

**Fall line Air Quality Study**  
**Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes**  
Bibb County Engineering Department  
May 9, 2000 (9:00 AM)

Agenda:

1. Designation of non-attainment areas
2. FAQS Contract
3. Monitoring Issues/update
4. Coordinating Council Representation
5. Decision-making policy of the coordinating council
6. Scientific Advisory Panel

Attending:

Cora Cook	GDOT
Barbara Jones	Warner Robins MPO
George Lee	Georgia Tech EDI / Macon
Jacob Cox	Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce
Kenneth Sheets	Bibb County Engineering
Greg Mercer	Robins AFB
Mark Summers	Robins AFB
Kim Kelley	Robins AFB
Jim Cesarin	Earth Tech
Krishnan Kandasamy	Southern Company
Donna Duke	Bibb County Engineering
Charles Brooks	Bibb County Engineering
George Carellas	DoD
John Hoertz	U.S. Air Force
Karsten Baumann	Georgia Tech
Michael Chang	Georgia Tech
Karen Borel	EPA Region 4
Brenda Johnson	EPA Region 4
Eric Meyer	GRTA
Steve Ewald	Georgia Power
Scott MacGregor	Augusta Metro Chamber
Bill Price	Augusta Air Quality Task Force
Paul Nagle	Macon Chamber
Lisa Collins	Greater Columbus Chamber
Art Cleveland	Columbus
Billy Turner	Columbus
Bob Fountain	Bibb County Engineering
Jeff Carter	EPD
Kay Prince	EPA Region 4
Ron Methier	EPD

Meeting began with welcome and introductions. It was suggested that the listserv ([tricity@list.gatech.edu](mailto:tricity@list.gatech.edu)) be reviewed and missing names added since this is the primary means of communication for the FAQs. (The entire subscriber list is attached to the end of this document. Please send additions, omissions, or deletions to [chang@eas.gatech.edu](mailto:chang@eas.gatech.edu). Remember to send a message to everyone on this list, address your email to [tricity@list.gatech.edu](mailto:tricity@list.gatech.edu).)

1. Designation of non-attainment areas:

Ron Methier and Kay Prince led a discussion that covered the EPA guidance on designating nonattainment areas for the 8-hour ozone standard and the implications of that designation. Highlights of that discussion:

- EPD will send its recommendations to the Governor in early June. Governor will review and send his recommendations to EPA by June 30, 2000.
- At this time, EPD does not have a recommendation. Although there are no requirements for public comment on the designation recommendation, EPD would like to use these opportunities with the FAQs to allow for the stakeholders to make comments and give recommendations.
- Because data are available in these counties that show ozone concentrations in excess of the 8-hour ozone standard, Bibb, Muscogee, and Richmond Counties will almost definitely be recommended for nonattainment. The question is what additional areas around these core counties, if any, should also be included?
- EPA guidance presumes that the 8-hour nonattainment areas will consist of the whole MSA (if EPA were to designate nonattainment areas, they would consist of the whole MSA). The guidance does allow however, for states to deviate from the MSA presumption as long as the reasons are justified. The guidance suggests states review eleven (11) criteria in making their determinations. EPD provided handouts that show some preliminary data (i.e. the “11 criteria”) they have compiled that will be used in determining the size of the nonattainment areas.
- Macon asked if the designation recommendation could be delayed pending findings from the FAQs. EPA replied that designation could not be delayed. The designation determination will use data from 97-99. The FAQs will be helpful in creating strategies to remedy nonattainment as quickly as possible however.
- EPA clarified that while it has the authority and obligation to designate areas under the 8-hour standard, the “American Trucking” ruling prevents them from enforcing the standard.
- EPA and EPD further clarified, that although it cannot enforce the 8-hour standard, there are some actions that are directly tied to “designation” and not “enforcement.” These are:
  - New Source Review requirements (industries that emit more than 100 tons NOx/year may be required to install controls or reduce their emissions to less than 100 tons NOx/year).
  - Transportation Conformity

- Although EPA is seeking to reinstate the 1-hour ozone standard, it has not made any decision about whether or not to designate new areas under the 1-hour standard (within the FAQs, this only affects Macon).
- Augusta inquired if it is possible to change the size of the nonattainment area later. EPA replied that an area can be reclassified to attainment after three years of monitoring data show that the area's air meets the applicable air quality standard. A State Implementation Plan indicating the measures that have or will be taken to meet the standard, and once met, a Maintenance Plan, will also have to be developed and implemented. These plans must clearly demonstrate that the emissions reductions are real and are enforceable. Finally, it is not EPA's policy to redesignate only portions or a nonattainment area. The whole area must meet the standard in order to be reclassified as attainment.
- EPA further described 14 of the 19 areas in the Southeast that have been successful in moving from nonattainment to attainment under the 1-hour ozone standard.

