

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

The meeting of the Air Pollution Control Board was held Thursday, April 19, 2018, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, at the Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 16th Floor, Room X

Eddie R. Battle, Chairman, presided:

ATTENDING:

MEMBERS:

Eddie R. Battle, Chair of the APCB
Dr. Arthur Frank, Member, APCB
William C. Miller, Member, APCB
Joseph O. Minott, Member, APCB
Dr. Thomas A. Farley, Health Commissioner, PDPH
Terry Soule, Member, APCB

STAFF:

Kassahun Sellassie, Director, Air Management Services(AMS)
Ramesh Mahadevan, Air Management Engineering Supervisor, AMS
Edward Wiener, Chief of Source Registration, AMS
Thomas Barsley, Chief of Quality Control, AMS
Edward Skirkie, Air Pollution Control Inspector Supervisor, AMS
Raihan Nur, Graduate Electrical Engineer, AMS
Keith Lemchak, Chief of Facility Compliance and Enforcement, AMS
Hallie Weiss, Administrative Engineer, AMS
Dennis Sosna, Administrative Scientist, AMS
Jiazheng Li, Air Management Engineering Supervisor, AMS
India I. McGhee, Environmental Counsel for the City of Philadelphia
Sofia Guernica, Office of Sustainability, PDPH
James Garrow, Director Digital Public Health, PDPH
Dennis Yuen, Environmental Counsel for City of Philadelphia
Patrick O'Neill, Environmental Counsel for City of Philadelphia
J. Barry Davis, Environmental Counsel for City of Philadelphia

GUESTS:

John Krueger, Deputy Director, Air Quality Program at PADEP

Tom Weir, Citizen of Philadelphia
Marilyn Powers, Environmental Engineer, Air Pollution Division, EPA

**1. WELCOME
(NOT CAPTURED ON RECORDING)**

2. ACTION ON MINUTES

Chairman Battle asked for additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve, which was seconded and so moved.

3. PROGRAM UPDATE

By Air Management Services Director Kassahun Sellassie

Dr. Sellassie introduced himself and offered a PowerPoint presentation of the Air Program's updates.

Dr. Sellassie summarized the air quality monitoring data, comparing current year numbers for the 1st quarter with 2015, 2016 and 2017. He states that unhealthy days are from ozone, not PM2.5. For 2018, first quarter of calendar year, we had 52 days of good air quality, 38 days of moderate air quality and zero days of unhealthy air quality.

Dr. Sellassie explained EPA's strategic plan. The goal is to protect the public health environment. Cooperative Federalism, where the feds create an overall program and create a base where they delegate the programs to the states to enforce and delegate to the local governments. States are expected to make things happen with no funding. EPA FY19 begins October 1, 2018. Dr. Sellassie doesn't know what is going to happen related to the budget proposal that reduce 105 and 103 grants by 33% from the 2017 budget. If the 103 and 105 grants are cut by 33% it won't be good.

Also discussed: To date, 273 school buses have been retrofitted; Sewer/sludge disposal, turning it into fertilizer and energy; Proposed revision of Air Monitoring network plan, Sierra Club wants the public involved; CO2 concentration increase in the atmosphere over the past three years; As the climate changes, disasters are on the rise. Yet there doesn't seem to be support from congress for EPA funding to remain the same or increase; AMS updates - Working to phase out #4, #5, and #6 fuel oil, updating robot weighing system, Lab is working on new PAMS AutoGC; Continued air monitoring; updating mobile source regulation IX to mirror California; Finalizing CitizenServe software; PAQS to start May 8, 2018; 157 permits issued, 304 citizen

complaints answered, 1190 inspections performed, observed 31 vehicles idling - issued 2 citations, issued 106 NOV, collected \$114,000 in fines and penalties; Proposed reduction of greenhouse gas.

Q: With PES filing bankruptcy, what makes you think they will reduce their greenhouse gases:

A: They have started using renewable fuel. They have initiated a waste food to fuel operation where they take waste from restaurants and turn into a methane gas fuel. Some penalty money can be used for SEP project

4. PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION-ORGANIZATION

By John Kruger, Deputy Director, Air Quality Program

Mr. Kruger expressed PADEP and AMS have a great working relationship. PADEP has engineers and field staff throughout the state of Pennsylvania. PADEP's main office is located in downtown Harrisburg. There are six regional offices, with one or two engineer section chiefs at each location. The regional office closest to Philadelphia is in Norristown. There are smaller district offices throughout the state, each having 10 - 15 staff. Stack testing is done by regional staff. Certification and manipulation of data is done by a centralized group.

PADEP has monthly calls with EPA, AMS and Allegheny County do discuss implementation and interpretation of regulations.

Funding for PADEP is 60% Clean Air fund (permit fees, fines and penalties and Title V Emissions), 16% 103 and 105 grants and 24% general fund. General fund monies have shrunk over the past 10 years and PADEP is told to rely more on fees.

Q: How much has funding shrunk?

A: PA general fund is in bad shape statewide.

PADEP faces criticism for not getting permits up. They don't have the resources for enforcement. In 2000 they had 360 staff, now they only have 260. Staff has decreased 40% over the past 10 years.

Q: Is PADEP involved in extraction fees?

A: No

Q: Is it targeted?

A: I don't think so

With budget shrinkage, PADEP has been a victim of its own success. Original cap on emissions has been kept from 280,000 tons to 200,000 tons due to switch from coal to gas. Clean Air fund used to be 40 million, now it's 10 million. There is hope to have a fee package to keep monies from dwindling. Sticking to 400,000 tons, there is also hope to increase permitting and Title V emission fees.

5. BRUNNER ISLAND POWER PLANT HISTORY

Brunner Island is a 1400 megawatt facility with three cold fire units. The first unit (394mw) was installed in 1961, the second (390mw) in 1965 and the third (559mw) in 1969. Under RACT, Brunner Island \$300,000 a ton, used to reduce NOx emissions, stack control, wasn't cost effective. In the late 2000s EGU voluntarily put on SCR to sell credits.

When Brunner Island installed two scrubbers in 2009, their SO2 and mercury emissions decreased. In 2016, Brunner Island installed a four-mile pipeline from mainland to facility and took a voluntary cap on their NOx emissions. Brunner Island began firing natural gas in its units. They used to run their units for months at a time. Now they may run for a week, shut down for three weeks then run for two weeks.

In April 2016 with RACT 2 in effect, Brunner Island made an effort to reduce NOx emissions even more for ozone nonattainment. When they did their cost analysis, which EPA and PADEP reviewed, it was not cost effective for them to use SCR to scrub the NOx out. Brunner Island is the only EGU without NOx control, primarily because they did not voluntarily install them 10 - 15 years ago. All EGUs with SCR started January 1, 2017. NOx as a whole, including natural gas firing EGUs, decreased 47% between 2016 and 2017 statewide. If you include cold firing units the NOx reduction is 65%. RACT 2 has been a success.

Brunner Island is now owned by Talen Energy. In an agreement with Sierra Club, Talen agreed that Brunner Island will only operate on natural gas during ozone season (May 1st - September 30th) starting January 1, 2023. This agreement is consent decree, which is not federally enforceable. The agreement is not incorporated in any permits because it is a private settlement.

Q: Is this a litigation settlement or contractual settlement?

A: Thinking is that Sierra Club threatened to sue, so Talen made an agreement with them.

It is guessed that Brunner Island will get to run "as is" until 2023. The agreement also stipulates Brunner Island will cease all coal burning by December 31, 2028 except "allow use of coal burning during ozone season before 2028 subject to limits on annual CO2 and NOx emissions as well as during emergencies as determined by PJM".

On April 6, 2018, EPA denied Connecticut's 126 petition saying that PA should do more to have Brunner Island reduce their emissions.

Q: What are Brunner Island's max emissions?

A: We don't know.

Q: How important are they (Brunner Island) to ozone levels here in Philadelphia?

A: Connecticut says ozone is blowing their way (E, NE). Some sophisticated modeling would need to be done to find ozone formation contribution in Philadelphia from Brunner Island.

Q: A public interest group and a private entity can enter into an agreement and everyone says "ok"?

A: Brunner Island appears to be compliant according to EPA, so there was nothing to settle federally.

6. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at approximately **(NO TIME MENTIONED)**