

MEMO TO: SEMO RPC Air Quality Meeting Attendees
FROM: Dave Grimes
SUBJECT: Meeting Summary
DATE: June 10, 2009

The third meeting of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission's Air Quality Committee was held on June 10, 2009 at the American Legion Hall in Perryville. Thirty-three people were in attendance including representatives from local governments, education institutions, economic development organizations, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the private sector. The following is a summary of that meeting.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Fults at 11:00 a.m.

David Grimes of the Regional Planning Commission staff briefly explained that there had been no subcommittee meetings since the last Air Quality Committee meeting. He said that he expected that after the presentation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency representatives which would follow, it would be time to schedule subcommittee meetings.

Josh Tapp with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency then provided the EPA perspective on the Ozone Nonattainment Area designation process. Through a Power Point presentation (a copy of which is attached to this summary) he reviewed the background of the Clean Air Act and how it may have an impact on local areas through the regulatory process. He reviewed the State of Missouri recommendations and explained that these recommendations will be considered as EPA makes its final determinations. He stressed that the State of Missouri recommendations were one of many factors that EPA would be considering.

During the course of this presentation he pointed out several things. Specifically:

1. EPA is required to designate all geographic areas as attainment/unclassifiable or non-attainment.
2. Areas that "do not meet" standards, as shown with a noncompliant monitor, will be designated as nonattainment areas.
3. Areas the "contribute to" nonattainment in nearby areas may be also designated as nonattainment areas.
4. Nonattainment areas may cross State lines due to issues of "contribution."
5. The requirements associated with a "Marginal Nonattainment Area" designation, the most likely level associated with Perry and Ste. Genevieve Counties, were discussed.

6. Mr. Tapp stressed that the “sanctions” associated with the Clean Air Act would only be applied if the State of Missouri failed to present an acceptable State Implementation Plan.

Other observations made during this presentation included:

1. Mr. Kavanaugh from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources pointed out that, especially in the case of the Farrar monitor, the numbers were so close that it was possible that at the end of the 2009 “ozone season” this monitor would be in compliance.
2. Mr. Tapp urged the committee to watch closely three areas –
 - a. Local measures – he agreed that local measures might bring at least the Farrar monitor into compliance. In any event, he urged review and preparation of local measures that would work.
 - b. Track federal rules and regulations – he was specifically referring to the Clean Air Interstate Rule which is being rewritten. This is a national-level approach to air pollution transportation issues. He urged the Committee to support these rules if the Committee felt it could.
 - c. Prepare to deal with “remote” areas. Mr. Tapp specifically mentioned that EPA would be reviewing potential impacts of Jackson County, Illinois on the Farrar monitor and that was an example of the types of coordination that could make sense.

During the general discussion segment of the meeting the following were discussed:

1. The question was asked whether Early Action Compacts might be considered during the current nonattainment designation process. Mr. Tapp said that he doubted that they would be.
2. A question about the “approach” of the new EPA administrator was asked. Mr. Tapp observed that she had been “aggressive” in her old position at the state level, but it was “too early to tell” what her approach would be for the federal EPA.
3. Mr. Kavanaugh and Mr. Tapp both noted that the EPA would be working very hard on making sure that regulations were applied evenly across the nation. Issues of “conformity” and “consistency” would be carefully reviewed.
4. As a follow up question, issues of connectivity and the urban/rural split were discussed. The largely rural committee membership reiterated their fear that

rural areas would be “dictated to” by urban areas if they were included in a generally urban nonattainment area.

5. The State and Federal representatives agreed that the issue of transport would be central to planning for the foreseeable future. Questions of how this is modeled will remain.

Mr. Grimes asked if the members of the Business/Technology Subcommittee thought that they had enough background to schedule a meeting and begin the detail work of developing recommendations for the plan. The consensus was that it was time to begin meeting. Mr. Grimes agreed to disseminate a calendar and work toward finding a suitable meeting date.

Mr. Fults suggested July 29, 2009 as the next Air Quality Committee meeting date. Mr. Buchheit confirmed availability of the meeting room. The next meeting of the Air Quality Committee was set for July 29, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Hall in Perryville.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.