## 2. FAQs Contract:

Ron Methier, Jeff Carter, and Michael Chang provided an update on the status of the contract between Georgia EPD and Georgia Tech. This contract will provide funds for Georgia Tech to conduct the technical work of the FAQs. The contract reflects the full 3-year, \$3 million scope of the study though it will only obligate the first \$375,000 that has been provided for it in the FY00 supplemental budget. Several comments were made about the study needing to address the concerns of the FAQs cities directly and avoiding the study only focusing on "scholarly" products. EPD indicated that the contract has been drafted to include specific deliverables including enhanced monitoring and emissions inventory in Period I that were identified in the meeting as desired early deliverables. Recognizing the impending start date for the field study, it is expected that the contract will be executed within the next week and all parties agreed to expedite the process.

## 3. Monitoring Issues / Update:

Michael Chang provided an update on the status of the pilot field study and the other FAQs activities that will be done during the first study period. During April, the science team visited a total of 17 potential air quality monitoring sites. From these, two locations in Columbus (Waterworks and Oxbow), one location in Macon (Sandy Beach), and two locations in Augusta (Fort Gordon and Lakeside HS/MS) were selected. The sites were chosen to complement the existing EPD network and to provide opportunity to assess air quality across the region including potential contributions from upwind areas. A map was presented that showed the existing EPD monitoring network and the proposed additional FAQs monitoring sites.

The mobile air quality laboratory and the air quality (ozone, ozone precursors, and fine particulate) and meteorological parameters that it will measure were described. The mobile air quality laboratory will be deployed and operated in each city for a period of 10 days. Monitoring will begin in Macon starting in the first or second week of June and will proceed to Augusta and Columbus respectively at about 16 day intervals (to provide

for set up, takedown, and transportation outside of the 10 operational days). The provision of “permanent satellite” sites were also described. Provided the local areas can supply a sufficient shelter, Georgia Tech will install and make operational semi-permanent monitors for ozone and fine particulate mass that will remain operational for the duration of the smog season. It is expected that these satellite sites can be operational by mid to late June in each city and continuously run through the end of September. In addition to the local areas providing a shelter, it may be necessary for the local areas to assign one person to undergo some training by the Georgia Tech team to help maintain the satellite sites over the whole season.

Shortly the team will also begin work on the preliminary air quality assessment for each area using existing air quality and meteorological data; the base year emission inventory for 1999; and developing an outreach program. It is anticipated that as an initial outreach step, a “townhall” type meeting can be organized during the ten-day monitoring period in each city to allow local leaders and the public to question regulators, scientists, and elected officials about the issue of air quality and the activities that can and should be done to address it.

#### 4. Coordinating Council Representation:

After some discussion regarding which areas may or may not be included in the EPD recommendation for nonattainment, and the likely desire of any area included in a nonattainment area to be represented on the FAQS Coordinating Council, it was decided that the structure agreed to at the Kickoff meeting in March would be adhered to for now and could be revised in the future if necessary. Thus, in addition to the state government representatives from EPD, DOT, and GRTA, the federal government representatives from EPA and DoD, and the adjacent state reps from SC and AL, each local city will have two representatives each on the Coordinating Council. A final list of representatives or their designees will be compiled and distributed by EPD later this week or first of next.

#### 5. Decision making policy of the Coordinating Council:

EPD agreed to draft a statement describing the duties and future meeting schedule for the Coordinating Council.

#### 6. Scientific Advisory Panel:

The need and duties for the scientific advisory panel were generally described. The role for this panel is to provide peer review of the scientific and technical procedures and analyses, and to provide guidance and advice to the contractor and to the Coordinating Council on matters unique to the study. Georgia Tech and EPD will draft a statement describing the duties and future meeting schedule for the Scientific Advisory Panel and make recommendations for membership subject to approval by the Coordinating Council. All other stakeholders were also invited to identify individuals that they feel should be represented on this panel.

The next meeting of the Coordinating Council was scheduled for June 1 in Columbus. Time and location TBD. Meeting adjourned ~12:30 PM.

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