

NEW JERSEY CLEAN AIR COUNCIL

<u>Clean Air Council Members</u> Allen Weston, Chair Maria Connolly, PP, AICP, Vice-Chair Leonard Bielory, M.D. Robert Campbell Michael Egenton Timothy Fekete	<u>Clean Air Council Members</u> Toby Hanna, P.E. Andrew McNally Stephen Milgrom Richard Opiekun, Ph.D. Scott Ross John Valeri Jr., Esq.
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New Jersey Clean Air Council Meeting Record Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

CALL TO ORDER	Allen Weston opened the meeting.
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT	All Council members were present with the changes noted below.
ABSENT	Andrew McNally Scott Ross
EXCUSED	Stephen Milgrom Robert Campbell
REPRESENTED	Michael Egenton, represented by Kimberly Scarborough, PSEG
PUBLIC	Jeff L'Amoreaux
NJ DEP Staff	Francis Steitz Kenneth Ratzman Heidi Jones Helaine Barr George Berdomas Linda Miller

Meeting Record

- Leonard Bielory made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes; John Valeri seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.
- Going forward, all meetings with online capabilities, will offer hybrid meeting options; members can attend in person or virtually through Microsoft Teams.
- Leonard Bielory made a motion to adjourn; Richard Opiekun seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Administrative Report

Presented by Francis Steitz, Director of Air Quality

1. Air Permit Application for a Wood Waste Incinerator:

On March 16, 2022, Seacoast Carbon Solutions submitted an air permit application for an incinerator to burn “clean” wood waste, brush, branches, and logs. The facility is proposed to be located in an EJ area of the City of Vineland (Cumberland County). The incinerator would be capable of combusting up to 11 tons/hr. of clean wood waste.

A previous iteration of the project was deemed non-complaint with the air quality rules so the source has attempted to modify the operation with the addition of air handling equipment to direct the exhaust through an exhaust vent instead of directly into the air from the combustion chamber. Several technical challenges remain as the source does not meet the New Jersey Incinerator rule requirements to operate with multiple combustion chambers to minimize emissions.

Challenges remaining include the air pollution control technology analysis, air emissions testing and compliance demonstration. Air Quality staff is coordinating with the Division of Sustainable and Hazardous Waste as the source will likely be subject to inclusion in the County Waste Management Plan and require a Solid Waste Permit.

2. Public comment for Western Extrusion draft renewal operating permit:

The Division of Air Quality (DAQ) posted a Draft Renewal Operating Permit for Western Extrusion (previously Aluminum Shapes LLC) for a 60-day public comment period. The facility's operating permit expired on March 27, 2022, and the facility is not permitted to operate as they failed to submit a timely renewal application. The facility completed the community engagement procedures required by AO 2021-25 on April 18, 2022, with no comments received. The close of the operating permit comment period is June 20, 2022.

3. Modification to Title V Permit for Carneys Point Generating Plant:

The Department held a public hearing on April 28, 2022, for the modification to Title V permit for Carneys Point Generating Plant. No one testified at the public hearing and no written comments were received after the close of the comment period on May 2, 2022.

Air Quality has issued the pre-construction permit to construct at risk and has submitted the Title V permit to EPA Region 2 for final approval on May 12, 2022.

4. EPA Proposes to Reclassify New Jersey’s Ozone Nonattainment Areas to More Protective Levels with New SIP Requirements: As mandated in the Clean Air Act (CAA) EPA proposed two separate actions on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, regarding the 2008 and 2015 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone.

For the 2008 75 ppb ozone NAAQS failure determinations, EPA is proposing that 5 nonattainment areas classified as “Serious” - including the Northern New Jersey Multi-State (New York City Metro) Nonattainment Area - have not met the standard by the attainment deadline and these areas will be reclassified to “Severe” with a new attainment deadline of July 20, 2027. The Northern New Jersey Nonattainment Area is shared with counties in New York and Connecticut. All the NJ and NY monitors in the nonattainment area were measuring below the 75-ppb standard but several monitors on the CT coastline were above the standard, with the critical 2020 design value of 82 ppb. Once finalized, the reclassified areas will be required to submit SIP revisions to satisfy certain requirements including: RACM and RACT analyses, a major source penalty fee program (per CAA Section 185), and transportation-related requirements such as a vehicle mile travelled offset demonstration. The SIP revision will be due within 18 months from the effective date of the final date of this action.

