



**EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments**

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

Chair
Tishaura Jones
Mayor
City of St. Louis

Vice Chair
Kurt Prenzler
Chairman
Madison County Board

2nd Vice Chair
Tim Brinker
Presiding Commissioner
Franklin County

Executive Committee
Steve Ehlmann
County Executive, St. Charles County
Dennis Gannon
County Executive, Jefferson County
George Green
County Board Chairman
Monroe County
Mark A. Kern
Chairman, St. Clair County Board
Dr. Sam Page
County Executive, St. Louis County

Members
Mike Elam
Councilman, District 3
St. Charles County
Megan Green
President, Board of Aldermen
City of St. Louis
Michelle Harris
President
Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

Ella Jones
Mayor, City of Ferguson
St. Louis County
Lonnie Mosley
St. Clair County
Steven M. Pelton
Sheriff, Franklin County
Charles Powell III
Mayor, City of East St. Louis
Herb Roach
Vice President, Southwestern Illinois
Council of Mayors

David Schwind
Madison County
Herbert Simmons
President, Southwestern Illinois
Metropolitan & Regional
Planning Commission
Seth Speiser
President, Southwestern Illinois
Council of Mayors
Donald R. Summers, Jr.
St. Louis County

Regional Citizens
Barbara Geisman
C. William Grogan
John A. Laker
Ron Williams

Non-voting Members
Holly Bieneman
Illinois Department of Transportation
Vacant
Illinois Department of Commerce
and Economic Opportunity
Patrick McKenna
Missouri Department of Transportation
Taulby Roach
Bi-State Development
Aaron Willard
Missouri Office of Administration
Executive Director
James M. Wild

AGENDA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 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/293723925>

Access Code: 293-723-925

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 March 26, 2024 Meeting
- II. City of St. Louis Air Pollution Control Program Activities**
 - Mary Foshage, City of St. Louis
- III. American Lung Association’s State of the Air Report**
 - Susannah Fuchs, American Lung Association
- IV. PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standard Designation Process in Missouri and Illinois**
 - Alicia Daniels, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
 - Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- V. Update on Activities of the States**
 - Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
 - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- VI. Other Business & Adjournment**
 - Next meeting will be on June 25, 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.

Gateway Tower
One Memorial Drive, Suite 1600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2451

314-421-4220
618-274-2750
Fax 314-231-6120

webmaster@ewgateway.org
www.ewgateway.org

MINUTES
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 26, 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
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association
Nicole Weidenbenner – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Cecelie Cochran – Federal Highway Administration Missouri
Michael Henderson – Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Others Present:

Stacy Allen - Ameren
Jason Heitman – Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Travis Wood – Citizens for Modern Transit
Teresa Lee – BRPC (Boonslick)
Christopher Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation
Thomas Caldwell – Illinois Department of Transportation
Rebecca Hankins – Forest ReLeaf
Ashley Keas – Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Kevin Herdler – St. Louis Clean Cities
Kamden Maas – BayoTech
Tyler Cargill – Washington University
Doris McCarter – Metropolitan Congregations United
Beth Gutzler – Metropolitan Congregations United

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Aaron Young, Jennifer Vuitel, Anna Chott, Lee Harris, Maureen McCarthy, Quintin Sargent

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 30, 2024 AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

2. The 2024 PM National Ambient Air Quality Standards Revision and Next Steps

- Ashley Keas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) means particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. Fine particles pose serious health concerns due to their ability to travel far into the respiratory system. PM_{2.5} can be emitted directly or can be formed secondarily (via chemical reactions) in the atmosphere from precursor pollutants. EPA reconsidered the 2020 decision to retain the PM NAAQS, which was last strengthened in 2012 because the available scientific evidence and technical information indicate that the current standards may not be adequate to protect public health and welfare, as required by the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CAA bars EPA from considering cost or attainability in setting a National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

On February 7, 2024, the EPA announced a final rule to revise the primary (health-based) annual PM_{2.5} standard from 12 µg/m³ to 9 µg/m³. The stronger PM NAAQS will advance environmental justice by leading to a reduction in particle pollution in vulnerable or overburdened communities. The EPA retained the 24-hour primary and secondary (welfare-based) PM_{2.5} standards, secondary annual PM_{2.5}, and primary and secondary PM₁₀ (coarse) standards. The EPA also revised other key aspects related to the PM NAAQS, including revisions to the Air Quality Index (AQI) and monitoring requirements for the PM NAAQS (such as network design criteria to consider environmental justice). The final rule was published on March 6, 2024, with an effective date of May 6, 2024.

