



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY**  
**Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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**AGENDA**  
**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE\***  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024**  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
In Person at East-West Gateway and Virtual

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
<https://meet.goto.com/517955069>

**Access Code:** 517-955-069

**United States:** [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+12245013412)

- I. Call to Order**
  - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
  - A. Minutes of the January 30, 2024 Meeting
- II. 2024 PM National Ambient Air Quality Standards Revision and Next Steps**
  - Ashley Keas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
- III. Air Watch St. Louis Update**
  - Beth Gutzler, Metropolitan Congregations United
- IV. The City Tree Farm**
  - Rebecca Hankins, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri
- V. American Fuels Report**
  - Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Clean Cities
- VI. Update Activities of the States**
  - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
  - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- VII. Other Business & Adjournment**
  - Next meeting will be on May 28, 2024

\* 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, January 30, 2024  
10:00 am – 11:30 am  
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING

Members Present:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments  
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation  
Aaron Cadman – St. Louis County Department of Health  
Betsy Tracy – FHWA, Illinois  
Dan Weitkamp – FHWA, Missouri  
Nicole Weidenbenner – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Cristopher Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation  
Rory Davis – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Others Present:

Stacy Allen - Ameren  
Jason Heitman – Environmental Protection Agency Region 7  
Stephanie Doolan – Environmental Protection Agency  
Cecelie Cochran – Federal Highway Administration Missouri  
Emily Fortier – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Travis Wood – Citizens for Modern Transit  
Teresa Lee – Boonslick Regional Planning Commission  
Christine Favilla – Sierra Club  
Alicia Daniels – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Guosen Chen – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, Anna Chott, John Posey, 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 24, 2023 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

## **2. The Fifth National Climate Assessment**

- John Posey, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The National Climate Assessment is a congressionally mandated element of the 1990 Global Change Research Act. It integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings from the U.S. Global Change Research Program participating agencies and other contributors and analyzes the effects of climate on the natural environment, energy, land and water resources, transportation, human health, social systems, and biological diversity in the U.S. The assessment analyzes the current trends in global human-induced and natural climate change and projects major trends. The Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) consists of 32 chapters produced by more than 750 authors, editors, and contributors. Over 7,000 people attended the 34 workshops on the assessment, and over 900 comments were received. The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine coordinated the assessment review. New features in the NCA5 include improved attribution, which is estimating the relative contributions of different factors on climate change, the incorporation of indigenous knowledge, a focus on environmental justice and how changes are impacting certain populations and improved data visualization

Chapter 14 of the NCA5 focuses on air quality, and there are several key takeaways. The first is that climate change will hamper efforts to improve U.S. air quality. Climate change is projected to worsen air quality in much of the U.S., thereby harming human health and increasing premature death. Extreme heat events, which lead to higher concentrations of air pollution, are projected to increase in severity and frequency. Reducing air pollution concentrations will unequivocally help protect human health in a changing climate.

The second key message is that the increasing wildfire smoke is harming human health and catalyzing new protection strategies. Wildfires emit gases and fine particles that are harmful to human health, contributing to premature mortality, asthma, and other health problems. Climate change is contributing to increases in the frequency and severity of wildfires, thereby worsening air quality in many regions of the contiguous U.S. and Alaska. Although large challenges remain, new communication and mitigation measures are reducing a portion of the dangers of wildfire smoke.

The third key message from the air quality chapter is that air pollution is often worse in communities of color and low-income communities. Communities of color, people with low socioeconomic status, and other marginalized populations are disproportionately harmed by poor air quality. In the coming decades, these same communities, on average, will face worsened cumulative air pollution burdens from climate change-driven hazards. Decision-

making focused on the fair distribution of air quality improvements rather than on overall emissions reductions alone is critical for reducing air pollution inequities.

The fourth key message is that climate change is worsening pollen exposures and adversely impacting health. Increased allergen exposure damages the health of people who suffer from allergies, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Human-caused climate change has already caused some regions to experience longer pollen seasons and higher pollen concentrations, and these trends are expected to continue as climate changes. Increasing access to allergists, improved diagnosis and disease management, and allergy early warning systems may counteract the health impacts of increasing pollen exposure.

The last key message is that policies can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality simultaneously. Substantial reductions in economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions would result in improved air quality and significant public health benefits. For many actions, these benefits exceed the cost of greenhouse gas emission controls. Through coordinated actions emphasizing reduced fossil fuel use, improved energy efficiency, and reductions in short-lived climate pollutants, the U.S. has an opportunity to greatly improve air quality while substantially reducing its climate impact, approaching net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Fifth National Climate Assessment can be found at <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>

### **3. St. Louis Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP) Project**

- Tracey Casburn, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

This project was conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in response to numerous odor complaints within the City of St. Louis received from June 2021 to July 2022. The areas where the complaints came from are considered communities whose health and the environment may be disproportionately impacted. The complaints were not limited to any time of year or day, and most of the complaints were directed at a particular facility, but not all of them. The complaints were not detailed in the description of the odor but were consistent in that there was a strong odor. The State of Missouri does have odor control regulatory authority. EPA Region 7 performed sampling and selected site visits in 2022 and 2023. The data collected by the EPA can be used for screening purposes only and does not indicate a violation of a permit, operating standard, National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), or related to a risk-based health standard. The EPA hosted a meeting on October 25, 2023, to update the community on its efforts and to discuss next steps. EPA has completed the fieldwork portion of its investigation, but it cannot discuss potential or ongoing enforcement actions.

