



EAST-WEST GATEWAY
Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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AGENDA
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE*
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

In Person at East-West Gateway and Virtual on GoToMeeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/680664893>

Access Code: 680-664-893

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I. Call to Order

- Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
A. Minutes of the June 25, 2024 Meeting

II. Update on the Review of Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

- Ashley Keas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7

III. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program Implementation and Next Steps

- Rory Davis, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

IV. St. Louis Clean Air Partnership Activities

- Susannah Fuchs, American Lung Association

V. Update on the Activities of the States

- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources

VI. Other Business & Adjournment

The next meeting will be on October 29, 2024

* Please note that this meeting will serve as a part of the Inter-Agency Consultation Process as detailed in the Missouri Transportation Conformity SIP.

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MINUTES
AIR QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 25, 2024
10:00 am – 11:30 am
VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON MEETING

Members Present:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Kevin Jemison – Illinois Department of Transportation
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association
Cecelie Cochran – Federal Highway Administration Missouri
Michael Henderson – Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Others Present:

Stacy Allen - Ameren
Jason Heitman – Environmental Protection Agency Region 7
Thomas Caldwell – Illinois Department of Transportation
Jason Lange – Illinois Department of Transportation
Alicia Daniels – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Guosen Chen – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Steven Donatiello – The Laclede Group
Holly Du
Betsy Tracy – Federal Highway Administration
Doris McCarter – MCU
Nicole Weidenbenner – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Johnny Yeldham
Kym Brown – Ride Finders
Dan Weitkamp – DOT
Mike Hutcheson - Ameren
Jordyn Ederer – Great Rivers Environmental Law Center
Chris Schmidt – Illinois Department of Transportation
Kevin Herdler – St. Louis Regional Clean Cities

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski, Maureen McCarthy

1. Call to Order

- Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The meeting of the Air Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC) was called to order by Chair Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG). The minutes of the May 28, 2024, AQAC meeting were approved as circulated.

2. St. Louis County Air Pollution Control Activities

- Aaron Cadman, St. Louis County Department of Health

The Air Pollution Control Program (APCP) gets its authority from the Missouri Air Conservation Commission through a state statute. The program enforces Chapters 5 and 6 of the Air Conservation Commission regulations, enacts the Federal Clean Air Act, and enforces a local county ordinance, Title VI Chapter 612, dealing with air pollution control.

The APCP has the Asbestos, Demolition, and Stationary Source Programs within it. The Asbestos Program processes and reviews abatement notifications and project amendments, issues permits for notified projects, reviews asbestos projects post-notification, and conducts routine compliance inspections of projects. The Demolition Program processes demolition release authorizations (DRAs) in conjunction with DPH's waste management program, requires demolition project notifications, and conducts routine compliance inspections to ensure dust and visible emissions do not leave the property boundary. The Demolition Program doesn't tell project managers how to control the dust; they just have to control it. Dust from project sites needs to be controlled because some of the most common pollutants in dust are lead, silica, and potentially asbestos. The Stationary Source Program regulates concrete batch plants, dry cleaners, landfills, quarries, wastewater treatment facilities, and more. If something emits criteria pollutants, it likely has a permit. The APCP drafts operating permits for facilities subject to 10 CSR 10-6.065.

Another responsibility of the APCP is responding to citizen concerns. The most common citizen concerns are open burning, odor, dust/particulate matter/visible emissions, excessive idling, asbestos, and noise. Many people do not realize there is an existing idling ordinance that states that you can't idle for longer than three minutes. To help educate people about air quality issues, the APCP has produced educational materials that share helpful tips on reducing ozone and inform people about health issues that result from poor air quality. Since open burning is the most reported citizen concern, the APCP also created an open-burning fact sheet to inform people of the ordinances.

The APCP staff comprises one office services specialist, one program supervisor, three air pollution specialists, and two air pollution representatives (air quality inspectors). They have been short-staffed since January 2022. The APCP is in the process of reclassifying their open positions in order to hire more people.

In 2023, the APCP issued 44 air construction permits, conducted 54 stationary source compliance inspections, and conducted 143 asbestos abatement project compliance inspections. They received 535 asbestos project notifications, 575 asbestos project post-notifications, and 104 citizen concerns. They issued 496 demolition release authorizations and 621 asbestos project permits.

To report an outdoor air pollution concern or for general air pollution control program inquiries you can call (314) 615-8924 or email airpollution.dph@stlouiscountymo.gov

For asbestos abatement project notifications, amendments, or other asbestos-related inquiries you can email asbestosamendments.dph@stlouiscountymo.gov

For demolition projects and other demolition-related inquiries you can email demolition.dph@stlouiscountymo.gov

More information can be found online at www.stlouiscountymo.gov/air or you can contact Aaron Cadman, the Air Pollution Control Program Supervisor, at (314) 615-8916 or acadman@stlouiscountymo.gov

3. Update on the Missouri VW Settlement Funds and Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) Program

- Alicia Daniels, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

In 2015, VW admitted to using software that caused certain diesel vehicles to perform differently during emissions tests so they would pass. American consumers bought 590,000 affected VW and Audi Vehicles. Missourians bought 7,500 affected vehicles. During normal operation, these vehicles emitted nitrogen oxides higher than EPA standards. Volkswagen paid \$2.9 billion to an environmental mitigation trust fund, and Missouri's share of the trust was \$41 million. The states were to use the funds to mitigate excess NO_x emissions from faulty VW vehicles.

To participate in the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP), states had to submit a plan to the Trustee. The program carefully analyzed the information received from the BMP update survey. Based on input from the stakeholders, this update restructured Missouri's original funding categories to facilitate the redistribution of funding between categories. The department developed a 10-year BMP for awarding more than \$41 million to Missouri projects by October 2027. The overall goal for the BMP is to reduce NO_x emissions from mobile sources. Additional goals include replacing aging school bus fleets, reducing diesel fuel consumption, upgrading government and private fleets, targeting areas that currently or historically have not met air quality goals, targeting areas with affected VW vehicles, and promoting electric vehicles (EVs)

The original BMP award categories and allocations, the total funding allocated as of June 2024, and the remaining unallocated funds as of June 2024 can be seen in the following tables.

Original BMP Award Categories and Allocations

Award Category	Projects	Funding Level
1	School Buses	\$12 million
2	Government Trucks	\$6 million
3	Transit and Shuttle Buses	\$4 million
4	Non-Government Trucks	\$6 million
5	Locomotive and Marine	\$2 million
6	Airport and Cargo Equipment	\$2 million
7	DERA Option	\$3 million
8	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	\$6 million

Total Funding Allocated as of June 2024 by BMP Project Category

Award Category	Projects	Total Funding Awarded*
1	School Buses	~\$12.0 million
2	Government Trucks	~\$8.4 million
3	Transit and Shuttle Buses	~\$2.1 million
4	Non-Government Trucks	~\$6.8 million
5	Locomotive and Marine	~\$1.5 million
6	Airport and Cargo Equipment	~\$0.4 million
7	DERA Option	~\$1.5 million
8	Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	~\$5.5 million

Remaining Unallocated Funding as of June 2024

Project Categories	Unallocated Funding Remaining as of June 2024
All other categories: School Buses, Trucks, Other, and EV Charging Stations	\$1.9 million
DERA Option	\$0.9 million
Interest Earned thru Trust	\$2.3 million
* Total Unallocated Funding:	\$5.0 million

* Total does not add exactly due to rounding

Electric vehicle infrastructure is one of the categories created to receive funding. Per a VW Consent Decree, the electric vehicle category could receive up to 15% of the total apportionment. Missouri decided to dedicate the entire 15%. MoDNR worked closely with stakeholders to develop an EV infrastructure plan that encompasses 22 sites on major highways and was awarded approximately \$5.5 million. The first stage of the EV plan began in July 2021 by providing funding to sites along interstates. Beginning in July 2022, funding was provided for stage two sites on highways. The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and dedicates about \$100 million for EV infrastructure in Missouri, with a focus on Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). MoDOT is a lead agency for the NEVI program, and the state plan is available at www.modot.org/nevi

Congress passed the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) in 2005 as an amendment to the U.S. Energy Policy Act. The VW Trust-DERA option category is a cost-share program. The department maximized the DERA program by aligning it with VW Trust funds to ensure Missouri qualifies for the matching bonus from the federal grant. The department used the funding for eligible clean diesel projects. Including the planned match for this year's program, the department has spent approximately \$2.4 million from the VW Trust as a match for the state DERA grants to qualify for the federal matching bonus. Vehicles and equipment eligible for DERA funding include buses, medium-duty or heavy-duty trucks, marine engines, agriculture equipment, and more.

The department continues to utilize VW Trust funds for the federal DERA Grant match to qualify for the federal funding matching bonus. After the next DERA application period, the department plans to open one final application period to all eligible projects under the VW Trust to allocate all remaining funds. The 2021 BMP update included contingencies to move project categories into the "other" category and shift funds to more popular categories. The "other" category supports locomotive, marine, airport, cargo, transit, and shuttle projects. Projects in this category received funding based on estimated NO_x emissions reductions by repowering or repurposing diesel engines.

The DERA application period is open now and will close on July 31st, 2024. About \$1.4 million is available, but the department anticipates receiving the second year of federal funding under the grant in October. The application form, program requirements, and implementation guidelines are available on the MoDNR website. This year's Missouri DERA program includes full vehicle/equipment and engine replacements. The program requirements include the following: old vehicle and equipment engines must be diesel-powered; minimum mileage/usage requirement; engine model year requirements for old and new engines; restrictions on HP increase and luxury accessories; and the old engine must be disabled before a new one is put in.

To select projects that will receive DERA funding, MoDNR uses a lottery process to select program beneficiaries. Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) are the first to receive 40% of the funding. After funds are allocated to LIDACs, MoDNR funds projects throughout the rest of the state. The department retains any unfunded applications as alternatives in case beneficiaries decline to participate.

You can contact the ACPV VW Team at MOVWTeam@dnr.mo.gov or call 573-751-4817

4. American Fuels Report

- Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Clean Cities and Communities

St. Louis Regional Clean Cities submitted a request to the Department of Energy to change its name to the East Missouri Alliance for Clean Transportation. They plan to expand to 55 Missouri counties to cover almost the entire eastern side of the state. St. Louis Regional Clean Cities is working closely with the Ozarks Clean Fuels Coalition, which will cover 29 counties in southern Missouri, and the Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition, which will cover 33 counties in the western part of Missouri. These three groups are working to come together to create a state-wide program.

St. Louis Regional Clean Cities is working with the state of Missouri on the second round of the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program, which closes at the end of August.

Southern University of Illinois -Edwardsville (SIUE) will host a Green Drives event on August 1st. On October 4th, St. Louis Regional Clean Cities will celebrate its 30-year anniversary. More details on the October 4th event will be released later.

5. Update on the Activities of the States

- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois EPA submitted their Regional Haze SIP to U.S. EPA Region 5. Illinois EPA has given its NO_x RACT Rules to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Once the Pollution Control Board approves of the NO_x rules Illinois EPA will submit those along with their attainment demonstrations to U.S. EPA.

- Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MoDNR is currently working on applying for the EPA Clean Heavy Duty Vehicles Grant. The DERA application period closes on July 31st. There will be an initial stakeholder public meeting for the federal greenhouse gas regulations for power plants and state requirements on July 25th. The next Missouri Air Conservation Commission Meeting will also be on July 25th in Jefferson City.

6. Other Business

There is a OneSTL Sustainability Lab today, June 25th, that will focus on reducing single-use waste.

East-West Gateway has begun to update and revise the St. Louis Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2025 – 2030. The Plan will present information about natural disasters, levels of risk, and strategies that local governments and school districts can take to reduce the adverse effects of natural hazards, such as tornadoes or floods. More information can be found at <https://www.ewgateway.org/hazardupdate/>

So far, during the 2024 Ozone Season, there has only been one day with exceedances: Saturday, June 15th. Within the non-attainment area, every Missouri monitor and three of the four Illinois monitors recorded an exceedance that day. The highest exceedance was 78 ppb. Based on a back trajectory, it was determined that the high ozone levels resulted from an ozone mass that started in Chicago the day before.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on August 27, 2024. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.