To implement the standard, states and tribes, where appropriate, are required to reduce harmful pollution to meet the standards. The Clean Air Act specifies that cost, technical feasibility, and the time needed to meet the standards are all factors that should be taken into account in this phase. State and federal programs have a proven record of improving air quality while the economy grows. EPA will use long-standing provisions in the law to work with state, tribal, and local partners to make sure any revised standards are implemented in a flexible and cost-effective way.

The AQI is EPA's color-coded tool used by state and local governments to help inform the public about current and daily air quality and recommends steps that individuals can take to reduce their exposure to air pollution. The AQI converts PM_{2.5} concentrations to a number on a scale from 0 to 500. The EPA is updating some of the breakpoints to reflect the change to the annual standard and the newest scientific information. AQI revisions are effective May 6, 2024

To enhance protection of air quality in communities subject to disproportionate air pollution risk, EPA is modifying the PM_{2.5} monitoring network design criteria to include an environmental justice factor. This factor will account for proximity of populations at increased risk of PM_{2.5}-related health effects to air pollution sources of concern.

Specifically, for areas with additional required State or Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS), a monitoring station is to be sited in an at-risk community where there are anticipated effects from sources in the area (for example: a major port, rail yard, airport, or industrial area). The network design change does not add a requirement for new monitors; rather, it utilizes existing sites and ensures at-risk communities are considered if sites need to move.

Stationary source permit requirements to prevent Significant Deterioration (PSD) apply with respect to a new standard in all areas of the U.S. upon the effective date of the revised standard, which is May 6, 2024.

When the EPA establishes a new or revised NAAQS, the CAA requires the EPA to designate all areas of the country, including Indian Country, as to whether the areas are in attainment, nonattainment, or unclassifiable. CAA section 107(d) governs the initial area designations, identifies and defines the designations categories, provides the process and schedules, and establishes roles for the EPA and states. The EPA generally follows the same process and schedule for Tribes pursuant to CAA section 301(d) Tribal Authority and the Tribal Authority Rule (TAR). States are to make recommendations on area designations and boundaries and submit them in one year (e.g., February 2025, likely based on 2021-2023 monitoring data). A nonattainment area is one that does not meet, or that contributes to a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. An attainment area is one that meets the NAAQS and is not contributing to a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. An unclassifiable area is one that cannot be designated based on available information. For nonattainment areas, the EPA recommends air agencies base boundary recommendations on an evaluation of the following five factors: air quality data, emissions and emissions-related data, meteorology, geography and topography, and jurisdictional boundaries. EPA is to finalize the area designations within two years (e.g., February 2026, likely based on 2022-2024 monitoring data). Implementation and attainment deadlines are triggered by the effective date of the designations (dates assume mid-2026 effective date of final designations).

Initial area designations are an action of regulatory significance described in the EPA's "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events" Final Rule (81 FR 68216; October 3, 2016). Air quality data affected by exceptional events may be excluded from use in area designations if they meet the criteria for exclusion, as specified in the Exceptional Events Rule. The EPA is committed to ensuring a timely and efficient process for evaluating and determining exceptional events.

In February 2024, EPA published a notice of opportunity to comment on its proposed update to PM_{2.5} data from T640/T640X PM Mass monitors. This update would retroactively apply the approved modification for the Teledyne T640 and T640X PM mass monitors to all PM_{2.5} data in the EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) that was reported prior to the manufacturer modification. The update will be applied to the unmodified hourly PM_{2.5} concentration data in AQS using

collocated ambient temperature when available. This will result in more monitors meeting the bias measurement quality objectives.

