

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Eight-Hour Ozone State  
Implementation Plan (SIP) Stakeholder Group Meeting  
Summary**

November 3, 2008

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room A  
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, Texas 77027

Susana M. Hildebrand, P.E., Director, Air Quality Division, TCEQ, presented opening remarks.

**Updates**

Lola Brown, Air Quality Planning Section, TCEQ, gave a SIP development update that included the following information:

- The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final HGB reclassification to a severe nonattainment area for the 1997 Eight-Hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone on October 1, 2008
  - See *Federal Register* publication handout
- The state must submit a SIP revision addressing severe ozone nonattainment area requirements of the federal Clean Air Act by April 15, 2010
- The new attainment date is as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than June 15, 2019
- Discussed the draft general timeline for the next SIP revision
  - See handout
- Update on TCEQ monitors down in the area due to Hurricane Ike

Vincent Meiller, Air Quality Planning Section, TCEQ, gave a SIP development update regarding ongoing rule projects, studies and surveys, and control strategy concepts evaluation.

- See handout

**Presentations**

Staff from the TCEQ and H-GAC presented the following slideshows:

- Dick Karp, Air Modeling & Data Analysis Section, TCEQ - *Initial 2018 HGB Modeling Results*
- Shelley Whitworth, Air Quality Program Manager, H-GAC - *H-GAC Local and Mobile Control Strategies Update*

These presentations are posted on the HGB Eight-Hour Ozone SIP stakeholder page at: [www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/hgb\\_stakeholder.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/hgb_stakeholder.html).

### Summary of Open Discussion

A stakeholder asked H-GAC when the \$5 million in Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) grants will be available to the local governments in the eight-county nonattainment area and if contractors working for local governments are eligible.

- H-GAC staff responded that now is the time to start turning in projects for review. H-GAC will assist contractors in applying for grants from the TCEQ directly. Only local governments are eligible at this point for the H-GAC grant money.

A stakeholder also asked H-GAC if there is source category population information for the different categories under TERP and what percentage of that population have made reductions under TERP.

- H-GAC responded that the TCEQ provided inventory of the different source categories and that H-GAC's consultant is working with the inventory. The TCEQ staff indicated the TERP staff may also have additional information.

A stakeholder asked whether recent evidence regarding nitrogen oxides reaction with water vapors has been included in the model.

- No, but it is part of the chemistry update that is planned.

A stakeholder asked how the 2018 design value is calculated from the proportionality concept (i.e., relative reduction factor).

- $DV_{18}(i) = DV_{05}(i) * [2018 \text{ modeled } O_3 \text{ at Monitor}(i)] / [2005 \text{ modeled } O_3 \text{ at Monitor}(i)]$   
Where:  
DV<sub>18</sub>(i) = the predicted 2018 8-hour ozone design value at monitor i  
DV<sub>05</sub>(i) = the baseline 2005 8-hour ozone design value at monitor i  
2018 modeled O<sub>3</sub> at monitor(i) = 2018 Average Modeled Daily Max. O<sub>3</sub> at Monitor i  
2005 modeled O<sub>3</sub> at monitor(i) = 2005 Average Modeled Daily Max. O<sub>3</sub> at Monitor i

A stakeholder asked if the 2002 National Emissions Inventory has been reviewed for accuracy.

- Each state reviews its own data for accuracy and makes updates and corrections.

A stakeholder asked if there are any plans to use the 2008 design value (2006-2008) in developing the attainment demonstration modeling.

- In order to use the 2008 design value, TCEQ staff would have to go back and change the 2005 base year. 2005 is a periodic inventory year. The 2005 data has been reviewed and 2005 data has been received from the states bordering Texas. The TCEQ will include analysis of actual trend data and also include it in the corroborative analysis of the next SIP revision. Also, the 2008 design value information will be considered in targeting where we need additional strategies to move forward.

A stakeholder asked if the 2005 inventory has been used to estimate reductions needed for the new 2008 (75 ppb) ozone standard.

- No. The first step in the process is establishing the boundaries and designations. The planning process for the next SIP revision begins after the EPA's

designations are final. It is likely that the same model will be used. With limited resources, staff is focusing on the 1997 standard. Any progress toward the 1997 standard will ultimately help attain the 2008 (75 ppb) standard.

A stakeholder commented that TCEQ staff discussed volatile organic compounds (VOC) sensitivity runs outside of the HGB area but did not mention if NO<sub>x</sub> would have an affect sufficient to pursue control strategies. The stakeholder also asked when those runs would be done.

- The modeling has been done but the analysis has not been completed. The decision on whether to pursue NO<sub>x</sub> control strategies will be made by the executive management and, ultimately, the commissioners.

A stakeholder asked if the TCEQ has the authority to consider localized control strategies and if so, what type of strategies.

- Yes. The TCEQ has the authority and has done so in the past, e.g., the highly reactive volatile organic compounds (HRVOC) emissions cap and trade program in Harris County. More information is needed before TCEQ could suggest specific strategies, but localized control strategies do not necessarily need to be accomplished by rule changes and might be done through agreed orders.

A stakeholder asked when the oil and gas survey results would be available.

- The information should be available at the TCEQ staff level in January 2009, but at the time of the meeting, staff was not able to provide a date of public availability. The TCEQ staff also encouraged stakeholders who received letters requesting information, to please respond. *Additional information: The due date was extended until November 21, 2008, due to the recent damage created by Hurricane Ike. Staff anticipates having information publicly available via the web by the end of January 2009.*

Guy Donaldson, Chief, Air Quality Planning Section, EPA, thanked the state and local governments for the work that has been done. Mr. Donaldson expressed hope that attainment of the ozone standard in the HGB area will be sooner than the 2018 attainment year given the recent air quality trends in the area. Mr. Donaldson questioned that if the TCEQ does not have the authority to mandate building codes, what agency does.

- In Texas, building codes are generally established on a local basis. For the TCEQ to regulate building codes for air quality purposes on a state-wide or area-of-the-state basis, specific authority would be needed from the Texas Legislature.

Mr. Donaldson asked if staff attributes the increase in area source VOC emissions to flash emissions.

- Since flash emissions have been included in both the 2005 and 2018 area source inventories, the increase is not attributed to this addition. The increase is attributed to growth associated with population growth.

Mr. Donaldson also questioned if the added flash emissions resulted in some facilities becoming large enough to be considered major sources.

- Flash emissions were not compiled for individual facilities. They were compiled as an area source (e.g., county-wide estimates) and allocated spatially by an oil and gas surrogate. While flash emissions may make a source major, the TCEQ does not have information to evaluate that possibility at individual sources.

A stakeholder inquired about the second phase of the HRVOC Control Cost study.

- The follow-up HRVOC Control Cost study has not yet been approved by management.

Ms. Hildebrand closed the meeting by stating that the goal is to attain as expeditiously as practicable as we continue to see progress. The next steps are to keep working on the photochemical modeling, moving forward with sensitivity runs, and quantifying possible control strategies. Ms. Hildebrand expressed appreciation for everyone's hard work and stressed that emission reductions from every all sectors will be needed to achieve the goal.