

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

Thursday, Oct 30, 2025

The Air Pollution Control Board held a public meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2025. The APCB Meeting was held in person and virtually using the Zoom platform to facilitate access to the public via computer or other device and toll-free phone numbers. The in-person meeting took place at 7801 Essington Avenue, room number TR101.

Board Members Present

1. Dr Arthur Frank,
2. Dr. Richard Pepino,
3. Dr. Mariel Diane Featherstone,
4. Dr. Carol Ann Gross-Davis
5. Mr. Terry Soule
6. Mr. Joseph Minott
7. Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson (Commissioner)

AMS Presenters

1. Dr. Kassahun Sellasie (Director)
2. Maryjoy Ulatowski (Chief, Source Registration)

Guests: AMS staff and public guests

The following agendas were discussed in the order

- Welcome introduction by the APCB chair
- Call for action on Minutes of Oct 26th, 2024 & Jan 30th, 2025
- Presentation on Program Update: Kass (30 minutes)
- AMS's Programs: Suggestion for update Reg XI (Crematory Incinerator)
- Q & A by Board Members and Participants
- Next meeting will be on Jan 29th, 2026, Thursday
- Adjourn

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chairman Mr. Joseph Minot called the meeting to order at 2:02PM.

2:04 PM the meeting started

Dr. Kassahun Selassie opened the meeting and allowed board members to introduce themselves.

Board Members introduced themselves.

MINUTES

The minutes from Oct 26th, 2023, October 31st, 2024, and Jan 30th, 2025, meetings were discussed and decided to approve at the end of the meeting.

The meeting lasted approximately 80 minutes and was attended by seven of the eight board members: Dr. Arthur Frank, Dr. Richard Peppino, Dr. Carol Ann Gross-Davis, Dr. Mariel D. Featherstone, Dr. Richard Peppino, and Chairperson Joseph Minot.

Dr. Kassahun Selassie

Presented about previous meeting updates, program updates, and invited Ms. Ulatowsky to and Ms. MacGhee to present “Revision to the Regulation “**AMRXI**” on **Control of Emissions from Incinerators (Cremators)**”, followed by comments, questions and discussions with board members and the Guests.

Below is the time outline of the APCB presentation

00:00-25:00 minutes	Introduction and Program updates by AMS director
25:00-30:00 minutes	Board members and Kass discussion on current events at EPA
30:00-40:00 minutes	AMRXI Proposed Revision on “ Control of Emissions from Incinerators (Cremators) ,” by Maryjoy Ulatowski, Chief of Source Registration, and India McGhee (Divisional Deputy City Solicitor)
40:00-80:00 minutes	Questions and Discussion. Questions from board members about AMRIX and Answers from Kass

1. Summary of Program Updates (Dr. Kassahun Sellasie)

☆ Air Quality Updates for 2024/2025

- From July 1st, 2025, to Sep 30th, 2025, there were **55 good days** (60 %), **34 moderate days (37%)**, and **3 unhealthy days** (3 %)- **two ozone** and **one PM2.5**.
- Current 2025, 8-hr O₃ concentration is **78 ppb** at NEA, with a 2024 design value of **71 ppb** (the 4th highest of all sites). We are close to attainment, concerning Philadelphia, but Ozone is regional pollutant and attainment depends on other counties, especially Bucks County, which has the highest measurement value in our region.
- Current 2025, Annual PM2.5 concentration is **9.3 ug/m3** with a 2024 design value of **10.3 ug/m3**

☆ AIR QUALITY & PROJECTS

- New neighborhood site in North Philadelphia (HUN), 5200 Wissahickon Avenue, will start monitoring soon with real-time NO₂, PM_{2.5} and Toxics monitoring. Site Agreement with another city agency is done. 2025-2026 AMNP was submitted to EPA,
- CSAT (Community Scale Air Toxic, which collects data on BTEX and Carbonyl, report was also submitted to EPA. AMS purchased and installed 76 Clarity Air Sensors to measure NO₂ and PM_{2.5} on various sites in various neighborhoods in the City of Philadelphia.
- Mobile Monitoring Station Van is getting Four route measurements of real-time Air Quality every month from October 2024.
- AMS is preparing planning and schedule to install clarity sensors around the football/soccer Stadium and use Mobile monitoring for 2025-2026 FIFA world cup. Bio-watch program be cancelled due to the current shutdown and funds may be released later and then will be included in the schedule again.