3. Air Watch St. Louis Update

- Beth Gutzler, Metropolitan Congregations United
- Doris McCarter, Metropolitan Congregations United
- Tyler Cargill, Washington University

After the 2019 Washington University Environmental Racism in St. Louis report was released, Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) decided to form an environmental justice ministry. Members of the community who could help to influence changes to air quality policies were sought out. Jay Turner Lab at Washington University was already doing air quality monitoring. The sensors the Turner Lab had been placing in public parks were getting stolen or damaged. MCU reached out to the Turners Lab to inform them that there were churches throughout the community that were willing and eager to assist with the collection of air quality data for their project. The LLB began placing sensors at churches, which turned out to be a more successful method. In addition to the Jay Turner Lab and local congregations, MCU has also partnered with The Nature Conservancy, the Washington University Environmental Studies Department, and the Sierra Club.

The goals of the community-based air quality monitoring program include equitably, scientifically, and strategically siting air quality monitors at identified congregations throughout North and South St. Louis to fill the air quality gap throughout the region and promote Environmental Justice (EJ) to achieve health equity by addressing air quality, which is one of the leading urban environmental challenges outlined in the Environmental Racism in St. Louis report. Funding was received from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

There are four PM_{2.5} monitors located in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County, so there are unmonitored regions where these low-cost monitors could provide more information about PM_{2.5} levels. The project ran from July 2022 to July 2023. Fifteen QuantAQ/Modulair PM sensors were placed at churches in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The majority were placed in identified environmental justice areas. The project would be a way to see if air pollution was contributing to environmental justice issues.

As part of this project, the performance of these sensors was evaluated by comparing their results to those from Federal Equivalent Monitors (FEM) operated by Missouri Department of Natural Resources at the Blair Street and Forest Park monitor sites. This occurred before and after deployment of the sensors. Looking at the sites, PM_{2.5} measurements from the sensors show that overall readings from the sensors are consistent with those from the FEMs. However, for PM₁₀ sensor readings changed over the project length. Found the PM values from the Blair site were pretty representative of air quality in St. Louis area.

They mapped the annual PM2.5 and PM10 daily averages by sensor location, highlighting the spatial variation in the PM levels experienced.

MCU leaders continue to take action. Several leaders will be providing personal testimony on air quality concerns at the Missouri Air Conservation Commission Meeting on April 25th at 9:00 a.m. in St. Louis County. There is a monthly EJ task force meeting, with the next one being on April 26th, and a monthly MCU membership assembly in person. Recently MCU has started a partnership with the Heartland Environmental Justice Center (HEJC) and has become involved with the National Gamaliel Environmental Justice group started in 2023 by the EPA.

4. The City Tree Farm

- Rebecca Hankins, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri is a non-profit tree nursery that grows, distributes, and plants trees and has served the entire state of Missouri for the past 30 years. The current Forest ReLeaf nursery operation is located in Creve Coeur Park. It is community-assisted and produces 20,000 Missouri native trees and shrubs annually. The nursery is a level two arboretum.

Forest ReLeaf plants trees on public and nonprofit lands through its two main programs: Project CommuniTree and Priority ReLeaf. Trees are also planted on private land through a new program called Treesilience. In 2023, Forest ReLeaf distributed 13,760 trees, had 1,380 volunteers who completed over 13,000 volunteer hours, held 12 community engagement events, and planted its 250,000th tree.

The idea behind Forest ReLeaf's newest project, the City Tree Farm, is to bring nature to the urban core and assist in efforts to improve the environment and help environmental justice efforts. The City Tree Farm will be located next to the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site, on one of the surrounding lots owned by MoDNR. Trees are a cost effective solution for poor air quality, along with other issues like flooding and urban heat islands. This location will provide more convenient access and expand the current production capabilities by 3,000 trees. There will be educational and engagement experiences for the public and there will be an Arbor Day tree distribution on-site.. Ongoing tree loss in St. Louis City, especially in equity-seeking neighborhoods, has limited social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees to residents. Providing access to free and low-cost quality trees in collaboration with partners will help reduce this trend.

Forest ReLeaf's main partners are the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and Missouri State Parks, which is a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR).