Similarly for the 2015 70 ppb ozone NAAQS, EPA is proposing determinations that 24 nonattainment areas classified as “Marginal” – including the Southern New Jersey (Philadelphia Metro) Multi-State Nonattainment Area - have not met the standard by the attainment deadline and these areas will be reclassified to “Moderate” with a new attainment deadline of August 3, 2024. The Southern New Jersey Nonattainment Area is shared with counties in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland. All of the NJ, DE and MD monitors in the nonattainment area are measuring below the 70 ppb standard. There were 3 nonattainment monitors in PA that were above the standard with the critical 2020 design value of 74 ppb. Once finalized, the reclassified areas will be required to submit SIP revisions to satisfy certain requirements including RACM and RACT analyses, and Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance programs, if not already implemented. The SIP revision will be due by January 1, 2023.

For both proposed actions, a public hearing is scheduled for May 9, 2022, and the deadline for written comments is June 13, 2022.

5. Natural Climate Solutions Grant Announcement:

The Department will be announcing the next big RGGI funding initiative, as part of its earth week celebrations next week. The Natural Climate Solutions Grant program will fund on-the-ground implementation of projects that create, restore, and enhance New Jersey’s natural carbon sinks, such as salt marshes, seagrass beds, forests, urban parks and woodlands, and street trees. Natural resources that sequester carbon play a critical role in meeting the State’s 2050 goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases below 2006 levels. Recognizing this, the Department is making available \$15 million dollars for blue carbon and forest restoration and urban canopy projects.

6. RGGI Public Stakeholder Meeting:

7. A public information session is planned for June 9th from 6-7:30PM to kick off the development of the next RGGI Strategic Funding Plan. This webinar will provide a look back at the previous Strategic Funding Plan investments and will launch a 30-day public comment period. With the help of the Office of Innovation, this process has been expanded beyond traditional outreach and feedback mechanisms. Namely, the RGGI webpage will be designed to include an Engage page that features the All of Our Ideas tool. This tool will ask for users to select between two randomly generated climate solutions statements at a time. Users select the solution that they believe is more important or higher priority and the results of the voting are collected in real time. The results will be exported for the RGGI workgroup to analyze and inform the writing of the draft strategic funding plan.

8. Air Enforcement Seminar:

On May 4th, the Division of Air Enforcement held its annual Air Enforcement Seminar via Teams. There were 173 participants for this course that consisted of state and county personnel, consultants, and representatives from regulated entities. The topics covered included Tampering, Environmental Justice/Community Corner, Regulatory Updates, electronic portal training, and highlights of Air Enforcement and Air Quality Interactions.

9. FHWA announces funding for carbon reduction program:

On April 21, the Federal Highway Administration released [new implementation guidance](#) for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act authorized CRP as a new \$6.4 billion formula grant program for states to fund projects that support the reduction of transportation emissions. New Jersey's 5-year allocation is \$154 million. As part of CRP, states must develop a "Carbon Reduction Strategy" by November 15, 2023, that supports efforts to reduce transportation emissions and identifies projects and strategies to reduce these emissions. The plan must be approved by FHWA and updated every four years thereafter. The Air Program will reach out to NJDOT to begin coordination.

10. EV registration numbers continue to rise:

The number of plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) keeps growing steadily. We've gone from 41,096 in December 2020, to 48,871 in June 2021, and now 64,307 in December of 2021. This places PEVs at 0.95% of New Jersey's 6.7 million registered vehicles and about 5% of annual sales. Tesla still appears to be the dominant brand within the New Jersey fleet, but others are showing some signs of gaining traction.

