

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BUILDING #7 – CONFERENCE ROOM
MEETING
December 13, 2021 - 5:30 PM**

Committee Members/(Alts) Present

John Baillie
Dan Bricmont, (Chair), Bricmont Law
Chip Babst, Babst, Calland (Vice Chair)
Sara Marie Baldi, Salvation Army
Mary Ann Bucci, Port Commission
Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN
Steven Hvozdoch, Clean Water Action
Mark Jeffrey, US Steel
Robert Orchowski, Hillcrest Group
John Palmiere
Anna Siefken
Michael Winek
Michael Webb

Others Present

Lee Ann Briggs, SBAC/EMAP
Amanda Gillooly, GASP
Chris Hardin, US Steel
Dave Hacker, US Steel
Steve Hepler, DEP
Debra Smit
Jay Ting Walker, CAC
Carol Wivell, Citizen

Committee Members/ Not Present

Michael Corcoran, PPG
Rachel Filippini, GASP
Richard Schwartz

ACHD Members Present

Jeff Bailey
David Good
Jayme Graham
Kim Joyce
Tom Lattner
Jason Maranche
Paulette Poulet

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Dan Bricmont called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Action: A quorum was present. All in attendance made their introduction.

II. Chair's Remarks – Dan Bricmont

III. Approval of Minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting

Minutes were not ready and will be discussed in the February 7th meeting.

IV. Subcommittee Reports:

- a. **Criteria Pollutant/Air Monitoring Subcommittee** – Jason Maranche –
Monitoring update: The Air Quality program will be installing two new NO₂

monitors. A new trailer has arrived and is being installed for Liberty site. The Liberty continuous PM_{2.5} monitor has been repaired. Ten portable H₂S monitors have been deployed for special purpose study around Mon Valley. Jason provided and update on the various monitors and exceedances. The Air Quality program expect the county to show clean data for all criteria pollutants on January 1. State Improvement Plan (SIP) update: The Air Quality program continues to work on contingency measures for PM_{2.5} SIP as required by EPA..

The next meeting is February 1, 2022.

Pollution Prevention and Education Sub-Committee – Jayme Graham – Jayme Graham announced that the Air Advisory Committee is seeking a volunteer to serve as chair of the group. The individual must be a member of the Air Advisory Committee. Mark Jeffrey has volunteered but pointed out that Coleen Davis, also with US Steel, chairs another subcommittee. Air Ambassador update: The group spoke with ACHD’s new Environmental Health Communication Specialist and discussed episode outreach, messaging, as well as possible website improvements.

The next meeting is January 20th, 2022.

- b. **Regulation Sub-Committee** - Bob Orchowski - Bob reviewed the Regulations in Progress Table with the Air Advisory Committee. SIP94 – Control of VOC emissions from oil and gas industry will go to Environmental Quality Board Q1 2022. SIP87 and SIP96 (coke oven gas regulations and source testing manual) are on temporary hold for dispute resolution process. SIP91 State II Controls going to County Council Jan 2022, as is SIP89A. SIP97 will be submitted to DEP. SIP92 permit fees is complete and fees go into effect Jan 1, 2022.

The next meeting is January 18, 2022.

V. Regulations

- a. **Permit Notices** - Tom Lattner presented the proposed revisions to Article XXI which would permit the Air Quality program to post permit notices to the public using the ACHD website. The Air Quality program received two comments during the public comment period, both from Clean Air Council. The Air Quality program’s response was provided. The next step would be to take this draft to Board of Health for approval, then County Council.

Tom requested that the committee recommend the proposed changes to permit notices to the Board of Health.

Action: Motion to recommend to the Board of Health for Public Comment – Moved by Bob Orchowski – Seconded by Mike Winek.

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous to recommend to Board of Health

- b. Risk Management Plan removal** - Since 2019, the EPA has had authority over risk management plans for sources in Allegheny County. Tom Lattner presented proposed revisions to Article XXI which would incorporate that change through simple revisions. The Air Quality program received no public comments.

Tom requested this proposed revision be taken to the Board of Health. Bob Orchowski stated that there were no objections by Regulation Subcommittee members.

Action: Motion to recommend proposed revisions be approved by the Board of Health. Moved by Chip Babst – Seconded by Sara Marie Baldi.

Roll Call Vote – Unanimous to recommend to Board of Health

VI. Mon Valley PM_{2.5} Episode Regulation Implementation

Jayne Graham provided an update on the Mon Valley Episode Rule and its implementation. County Council and the County Executive approved the regulation in September. The regulation affects communities in the Mon Valley, as specified in the regulation, and relies on weather forecasting to determine if Episode Watches or Warnings should be called to help reduce PM_{2.5}. The regulation relies on a rolling 24-hour period.

Seventeen sources are subject to regulation. Each will submit a mitigation plan with two phases, for Mon Valley Air Pollution Watch Phase and Warning Phase. Plans are due December 27 and will take effect upon submission. The Air Quality program will review plans in a month.

The Air Quality program will provide notifications will be made to the public of an Episode and will notify sources to implement procedures and measures. In addition, the Air Quality program will notify municipalities identified in the regulation. All notifications will take place through Allegheny Alerts and social media.

The Department shall issue a notification when the Watch or Warning is no longer in effect and Air Quality is expected to continue to improve.

On November 5-7, the Air Quality program called a Episode Watch.

As part of its review, the Air Quality program will model on potential effects.

The Air Ambassador program encourages citizens, especially in Mon Valley communities, to be informed via Allegheny Alerts. Organizations are tasked with outreach, covering communities in the Watch areas in this ongoing project.

Bob Orchowski proposed That the Air Quality program provide the committee an update on mitigation plans.

Dan Bricmont requested a follow up with further data regarding the Nov 5-7 Episode.

VII. Proposed Advisory Committee Dates for 2022:

Proposed dates are February 7, April 11, June 13, August 8, October 3, December 12, 2022. There are no objections to the dates.

VIII. Report of the Air Program

- a. Anna Siefken shares a post regarding her experience at COP26.

<https://www.cmu.edu/energy/news-multimedia/2021/cop26-takeaways.html>

- b. The County has applied for American Recovery funds for improvement of air monitoring, mostly for PM_{2.5} monitors and purchases. Subcommittees will continue to meet via Teams but are hoping to start meeting in-person again. AQ will also have several soon-to-be open staffing positions and is looking to get them filled.

New Permitting and Enforcement software system is comprehensive and will receive permit applications, semi-annual certifications and reports. The Air Quality program will also be able to send out notices from this system. New permitting fee structure starts January 2022. New maintenance fees will be sent out from the system. The first trial will be sending out bills and emissions inventory. The Air Quality program will offer training and material on its website about how sources can log in and submit their emission inventories.

IX. Other Business / Citizen Comments

Bob Orchowski stated there are number of reappointments to Advisory committee. There was discussion regarding retaining meetings via TEAMS rather than in-person.

- a. Steve Hvozdoovich requested an update on the use of the Clean Air Funds.

X. Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Action: Moved to adjournment at 6:45 PM by Mark Jeffrey, 2nd by Jeanne Clark – Unanimous