The goals for the City Tree Farm include connecting residents with nature through hands-on activities and volunteering, providing easy access to free and reduced-price trees, and demonstrating a fully functioning tree nursery operation. The expected annual outcomes include distributing up to 3,000 trees, having weekly nursery experiences, and hosting seasonal family activities. Forest ReLeaf is working to find funding sources and partners that can assist with providing the nursery's necessities. Although the timeline of when the tree farm will be completed depends on funding, the goal is to begin building in 2025 and have it fully operational in 2026.

5. American Fuels Report

- Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Clean Cities

St. Louis Clean Cities, which has existed for 31 years, is now St. Louis Clean Cities and Communities. The group is now a designated organization covering the entire state, including rural and environmental justice communities. The organization will be doing a workshop at SIUE with a vehicle display sometime in August and another event in Missouri in September. The Ozark Clean Air Alliance in southwest Missouri has been designated as an apprentice Clean Cities collaborative. Along with Kansas City and St. Louis, Clean Cities programs now cover the entire state.

The SiLVERS program, located in the north City of St Louis, will be wrapping up at the end of March 2024. With the five electric vehicles, over 5,000 rides were provided, and over 100,000 meals were delivered. The program was well-received in the community.

The AMP (Affordable Mobility Platform) Grant is starting. This will be a ride-share program with eight to ten electric vehicles in Bellville and Collinsville, as well as several sites in Missouri. Along with the deployment of EVs and EV infrastructure, AMP will conduct data analysis, education, and outreach that leverages real-world observations and lessons learned collected from these communities over the course of the project

St. Louis Clean Cities is working on having the Great River Road along the Mississippi River designated as an alternative fuel corridor in partnership with ten other states.

The Ritenour School District and the Ferguson School District will be receiving funding for a total of 48 electric school buses.

Clean Cities has recently submitted a grant application for funds to electrify a boat which will operate on the Mississippi to catch Asian Carp. They are working on another application for a project that will put electric vehicle charging stations in environmental justice communities.

This year, hydrogen has come to the St. Louis region. BayoTech, a hydrogen company, recently opened a hydrogen hub in Wentzville and they sell and deliver hydrogen fuel in high pressured trailers.

6. Update on Activities of the States

- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

The Regional Haze SIP has been out of public notice, and it will be submitted to US EPA soon.

IEPA will soon submit its ozone attainment demonstration plans for Chicago and St. Louis. The new NO_x RACT Rules will also be included in the submissions. The public comment period for the NO_x RACT Rules has just ended. Comments have been received and are being reviewed.

- Nicole Weidenbenner, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

States, including Missouri, and other regulatory entities are working on the boundary recommendation process for the PM_{2.5} NAAQS. MoDNR is targeting fall 2024 to release those recommendations for public notice as they are due to the EPA in February 2025.

MoDNR is working on the progress report for the Regional Haze plan and has set a goal of submitting it in the fall of 2024. The report is also due to the EPA early in 2025.

MoDNR is evaluating the affected entities, trying to understand the impacts of the 111(d) oil and gas sector final rule from EPA, and figuring out how to incorporate those into the state planning efforts. This will go through the Missouri Air Conservation Commission (MACC) process, which means it will eventually go on public notice.

The Sulfur Dioxide Data Requirements Rule Annual Report, which is submitted every year to the EPA, is estimated to be put on public notice in April 2024. The Sulfur Dioxide Transport Plan will likely be put on public notice in summer 2024.

The 10 CSR 10-6.02 rule, which contains definitions and common reference tables, recently went through the MACC process and will be published in the State Register on April 1st. It is a rule that is widely used throughout the Air Program for air regulatory purposes.

MoDNR is submitting their application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Program implementation grant to EPA by the April 1st deadline. This is a competitive grant program so MoDNR will be notified if/when it is selected. EWG is working with MoDNR on this effort.

The application period for the DERA grants will likely open sometime in May 2024.

The next MACC meeting will be on Thursday, March 28th in Jefferson City. The agenda and briefing documents are posted on the website.

7. Other Business

Today there is a OneSTL Sustainability Lab which will be focused on land use planning for sustainable communities.

May 6th—10th is Air Quality Awareness Week. The EPA and St. Louis County will post information about various air quality issues.

8. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on May 28, 2024. Since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned.