

Minutes Quad City Air Quality Task Force

Friday, April 11, 2008, 11:00 A.M.
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

1. Introductions and Consideration of February 8th, Meeting Minutes. Mr. Mook called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and requested introductions of those in attendance. Mr. Mook asked if there were any comments or corrections to the previous meeting's minutes. The Task Force approved the minutes as written.
2. Status on air quality monitoring and related issues. Ms. McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission, provided an update on local air quality issues. She first reviewed the revised Air Quality Task Force mission which has recently been broadened to include the effort to maintain attainment status for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). She then explained that the primary NAAQS have been issued to protect public health with an adequate margin of safety. The secondary NAAQS have been issued to protect public welfare and the environment (visibility, wildlife, crops, national monuments, etc.)

Ms. McCullough explained that the USEPA recently revised the ozone threshold to 75 ppb. The data from 2005-2007 show the local design values to be at 69 ppb in the IAQC – 5th highest in Iowa. The ILQC monitor ozone design value is at 68 ppb for ozone. In 2006, the USEPA had revised the threshold for PM_{2.5} from 65ug/m³ to 35 ppb (24 hour). One monitor of three in the IA Quad Cities exceeded the standard at 37 ppb when looking at the 2005-2007 data. There was no exceedence at the IL Quad Cities monitor. Ms. McCullough explained that fine particulate pollution (PM_{2.5}) is a mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. It is a result of combustion and has sources such as the burning of coal, gasoline, diesel, and wood.

Ms. McCullough explained the non-attainment designation process for PM_{2.5} and the timeline for those events. If a non-attainment area is designated, the local interests would like that area to be as small as possible. She further explained some of the voluntary reduction measures that are currently underway.

3. Update from Resource Agencies on Current Air Quality Issues. Mr. Jim McGraw and Mr. Matthew Johnson of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Mr. Rob Kaleel of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency attended the meeting by conference call. Mr. Kaleel stated that for ozone the default non-attainment boundary is the MSA, but the 24-hour standard for PM_{2.5} was designed to catch hotspots and that there is no language which states that the MSA is the default boundary for the non-attainment area. The efforts to reduce PM_{2.5} and ozone need to be on a state or national scale because local efforts may not have a large enough impact when background values are already high. There needs to be cleaner diesel fuels and cleaner engines that are regulated on a federal level. In Illinois, there

is an aggressive new program for the reduction in emissions from coal fired plants. The new regulations will be phased-in in 2009, 2012, and 2015.

Mr. McGraw stated that Iowa is implementing the “care” program, which is the Clean Air Interstate Rule in order to bring the background levels down. He also stated that the IA DNR will be modeling direct PM_{2.5} for the major contributors in Scott, Muscatine, and Clinton for permitting purposes. Mr. McGraw stated that they have been looking for a letter from Region 7 to the Governor stating that there has been an exceedance. That letter was received on April 9th, 2008. He also noted that the Polk County data will be updated on the IA DNR website on June 13th, 2008, and that they will still be under the standard.

4. Staff Report on Local Activities. Ms. Milliron, Bi-State Regional Commission, provided an update on activities related to the ICAAP grant. Educational advertisements have been placed in local newspapers to provide the public with tips to improve air quality and to promote transit, walking, and biking. A transit training day will be hosted for Quad City area social service agencies as a way to train the staff at local agencies who can then share the information with the clients that use the agency’s services and may also need transit. The training will be on June 25, 2008 beginning at 8:30 at Centre Station.
5. Other Business. No other business.
6. Scheduling of Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 13, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Mook motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:55 a.m.