Group and then make it available for public comment.

It was announced that David Bloomberg will be retiring in two months. Rory Davis will be taking David's place from then on.

- Francisco Cortalezzi, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The Charge Point EV charging station in Springfield, MO which was funded through the Volkswagen Trust Program is now up and running. It has utilized the last of the funds for all of the Volkswagen Trust projects with the exception of the EV program and DERA match. DERA will continue to have yearly funding opportunities, but the information for the 2022 program is not yet available. There will be a late summer or early fall application period.

The next Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) meeting will be held on March 31, 2022. There will be a public hearing on an amendment to 10 CSR 10-6.210 concerning procedures and conditions for handling confidential information. The amendment would remove specific emissions data elements that contain confidential business information. Items up for adoption include: an amendment to 10 CSR 10-5.490 which is related to new thresholds for compliance schedules for municipal solid waste landfills; an amendment to 10 CSR 10-6.310 which is related to the restriction of emissions from solid waste landfills; revisions to the Section 111(d) of the Missouri State Implementation Plan for existing municipal solid waste landfills and non-regulatory elements of the Clean Air Act; and the Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the St. Louis non-attainment area for the 2015 Ozone Standard. An order of rulemaking has been filed with the Secretary of State in relation to the Inspection and Maintenance Program (I/M). The exemption of vehicles registered in Franklin County from the I/M program will start July 1st, 2022.

In February EPA disapproved Missouri's Good Neighbor SIP addressing interstate pollution transport for the 2015 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. Missouri is preparing comments on this action.

The Missouri Regional Haze Plan for the second planning period has been posted for public review and the comment period begins on March 28th and ends on May 5th. The MACC will hold a public hearing for this plan at their April 28th meeting.

6. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on May 24th, 2022. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.