11. EV Ride & Drives begin:

The Department of Environmental Protection is partnering with Plug in America and NJ Coalition of Automotive Retailers to organize a series of electric vehicle ride and drive events this year. These events allow participants to test drive an EV in a fun, informative, and engaging environment. In addition to ride and drives, DEP will also have a presence at public events throughout the state to show people the benefits of driving electric, answer questions on EVs, and put a face behind the Bureau of Mobile Sources. The first event was on May 21 in Brick and next on June 24 in Holmdel.

Drive Electric Earth Day, celebrated on Earth Day and throughout the month of April, provided an additional opportunity to highlight the benefits and convenience of electric vehicles. On Saturday, April 23, the Bureau of Mobile Sources staff participated in DEP's 50th (+2) Anniversary event at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. In addition to providing promotional and educational materials about EVs and anti-idling tips for gas-vehicle owners, they showcased their own personal electric vehicles *and* EVs from the Bureau's own fleet. Brand new models were also on display thanks to coordination between DEP, NJCAR, and local car dealerships.

12. PlugStar dealer training program:

NJDEP continues to support the PlugStar EV dealer training and certification program here in New Jersey. NJDEP funds the program jointly with the NJ Coalition of Automotive Retailers (the NJ dealers association) and ChargeEVC. We currently have 16 PlugStar certified dealers in NJ. Post-training surveys from dealership staff have been uniformly positive. High percentages of trained staff say they would recommend the training to others: they have increased confidence in their ability to share info on EV incentives, pitch the benefits of EV ownership, and guide customers on next steps to get home charging installed. We have seen more interest over the past few months and there are ongoing discussions with Kia and Audi corporate.

13. CARB proposes Advanced Clean Cars II regulation:

On April 12, CARB proposed its Advanced Clean Cars II regulation with a 45-day public comment period. They will hold two public hearings (June 9 and August 11), and there will be 15-day notice changes after the June 9 hearing. The Board is expected to adopt at the August meeting, and it will be filed in October. The proposed requirement is that 35% of an auto manufacturer’s sales must be EVs in 2026 ramping up to 100% in 2035, though there are several flexibilities available to ease the transition including early compliance credits. A new facet of the program allows manufacturers to earn extra credits for selling EVs to local ride sharing programs at a discount; providing off-lease vehicles to dealerships for use in a low income used ZEV financial assistance program; and providing EVs at a lower price point to make them more accessible to low-income communities. The Air Program is currently reviewing the proposal and may recommend specific stakeholdering on the new “equity” component.

14. Preparing for federal EV charging station grant competition:

Later this year, USDOT will announce a national competition, for which state & local government entities are eligible, to incentivize EV charging stations in communities with a high LMI population and/or high density of multi-unit dwellings. In anticipation of the upcoming competitions, the Air Program has been preparing education and outreach materials to ensure all eligible entities are aware of the opportunity and have the information they need to apply. We will also be exploring opportunities to use the funding for expanded ride sharing and ride hailing in EJ communities. To that end, Air Quality held a workgroup meeting with various ride sharing/ride hailing programs and are analyzing data from the Department of Community Affairs on multi-unit dwellings throughout the State.

15. EV charging stations in state parks:

DAQ is working with Parks and Forestry to apply for EV fast chargers for Liberty State Park through the BPU EV Tourism Grant. If we win the grant for Liberty State Park, we will receive \$150,000 to install 2 DC Fast Chargers. The remaining cost is approximately \$203,000.

2022 MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS (tentative)

Meeting will be 9:30am – 12pm, every 3rd Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

January 19	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
February 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
March 16	Microsoft Teams Meeting.
Tues., April 12	Public Hearing - Microsoft Teams Meeting and in-person (hybrid).
May 18	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
June 15	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
July 20	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person - present report to commissioner
August 17	No meeting. (Microsoft Teams Meeting, only if needed)
September 21	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
October 19	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
November 16	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person
December 21	Hybrid: Microsoft Teams & In-person