

Minutes

Bi-State Region Air Quality Task Force

Friday, February 13, 2009, 11:00 A.M

Bi-State Regional Commission

1504 Third Avenue

Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of December 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes. The Air Quality Task Force meeting was called to order by Mr. Mook. Introductions to those in attendance were requested. Task Force members were asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. Hearing none, Mr. Ridder motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Jenkins seconded the motion and it carried.

2. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Mr. Jim Ross, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (ILEPA) and Mr. Jim McGraw and Mr. Matthew Johnson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IADNR), discussed current air quality issues. Mr. Ross reported on the design value for the Illinois Quad City monitor at the Rock Island Arsenal. The three-year daily average for 2006-08 was 28.4 ug/m^3 compared to the standard of 35 ug/m^3 . Based on the data, the ILEPA sent a letter to USEPA requesting the Illinois Quad Cities be classified as an attainment area. With the evaluation of actions of the Bush Administration by the Obama Administration, the notice for nonattainment of fine particulates has not yet appeared in an official Federal Register public notice. Mr. Ross also noted that the economic stimulus is expected to have funding for diesel engine retrofits and for coal sequestration projects. Overall, the trend under the new administration is expected to be toward greater environmental controls.

Mr. Ross noted efforts toward Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) Phase I and how Phase II is to be remanded for review with likely more stringent restrictions on emissions trading. CAIR is expected to achieve substantial reductions of sulfur dioxide (SO_x) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions at electrical generating units, using a cap-and-trade approach to help meet EPA's protective air quality standards for ozone and fine particles in the eastern United States. With CAIR Phase I and multi-pollutant reductions, 200,000 tons/year of emissions are expected to be removed from the air which should help with background levels. Mr. McGraw indicated CAIR Phase I was being implemented in Iowa as well. IADNR is speaking with state legislators about air quality in Iowa, indicating that there is no "silver bullet" and solutions will take a nontraditional approach.

Mr. Johnson reported on the fine particulate design values for the Iowa Quad Cities and Muscatine areas. IADNR submitted a data certification letter January 26, 2009. The fine particulate three-year daily average for 2006-09 in the Iowa Quad Cities was 34 ug/m^3 , down from 37 ug/m^3 (2005-07) and in Muscatine was 35 ug/m^3 , down from 36 ug/m^3 . Based on the data, the IADNR sent a letter to USEPA requesting the Iowa Quad Cities and Muscatine be classified as attainment areas. There was a brief discussion on the technical aspects of the designation process and how it might plan out with the requests to rescind the designation. Mr. McGraw noted Air Quality Awareness Week from April

27th to May 1st and ability for local jurisdictions to issue proclamations during that week. (Go to www.epa.gov/airnow/airaware/.) He also reiterated the fine particulate background level continues to be near the standard in eastern Iowa. There is a trash burning proposal in the legislature and anti-idling legislation was pulled. He also noted economic stimulus funds coming to Iowa for diesel emission reductions. IADNR is speaking with state legislators about air quality in Iowa, indicating that there is no “silver bullet” and solutions will take a nontraditional approach.

3. Local Status Report on Air Quality Issues. Bi-State staff has been working with multiple groups and organizations on the fine particulate nonattainment issue since Spring 2008. Current design values continue to place the Quad Cities and Muscatine Areas close to nonattainment and strategies are being developed to work on voluntary emission reductions. There are a number of communities having banned or are looking at banning burning of leaves and yard waste. Consideration is being given to engine idling ordinances or policies. Staff has plans to work with the Chicago Clean Cities program to develop a local alternative fuels and vehicles workshop and to promote automobile alternatives and energy conservation. Ms. McCullough noted that several local Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) grants were approved by the Iowa Department of Transportation Commission and will be initiated after July 1, 2009. ICAAP projects include two employee shuttles by MusaBus and River Bend Transit, a Quad City riverfront bus circulator by the three metro public transit systems and a education grant to continue public education by Bi-State Regional Commission. Bi-State staff intend to submit a USEPA Community Action for Renewed Environment grant application which focuses on coalition-building, assessing pollution sources and developing strategies to reduce emissions. Staff also participated in the USEPA Clean Diesel Calculator webinar. Clean Diesel grants are expected to be announced later in the month or early March. For the Illinois Quad Cities, an announcement will be posted under the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative while for the Iowa Quad Cities, it will be posted under the Blue Skyways Collaborative.

Additionally, Bi-State staff is administering a study being conducted by the University of Iowa on conditions related to winter episodes of fine particulates emissions. Professors conducting the study are comparing IADNR data with LADCO data to add to the study results. Study results will be posted on the Bi-State website once they are final.

4. Other Business. There was no other business discussed.
5. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 17, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.
6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:37 a.m.