

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD MEETING

Thursday, October 31, 2024

The Air Pollution Control Board held a public meeting on Thursday, October 31, 2024. The APCB Meeting was held in person at 7801 Essington Avenue as well as virtual platform, Zoom, to facilitate access by the public via computer or other device and toll-free phone number.

Board Members Present

- Chairman Joseph Minot, Terry Soule, Dr. Richard Pepino, Dr. Mariel Diane Featherstone, Dr. CarolAnn Gross- Davis, Dr. Arthur Frank; Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson, and Dr. Thomas V. Edwards, Jr.

Guest: Health Commissioner Dr. Palak Ravel Nelson
Moving forward, Dr. Palak Ravel Nelson will be officially attending the Air Pollution Control Board meeting as a representative of the Department of Public Health.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Air Pollution Control Board meeting called the meeting to order by Health Commissioner, Dr. Palak Ravel Nelson; approximately 2:01PM.

First order of business:

Board Members were instructed to nominate and vote on new Air Pollution Control Board Chairman.

Arthur Frank nominated Joseph Minot
Terry Soule seconded the nomination.

The members were instructed to vote, resulting in unanimous approval.

Moving Forward: Joseph Minot will be addressed as Chairman Joseph Minot.

Chairman Joseph Minot:

I've always liked serving on the Board of the Air Pollution Control Board. I think it is amazing organization. I have a great deal of respect for Air Management Services. I will take this job very, very seriously, and do what do what I can. Anyone who serves on the board is automatically under the Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment. Keep that in mind, and as someone that used to be with the Clean Air Council, where we did a lot of litigation around the Environmental Rights amendment over permits and things like that. So, it behooves us when we take public policy

positions to keep that in mind.

I'm really very excited to be back with the Air Pollution Control Board.

Director Kassahun Sellassie

Introduces the newest member of the Air Pollution Control Board,

Dr. Marial D. Featherstone

Followed by Member introductions.

MINUTES

Motion to approve October 26, 2023, Minutes

Arthur Frank: Terry Soule, seconded.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from October 26, 2023.

Air Management Program Updates

Director Kassahun Sellassie provided a summary update related to Air Management Services updates starting with Air Quality 3rd quarter reports, State Implementation Plan, National Ambient Air Quality, EPA, PA and City updated and AMS.

I will present about the new regulation, which is mobile source. We received new delegation. I will explain at the end with questions and answers from board members and participants.

Air Quality

July 1st to September 31st, third quarter of calendar year, we had only five unhealth days. Keep in mind that this is a very high Ozone time. It is not only ozone quality when we say unhealthy air quality, it also includes PM2.5, and all criteria pollutants.

The current 2024 ozone concentration is a little bit tricky. The three-year design values that include 2021, 2022 and 2023, is 70 parts per billion. This means we are attaining. Attainment is anything less than 71 parts per billion. 71 to 81 is marginal and 81 to 93 is serious. 93 to 105 is serious and above that is extreme. For some reason 2023 increased to 72 parts per billion.

For the PM2.5, the design value for 2023 was 9.3 ug/m³. In the past few years back, we had only 8.0 ug/m³. This year and in 2023 we have a very high value, 11.7 ug/m³.

The reason for this high is because of an exceptional event from Canada forest fires. EPA should remove those tests because of the law that states any exceptional event, like a forest fire or volcano EPA should remove. That is why the value is very high.

NAAQS

The National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM2.5 is now reduced from 12 ug/m³ to 9.0 ug/m³.

Any facility that applied for permit on May 6, 2024, and after, must do a Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit (PSD). (Title Five). Not for existing ones but for the new permits for major sources. They include air models and all the analysis. Any new facility of major sources must submit a PSD Permit.

July 8, 2024, eight hours ozone standards for the 2015 standard on an attainment area. EPA told us we are in a classification serious, which is up from moderate. Last year we were marginal. Even we attained the ozone value which was 70 ppb. But

The Ozone Standard includes New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Philadelphia, Wilmington and Atlantic City and any monitor in these areas. If one monitor shows high value, we are all affected by that high value.

The PM2.5 EPA published is for the 2023 design values 9.3 ug/m3 for Philadelphia.

SIP

State Implementation Plan (SIP). We submitted the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Quality Standard (NAAQS) for RACT. IT is approved, now we are working for the 2015 Ozone Standard.

