

CLEAN AIR CONSORTIUM MINUTES

MAY 20, 2004
OKI BOARD ROOM

ATTENDEES:

Francisco Acevedo	USEPA – Region 5
Diana Andrews	Kentucky Division for Air Quality
Marianne Beard	American Lung Association
Denis Boudreau	Cincinnati Health
Jeff Boyle	Northern Kentucky Chamber
Dick Brewer	Cinergy
Lona Brewer	Kentucky Division for Air Quality
Sean Broderick	Procter and Gamble
Cory Chadwick	HCDOES
Gina Douthat	TANK
Bernadette Dupont	FHWA
Sarah Dowers	HCDOES
Bob Driehaus	Cincinnati Post
Ken Edgell	HCDOES
Carl Evert	Citizen
Dave Etienne	METRO
Stephen Felton	AK Steel
Bruce Ferone	Envirotest
Michael Fisher	Greater Cincinnati Chamber
Ned Ford	Sierra Club
Danny Fore	TRI-ED
Rick Geise	Griffin Industries
Bob Hodanbosi	OEPA
Mary Kocoshis	Citizen Clean Air Coalition
Howard Konica	Synthesis Foundation/EAC
Gerry Kraus	ECO
Eugene Langschwager	Citizen
Joyce Martin	UC – ORW
Steve Miefert	AALLC
Gary Moore	Judge Executive Boone County
Doug Moormann	Greater Cincinnati Chamber
James Pilcher	Enquirer
Darlene Radcliffe	Cinergy
Michael Rozow	Dearborn Co Chamber
Harry St. Clair	HCDOES
Steve Stevens	Northern Kentucky Chamber
Bill Spires	OEPA
Gary Toebben	Northern Kentucky Chamber
Lynne White	HCDOES
Jim Wilson	ESP

OKI STAFF:

Mark Policinski, Exec. Director

Allen Freeman

Summer Jones

Bob Koehler

Fran Malone

Dory Montazemi

Andy Reser

LaTania Thomas

Sarah Woller

Introduction

Judge More thanked everyone for coming to this joint meeting of the Clean Air Consortium and the Regional Ozone Coalition. The stated purpose of this group is to address the issue of critical concern for the OKI region: clean air. The region has been classified as basic non-attainment by the USEPA. Under the new 8-hour standard we find ourselves faced with the dilemma of cleaning the air we breathe versus the cost to our citizens.

Clean Air is crucial not only for health reasons but also for the economic well being of the region. Failure is not an option. We must work together to solve this very difficult problem.

The purpose of this effort is to bring the various stakeholders in this issue together to find solutions to this problem and, reach attainment for our region. This broad based group of business and government organizations together with the Ohio EPA and the Kentucky Division for Air Quality will seek to develop implementation plans that will work for this region.

This group will meet as needed throughout the next year. A smaller group, or Working Group, will perform the bulk of the work. This group will meet periodically throughout the summer in coordination with the state environmental organizations in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

A list of proposed members to the Working Group was brought to the group and no objections regarding the membership were noted.

Any proposed actions by this working group will come back for comment before the larger group. They will also provide their findings and report progress. The goal is that by early fall we will be able to provide the EPA with a list of possible control measures that can be tested. The list as well as the results will then be reported back to the committee for comment.

This region needs real solutions to this very real problem, not a cookie cutter approach that worked in Denver or LA. This region is very unique. With rolling hills and scenic valley's it is one of the most beautiful regions in the country. But with these hills and valleys comes the problem that the harmful ozone does not dissipate as easily as if we were on a flat plain. This unique problem should be considered heavily in any strategy to clean the air.

This group will look at measures used by other regions around the country to make sure all options are considered. If there is a technology out there that can help us we want to know about it so that we can put it to work here. To that end OKI staff has already begun an intensive research effort. The results of this research will be presented to this group as well as to the public as soon as it takes additional shape.

Core Team Introductions

Gary Toebben, Northern Kentucky Chamber, and Michael Fisher, Greater Cincinnati Chamber, are co-chairs. Also introduced to the group was Rick Geise, chair of the Regional Ozone Coalition, an organization dedicated to helping the public do their share for cleaner air.

The panel today consists of: Robert Hodanbosi, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Lona Brewer and Diana Andrews, Kentucky Division for Air Quality and Francisco Acevado, US Environmental Protection Agency.

Mr. Hodanbosi began the panel discussion with his perspective of activity peculiar to Ohio. The classification that announced by the USEPA last month was published in the Federal Register on April 30 and pertained to what needs to be done on a statewide basis. The Cincinnati area is not the only area that has been designated non-attainment, but also Cleveland, Dayton, Toledo, Columbus, Youngstown, Canton, Lima and a few other non-attainment counties that will need plans for attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard. In addition to the number of non-attainment areas in Ohio, there is also the Cleveland area designated under the new requirements as sub part 2 areas, moderate non-attainment area, which means it is very close to the serious level. Its design value is 103 ppb where in Cincinnati it is 93 or 94 ppb. Columbus and Toledo are in the 92- 93 ranges; Dayton is 88. This will require work with the local areas to reach attainment. In the 90's the USEPA worked with the MPO's and developed strategies and plans and demonstrations that were needed to attain the 1-hour standard. The ultimate goal is to come up with ways to achieve the 8-hour standard and forward that onto the USEPA.

