

Minutes from the August 31, 2000 FAQs Coordinating Council Meeting
Georgia Tech Economic Development Institute Regional Office
Augusta, Georgia

Attending:

Jeff Carter, EPD
Chris Simons, GDOT
Steve Willard, Fort Gordon
Polly Gustafson, Ft. Benning
Art Cleveland, Columbus State University
Renee Shealy, SCDHEC
Michael Monroe, SCDHEC
John J. Jansen, Southern Company
Charles Brooks, Bibb Co. Engineering Department
Dan Rothwell, Bibb Co. Engineering Department
Scott MacGregor, Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce
George Carellas, Department of Defense
Charles Ellis, PCS Nitrogen
Bill Walls, BP Amoco
Beth Connell, DSM Chemicals
Bill Price, DSM Chemicals
Don Tussing, Macon-Bibb Planning and Zoning Commission
Christopher Schwarzen, Macon Telegraph
C.S. Kiang, Georgia Tech
Vernon Ryle, Macon Metropolitan Planning Organization
George Lee, Georgia Tech EDI / Macon
Robert Pavey, Augusta Chronicle
Billy G. Turner, Columbus Water Works
Dusty Houser, Senator Max Cleland
Hameed Malik, Augusta-Richmond County
Elliot Price, Georgia Tech EDI / Augusta
Edward Engbert, Army Regional Environmental Office
George Patty, Augusta-Richmond County Planning
Allison Kelly, Georgia Public Interest Research Group
John Hoertz, Air Force Regional Office
Michael Chang, Georgia Tech

1) The meeting was convened at 10AM. Welcoming words were provided by our hosts in Augusta: Mr. Elliot Price from the Georgia Tech EDI Augusta Field Office and Mr. Bill Price, President of DSM Chemicals and Chair of the Augusta Air Quality Task Force.

2) Mr. Jeff Carter provided some opening comments regarding the current ozone season. Mr. Carter also indicated that the EPA has officially reinstated the 1-hour ozone standard and that Macon will be covered by it. It was also announced that the Supreme Court is expected to hear the Clean Air

Act about the air quality standards on November 7, 2000 with a ruling expected in the Spring of 2001.

3) Michael Chang presented a powerpoint presentation summarizing 1) the historical data that lead the Governor to recommend in a letter to the EPA Region IV Administrator on June 30 that Augusta, Macon, and Columbus be designated "nonattainment" for the 8-hour ozone standard; 2) the ozone, particulate, pollutant precursor, and meteorological data collected during Phase I of the FAQs, June 11 to July 26; and 3) the 2000 smog season in Georgia. (See separate Powerpoint presentation.)

4) Discussion followed the presentation:

a) Continuation of funding: Mr. Scott MacGregor briefed the group on a recent meeting with the Governor and Mr. David Word of the EPD by a delegation from Augusta. Mr. Word told the delegation that the EPD has included \$750,000 for the FAQs in their FY02 budget request. The delegation responded that this was \$1 million less than is needed for the study this year. Nevertheless, Mr. Word replied that the EPD cannot request the additional monies but would be supportive of anyone else attempting to secure the necessary funds. The Governor meanwhile recognized the importance of the study, but did not directly address the issue of funding. Mr. MacGregor asked for continued help from each of the three communities to stress the importance of the study and the need for full funding to the Governor and the General Assembly, and that the time to act is now. To support these efforts, Chang was asked to provide to the group ASAP a 1-page summary of the findings to date, the tasks that remain outstanding and require funding, a FAQs timeline, and a regulatory timeline.

b) A question was asked of EPD regarding Mr. Word's comments during the Augusta delegation visit (and reported in the 8/30/2000 Augusta Chronicle) that the EPD does not expect to have to impose additional controls in Augusta beyond those proposed in the regional NOx SIP Call. Mr. MacGregor confirmed that the Augusta Chronicle report was an accurate representation of what Mr. Word said. He further stated that this is an old position dating back a few years and originating with the (now defunct) EPA concept of "transitional areas." Mr. Carter from the EPD replied that yes, based on the most current modeling, EPD still believes this is true. However, EPD is also watching the FAQs closely and expects that it will lead to an improved analysis after which the current strategy may need to be revised.

c) A question was also asked about the need for the monitor at Lakeside HS although Columbia County was excluded from the Governor's list of recommended 8-hour ozone nonattainment counties. Chang replied that although Columbia County was not included in the Governor's recommendation, it is reasonable to include the county when attempting to study air quality in Augusta-Richmond County as airsheds do not follow political boundaries. Despite the lack of nonattainment designation, there is also precedent for EPD to develop action plans that include nearby counties. Thus, information is needed to develop these strategies. It was further pointed out however, that EPA has drafted policy that could use the information from "research" monitors (such as the FAQs has set up at Lakeside HS in Augusta, Sandy Beach in Macon, and Oxbow Meadows in Columbus) to determine attainment status.

5) Chang announced that a FAQS Scientific Workshop is scheduled for October 19-20 on the Georgia Tech campus for the project team to review the final data collected from this past summer and to make plans for the upcoming season. At that meeting, the scientific review panel should also be convened. Though the workshop will be very technical in nature, it is open to the entire FAQS community.

6) Immediately following the Science Workshop will be a FAQS Policy Workshop on the afternoon of Friday, October 20. At this workshop a complete policy relevant summary of the final technical findings from the summer 2000 FAQS Phase I monitoring activities will be presented. A progress report of the emission inventory development will also be provided. The primary goal of the workshop is to determine what, if any, actions can be prescribed immediately (based on the findings from Phase I) to begin mitigating the threat of continued poor air quality. The secondary goal is to confirm and revise if necessary the plans for Phase II of the FAQS.

7) The meeting was adjourned ~1:00 PM.