We are in the process; within two months we will submit to PADEP and PADEP will submit to EPA. We will meet monthly with EPA

EPA UPDATE

Air Toxin Screen. We have AMR 6. Air Management Regulation 6, which is air toxic. We included the background concentration to be considered when conduct analysis.

The 2020 Ozone data show low value, but around thirty, which is a shipyard area South Philadelphia, it's around thirty but the others there are like twenty-five in a million. EPA is now working on a refined one.

PA DEP UPDATES

PA received about \$13.9 million from the government, (IRA) Inflation Reduction Act.

CITY UPDATES

The city is expanding the downtown area to house a sports arena. The City of Philadelphia released four reports. The reports include community impact assessment and economic impact analysis as well as design consulting, traffic and transportation including parking analysis. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission declined the highway, freeway expansion.

This means increase in unpredicted delays. They are working on how to decrease congestion Increase access to jobs or area residents. Potentially aim to reduce vehicle travel in this area.

AMS UPDATES

We received three grants in 2023. One grant in 2024.

We are planning to install seventy-five Clarity Sensors which is a real time monitor and very accurate.

We have a polit program. Measuring the PM2.5 and NO2.

AMS has installed a lot of air monitors. More than any state or city.

Including the Mobile Van Monitor

AMS LABORATORY- CHEMISTRY

Ams Laboratory chemistry, the village green downtown we have PAMS and NATTS from DC. We work with DC. We take samples and analyze in our lab. Toxic monitors, fuel oil sample. Ban heavy fuel oil from Philadelphia that reduces sulfur contents in fuel.

Coating and paint analysis are conducted in our laboratory.

REGULATORY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

101 air and 58 asbestos AMS Service 171 citizen complaints and 77 involved air pollution and 20 involving asbestos and 74 involving noise

AMS performed 336 License inspections and 74 air, 242 noise inspections and 20 asbestos inspections

AMS observed 28 vehicles at 18 locations and issued 7 citations for violations of the city anti idling rules

AMS issued 120 FC&E 114 Asbestos and 6 new Notices of Violations.

Resolved 147 (FC&E 134, Asbestos 13) notices of Violation and Collect \$408,000 in fines and penalties.

MOBILE SOURCES REGULATION

We have a regulation, but it is not approved or registered at the federal registration. So based on the EPA approval or delegation we will register on the federal register.

Idling, restriction of hours, some categories of non-road equipment like construction equipment. Any construction equipment used at airports or bridges will be regulated by AMS Regulation. In the past we were checking but we were not authorized to issue citation or enforce them without Air Management Regulation. The non-road equipment requiring the highest tier level emission standard for non-road. The EPA are now preparing for tier 5.

We are also working on the cargo handling equipment (CHE) at the port and the Ground Service Equipment (GSE) at the airport.

By regulating these important emission sources, we will reduce Ozone, PM2.5, sulfur dioxide and toxics.

Questions

Arthur Frank

Would that also apply to requirements that when people build new apartment building would they be required to include parking?

Dr. Sellassie

We will address that next meeting. We have a meeting with PADEP tomorrow at 10am.

Commissioner Reval-Nelson

One of the things that we have been doing is preventative work and trying to catch it upstream to be preventative (for the Junkyard fire). Working with EJ coordinator and AMS and Licenses and Inspections. Licenses and Inspections issue licenses to these establishments.

Kass and Aurora have been training the provider groups that own and operate these facilities to train them on how to properly store those items so that they don't combust based on the outdoor temperature.

Similarly, we move forward with his leadership and have meetings with EPA and DEP and internal city departments to figure out how we can move forward with encouraging amendments to the building code or at least encouraging the increasing knowledge and aspects effect of regulatory to regulation and send violations.

Terry Soule

I think you mentioned the EPA is using several monitors in the surrounding areas on the ozone standard, that is causing us from going for moderate to serious. We do know what monitors the results of each of the monitors that's being involved, right?

Have they determined any implications to the permitting process of the City of Philadelphia business or permitting of the business for the city of Philadelphia?

Dr. Sellassie

That is my worry. We attain 70 ppb of Ozone but because of one monitor data at Bucks County, that shows more than 105 ppb where all the surrounding states and counties report that value based on the Combined Statistical Area (CSA) that includes NJ, MD, DE, PA.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn Dr. Arthur
Frank
Second by Terry Soule

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:05 pm.