Mr. Rick Geise, Chairman of the Regional Ozone Coalition, stated that the work of the Regional Ozone Coalition is education and outreach. Volunteers, from

public and private industries, in the region work together to promote environmental change. Effort recently has been focused on Clean Cities Program whose main focus is alternate fuels and education about alternate fuels. The summer ad campaign has begun for the Regional Ozone Coalition with ads for "Do your share for cleaner air."

Ms. Diana Andrews, Kentucky Division for Air Quality, representing John Lyons who was on travel status, conveyed the Divisions support and the importance of the efforts begun here today. It is a regional problem that will require regional solutions. Kentucky and Ohio have a long history of working together.

Ms. Lona Brewer, Program Planning Division, Kentucky Division for Air Quality, believes that Ohio and Kentucky want should together to achieve attainment for this area. Kentucky is under a legislative mandate to try and find a way to remove the vehicle emission testing program from the control portion of the SIP. The legislature passed that early in 2004 and wants it implemented by August 2004. The language notes that the EPA has to approve such an amendment before vehicle emission testing can go away. One of Kentucky's first efforts will be to remove vehicle emission testing from the area and find alternative reductions to replace it. Kentucky is looking at other measures to bring this area into attainment of the 8-hour standard. There are several areas of the state that are impacted by these standards.

USEPA has not been able to give us direct guidance about what is needed to come into compliance. Ms. Brewer stated that either John Gowins or herself will be a part of the consortium to work on helping to bring this area back into compliance. The Clean Air Act is specific as to what is necessary to be in compliance with the 15% emission reduction plan and the states were permitted to come up with their own plans. Currently, the states are not dictated as to the amount of reduction necessary, nor is there a firm target established.

Mr. Francisco Acevado, USEPA, states that on a national level the work has been focusing on the implementation of the 8-hour standard and the development and classification of the areas. The next phase will be the implementation guidance phase for the cities that are marginal. The PM 2.5 designation and the implementation guide that goes along with that whole process is also in the works. Some of the work has involved tail pipe standards for highway vehicles which states can take credit for in their plans and the finalized diesel requirements for agricultural and larger engines which will have a huge effect on NOX reductions.

Mr. Michael Fisher, Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, applauded the assembly of this group, which is much needed to address this issue. From a

Chamber perspective it is a goal to improve the air and implement strategies to better the air.

Mr. Gary Toebben, Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, thanked all the members that have been involved in the cleaner air throughout the early years of the Clean Air Standard.

Other Efforts

Mr. Cory Chadwick, Hamilton County Environmental Services, was encouraged that there were so many people in attendance on the topic of air quality. Even though the group he works for is in Hamilton County, he is responsible for all of Northwest Ohio. Plus the other three counties do the air monitoring and reporting. Hamilton County is responsible for putting out the SMOG ALERTS. There will be PM 2.5 alerts, which will have a big factor in this group.

The contracts for Cumming Diesel have been signed and diesel oxidation catalysts will be installed on 20 school buses. As part of that program, biodiesel fuel will also be a part of that program for 80 buses. These are things that will improve the air quality for our children. There will be a roll out of an Anti-Idling Campaign within the next 60-90 days, which will need support from this committee. A study with UC is a five-year study looking specifically at diesel particulate also involved in a community study looking at particulate.

Other projects include putting additional oxidation catalysts on school buses and truck electrification projects or Idle Air Projects. This is a place where trucks will not need to idle all night long to have the amenities that they need, they can just plug into an electrification unit. Hamilton County will not have to give a large amount of money into this project as the funding is coming from USEPA.

The Regional Ozone Coalition is a small group that can use this large participation that is shown here today.

Discussion

Mr. Chadwick added that this electrification project gives us SIP credits that will help the area achieve attainment. This program is being done at regular truck stops, not private ones. If truck electrification stops were added, the usage would display how popular they are and how much usage they would attract.

Ms. Bernadette Dupont questioned the people who are trying to apply for a CMAQ grant pertaining to Electrification of Truck Stops.

Mr. Acevado noted that many people are applying for CMAQ funds to do such things as Electrification of Truck Stops. This cooperation something the USEPA would like to see continue.

Vehicle emissions and testing was questioned and work is being done on to the level of involvement of the USEPA and the program. No decision has been made to determine what vehicle testing could be replaced with in the future. The burden on the passenger automobile is the reformulated gas formula program.

Mr. Acevado cannot speak for Region 4 but notes that there is more guidance in place for Region 5 and this pertains to the 1 hour standard.

This region's cooperation is complicated by the fact that there are several USEPA Regions and three states.

Mr. Ned Ford, Sierra Club, requested some detailed background on low sulfur cars and the exchange of information to see what are the options considered. Judge Moore responded that this would be the end product of the working group.

Steve Stevens questioned where is Ohio's air inventory. The guidance is not in place yet and the work will start as soon as the guidelines are in place.

Mr. Geise offered to assist this group, on behalf of the Regional Ozone Coalition, in creating measurable actionable options that are on the action item list so people can actually see their responsibility in this program. This is an opportunity to make a difference.

Mr. Fisher questioned if there are incentives in place that can be awarded to the people who are instrumental in developing the way to gain attainment in the region.

Judge Moore said that there would be a link on the OKI web page at www.oki.org to the Clean Air Consortium with meeting notices and a source of communication. Information will be sent to the Consortium through email.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.