The EPA regulates the Clean Air Act (CAA), which is the federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources to protect human health and the environment. The EPA

does not regulate odors. Sources of air pollution can include factories, refineries, boilers, power plants, dry cleaners, gas stations, and many more. The CAA directs the EPA to control these emissions by developing and implementing standards and guidelines. The EPA currently has over 300 regulations that apply to stationary sources to address pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, and hazardous air pollutants.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) has odor regulations called the Restriction of Emission of Odors (10 CSR 10-6.165). It states that “No person may cause, permit, or allow the emission of odorous matter in concentrations and frequencies or for durations that odor can be perceived when one volume of odorous air is diluted with seven volumes of odor-free air for two separate trials not less than fifteen minutes apart within the period of one hour. This odor evaluation shall be taken at a location outside of the installation’s property boundary.”

The Geospatial Measurement of Air Pollution (GMAP) is EPA’s National Enforcement Investigations Center’s mobile air monitoring vehicle. It is equipped with analyzers for methane, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX); total volatile organic compounds (VOCs); plus meteorological and GPS equipment. The GMAP allows for real-time monitoring and mapping of pollutants while the vehicle is in motion or stationary. The real-time data allows us to screen for “hot spots” and helps identify locations that need further investigation.

In the Missouri portion of the St. Louis area, the project team observed 44 facilities in total, and the observations were facility perimeter evaluations. There were nighttime operations as the GMAP vehicle was parked overnight at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ station in the City of St. Louis. All of the inspections related to the GMAP project were completed by September 30, 2023. Now, an EPA Case Review Officer will review each of the 15 site visit reports and determine if violations were found. If violations are found, the EPA will work with the facility to ensure compliance and may assess a penalty. EPA will continue to coordinate with MoDNR, and input from the community will continue to be sought. EPA Region 7 has committed to meeting and engaging with the community. They are also going to engage with EPA Region 5 and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency about the findings of this project.

To assist with this issue, people are advised to notify the EPA or MoDNR of odors at their respective websites. When reporting odors, it is important to provide a description of the smell, report the length of time and specific dates/ times when the odor occurred, provide the intensity of the odor, and list the address or area where the odor was experienced.

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

- Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has submitted its Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for public notice. It will soon be up for public hearing and then be submitted to the U.S. EPA.

IEPA is still waiting on additional modeling to complete the attainment demonstration for the moderate ozone nonattainment areas in the Chicago area and southwestern Illinois. The attainment demonstrations will not be fully approved until nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) rules are adopted for the Metro East St. Louis and Chicago area SIPs. Within the next week or two, IEPA plans to release the proposed revisions to the NO<sub>x</sub> RACT rules for comment to industry and environmental groups.

- Nicole Weidenbenner, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

The last Missouri Air Conservation Commission meeting was on January 25, 2024. The Commission adopted an amendment to Missouri State Rule 10 CSR 10-6.020 Definitions and Common Reference Tables. It is estimated that the amendment will go into effect on May 30, 2024. The quarterly Gateway Vehicle Inspection Program (GVIP) report was given. There are approximately 744 active inspection stations with an initial OBD pass/fail rate of 98 percent, which is in line with the SIP submitted for the ozone plan. MoDNR conducted 134 overt audits and 635 covert audits. The complete report is available on the Commission's website.

For exceptional events for the 2023 ozone season, MoDNR is working to present an exceptional event demonstration for ozone exceedances in the St. Louis area. MoDNR is also continuing to monitor the impacts of the 2023 ozone season.

The Commission gave approval to begin rule-making on the asbestos fees rule. There is a meeting on February 8, 2024, to discuss emissions and permit fees, and a stakeholder agreement is needed by early March. The goal is to propose a fee structure and obtain Commission approval at their next meeting on March 28, 2024.

On January 18, 2024, the State filed a reply brief with the Eighth Circuit Court on the legal challenges to EPA setting a Federal Implementation Plan for the ozone transport rule (Good Neighbor SIP mitigating interstate air pollution) for Missouri. The order is stayed until the court makes a decision. The next step, in this case, is oral arguments.

For the revision to PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS, the EPA met with the White House Office of Management and Budget on January 4, 2024. The final rule has not been published yet, but that could happen any day.

The EPA recently proposed a rule establishing a waste emissions charge for the petroleum and natural gas industry. That public comment period closes on March 11, 2024. As a part of the final rule for oil and gas, the EPA established the Super Emitter Program, and the dedicated website for that program is now live.

MoDNR has posted Missouri's Plan for Environmental Improvement Grants for public notice. There was a public meeting on January 25, 2024, to present the plan to the public. Comments on the plan will be accepted until February 7, 2024. The plan is due to the EPA by March 1, 2024. After that, MoDNR will focus on applying for the competitive implementation grants due to EPA by April 1, 2024.

## **5. Other Business**

This afternoon, there will be a OneSTL Sustainability Lab. There will be a roundtable discussion on growing the green workforce in the region.

East-West Gateway is working to complete the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area Priority Climate Plan, one element of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

## **6. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on March 26, 2024. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.