

# **CITY OF PHILADELPHIA**

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

The meeting of the Air Pollution Control Board was held Tuesday, February 16, 2016, in the Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room X.

Eddie R. Battle, Chairman, presided:

### **ATTENDING:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

Eddie Battle, Chair of the APCB  
Joseph O. Minott, Member, APCB  
Dr. Shannon Marquez, Member, APCB  
Dr. Arthur Frank, Member, APCB  
Dr. Caroline Johnson, Department of Public Health Interim Deputy  
Commissioner and Member, APCB

#### **STAFF:**

Dr. Kassahun Sellassie, Acting Director, Air Management Services, AMS  
Edward Braun, Manager, AMS  
Edward Wiener, Chief, Source Registration, AMS  
Ramesh Mahadevan, Engineering Supervisor, AMS  
Keith Lemchak, Engineering Supervisor, AMS  
Patrick O'Neill, Counsel for the City of Philadelphia  
Thomas Barsley, QA Administrative Engineer, AMS  
Dennis Yuen, Counsel for the City of Philadelphia  
Henry Kim, Administrative Engineer, AMS

#### **VISITORS:**

Barry Scott, Manager, City of Philadelphia, Office of Risk Management  
Jane Baker, Health Department Chief Of Staff  
Dr. Carol Ann Davis, Environmental Scientist, Region 3, EPA  
Dr. Jerry Fagliano, Professor at Drexel University School of Public Health  
Don Anderson, Member of Bricklayers Union Local #1  
Maria Andrews, Environmental Educator at University of Pennsylvania

## **1. WELCOME**

The proceedings commenced at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Battle asked the Board members to introduce themselves.

## **2. ACTION ON MINUTES**

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

## **3. PROGRAM UPDATE**

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

### **Questions/Comments:**

**Mr. O'Neill:** So we were re-designated from moderate nonattainment to marginal nonattainment. That is an improvement, correct?

**Dr. Sellassie:** Yes, that is an improvement for 2008 ozone.

**Mr. Minott:** The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has decided that they are going to move forward with their Clean Power Plan, so are you having some input in that plan?

**Dr. Sellassie:** Yes, Pennsylvania is among the 4 or 5 states that are saying it is unenforceable.

**Mr. O'Neill:** Be aware that in the state of Pennsylvania, although they are going to try to go forward with the planning, the deadline is in abeyance and the state legislature doesn't particularly like these rules. So in trying to figure a way to come up with funding, I would not be surprised by a continued delay.

**Mr. Minott:** How many asbestos violations were there?

**Dr. Sellassie:** 25.

**Mr. Minott:** Were any of those serious?

**Dr. Sellassie:** We consider any asbestos violation serious because the fibers are very toxic, so once it is airborne it is serious. But, there is one building at 411 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Trigen Willow Steam Plant, which we are tracking and has been reported to the EPA.

**Mr. Minott:** Also I see there were 33 vehicles observed idling but zero citations issued?

**Dr. Sellassie:** The regulation allows for some exemptions. One is that if the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below then there is no time restriction. Another exemption is that if it is 40 degrees or higher you are allowed up to 5 minutes.

**Mr. Lemchak:** Our inspectors are in plain sight so generally after 2 minutes or so they get the idea. If temperature is above 75 degrees, buses are allowed to idle up to 20 consecutive minutes (non-operable windows, air conditioning).

**Dr. Frank:** What about the airport - not so much the cars at the drop off road, but the tugs that move the planes, the delivery trucks and fuel trucks? Are you able to cite idling airport vehicles?

**Mr. O'Neill:** The side of the airport runway is not all Philadelphia property. Also, about 100 pieces of the airports service equipment has been converted to electric.

#### **4. PRESENTATION ON OPEN PATH MONITORING AND SOUTH PHILADELPHIA AIR POLLUTION** by Carol Ann Gross-Davis (see attached).

Mrs. Davis reported that the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) modeling data is not actual data. NATA is a modeling exercise. It is not used as a regulatory tool. This data is from 2011, so some of the spots may no longer be there. This is a national model. Philadelphia did not have a direct input into the MOVES (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator) model. There could be several things that are driving the risks; so, over the next year we will be working with EPA to look at it again to fact track/fact proof and tweak the model so that the public can figure out what the data means, if there are spots that are missing, and whether or not using NATA is an accurate way to describe the risks.

The Power Point presentation “(A Tale of South Philadelphia)” is the author’s not the view of EPA.

#### **Questions/Comments:**

**Mr. O'Neill:** Why is the monitoring data not included? I do not understand why they would release a report without that information.

**Mrs. Davis:** Our region 3 monitoring data, especially on air toxics, is not regulatory. All counties do not submit it. There are some parts of the country where there is barely any data at all so we use TRI, Toxics Release Inventory, as a filler. It’s great that AMS has that data so we can move forward: but, again, because it’s a national scale, the assumptions may work great. At other times the assumptions on the census block may not be a good estimate. Emissions in many areas have changed since 2011. EPA was planning to assist all the local agencies on the outputs of what the model says.

**Dr. Sellassie:** I will send the NATA website to everyone with some explanations and guidelines. EPA has listed some do's and don'ts of interpreting the data, and what you can and cannot do with the model.

**Mr. Battle:** Thank you Kass. The Board loves the way that you are working and reaching out to others.

**5. BLASTING/IMPLOSION PRESENTATION** by Daniel Bradley (see attached).

**Questions/Comments:**

**Dr. Frank:** That was a remarkable presentation. Thank you for sharing with us the great detail of the process. Is this something that is relatively unique to Philadelphia? Or, is it mandated elsewhere? How does what we do here compare to other big cities?

**Mr. Bradley:** Average activity as compared to other cities of comparable size. I would say the environmental monitoring requirements are fairly standard; covering the full scope of hazards that were generated. There may be more stringent local controls than some other jurisdictions, but I really can't speak to that.

**Mr. Wiener:** The contractor that conducts a lot of these implosions mentioned that Philadelphia has more hoops to jump through -- more involvement.

**Dr. Frank:** This tells me that there are communities of people here that really care and see to it that asbestos is removed; lead is removed, and so forth. Then, there are other settings that I'm aware of where there are far less dramatic activities that go on, but with materials that are just horrific for the community as well as the way they are being handled. Obviously, not every situation requires this kind of modeling of a plan, but you see other communities that are very cavalier about serious toxic hazards and materials. So, it turns out to be useful and gives me great thought for some other settings that we are aware of; nothing approaching this kind of concern and appropriate public health oversight seems to exist.

**Mr. Minott:** Obviously, there are a lot of civil service people involved, is that cost covered by the contractor?

**Mr. Bradley:** Yes, we do require them to purchase all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for City personnel working the implosion. This is Risk Management-approved breathing and hearing protection -mainly N95 masks and earplugs. We perform a cost recovery on the back end and we give them a cost estimate.

**Mr. Battle:** Any other questions? Chairman Battle thanked all the presenters. A motion to end the meeting was made and seconded to end the meeting.

## **6. NEXT MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10pm. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 2pm, 16<sup>th</sup> fl. MSB, Room Z.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**