- **NAAQS, SIP (State Implementation Plan) and EPA Updates**

EPA's Review of Secondary NO_x, SO_x and PM Standards challenged as it may have violated Endangered Species Act, Environmental Group Argues

- EPA follows the policy for federal agencies to prioritize funding for artificial intelligence, energy dominance, and national security, while de-emphasizing programs deemed to hinder efficiency, including some diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Study Finds Air Pollution Plays Significant Role in Vision Impairment:
- House Hearing Examines Clean Air Act Permitting Reform on New Source Review (NSR) and Title V permitting requirements:
- New CARB Roadmap May Serve as Model for States to Play Mobile Source Leadership Role:
- California and Coalition of States Immediately Sue to Block Congressional Disapproval of Clean Air Act Waivers for Three Mobile Source Programs: The challenged programs—Advanced Clean Cars II, Advanced Clean Trucks, and the Heavy-Duty Low NO_x Omnibus—are key to reducing tailpipe emissions of NO_x, particulate matter, and greenhouse gases from vehicles more here.
- Shapiro Administration Invests \$3.47 Million to Help Local Communities Purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Build Out Infrastructure to Lower Costs and Improve Air Quality:
- In the Delaware Valley, several projects were selected, including \$300,000 awarded to the City of Philadelphia for the purchase and installation of four dual-port DC fast chargers for the City's Department of Fleet Services, and \$300,000 to Sky Chefs Inc.
- National Air Quality Awareness Week held between May 5–9, 2025 in the Greater Philadelphia region, when ground-level ozone pollution typically rises due to summer heat interacting with vehicle emissions.
- DVRPC modeling shows proposed SEPTA service cuts and fare increases would lead to higher emissions of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and volatile organic

compounds (VOCs), with Philadelphia projected to see the largest increases—7.9% in PM_{2.5}, 6.9% in NO_x, and 2.3% in VOCs.

- American Lung Association (ALA) has released a report exploring the benefits of zero-emission technologies in the industrial heating sector.

AMS-Central Update

- **AMS installed 78 clarity air monitors** at 78 locations throughout Philadelphia. Clarity Node-S sensors measure real-time NO₂ and PM_{2.5} data using a **solar power system**; add Ozone in future using enhance power system. We collocated three clarity sensors with our EPA monitoring sites and showed good accuracy and decided to expand the sensors to **78**. Next year we will add Ozone sensors.
- **Transparency** that communities can check the air pollution concentration in real time on their laptop or cell phone (Breath Philly Dashboard [Clarity OpenMap](#), (Not final version))
- **Computer software** was used to randomly distribute several sampling site locations. After random sites were determined, additional sampling sites were added a) to fill a large gap without random sites; b) to evaluate the impact of air pollution from major industrial sources and vehicle traffic; c) to locate a site side-by-side with an EPA sponsored air monitoring station for data quality assurance; and d) to monitor air quality in an Environmental Justice (EJ) community.

Picture below shows clarity Node-S sensor (left), and Regulatory monitoring sites (right)



AQS Site Code	AMS Site	Address	Parameter														AMS Site	
			CO	SO ₂	Ozone	NO ₂	NOy/NO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	Speciated PM _{2.5}	PM Coarse	Carbonyls	PAMS VOC	TSP Metals (Be, Cr, Mn, Ni, As, Cd, Pb)	Toxics TO15	MET		
421010004	LAB	1501 E. Lycoming St			X				X									LAB
421010014	ROX	Eva & Dearnley Sts										X				X		ROX
421010024	NEA	Grant Ave & Ashton Rd			X													NEA
421010048	NEW	2861 Lewis St	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		NEW
421010055	RIT	24th & Ritner Sts		X					X	X		X		X	X			RIT
421010057	FAB	3rd & Spring Garden Sts							X									FAB
421010063	SWA	8200 Enterprise Ave										X			X			SWA
421010075	TOR	4901 Grant Ave & James St	X			X			X							X		TOR
421010076	MON	I-76 & Montgomery Drive	X			X			X				X					MON
(not in AQS)	VGR	6th & Arch Sts			X				X							X		VGR
421010068	HUN	5200 Wissahickon Ave *				X			X			X		X				HUN

*HUN is a new site proposed for 2025

The table above shows types of pollutant measurement at each regulatory monitoring sites (including the new HUN site at 5200 Wissahickon Avenue)

AMS LABORATORY- Updates

- **Criteria Gas Monitoring** (CO, NO₂, O₃, and SO₂) – Including the analysis of data and evaluation of methods related to gaseous criteria pollutants and compliance with the NAAQS.
- **Particulate Matter Monitoring** (PM₂₅, PM₁₀, Speciation) - Including data analysis, method evaluations, and air quality planning best practices for identifying and addressing particulate matter in the ambient air.
- **Community Air Monitoring** – Including projects that engage and communicate study results with community stakeholders in monitoring for smoke during wildfires, evaluating non-regulatory technologies (e.g., Clarity Node-S sensors), and providing best practices for implementing community monitoring studies.
- **Quality Assurance** – Including experiences in implementing or improving the quality system, addressing Technical System Audit (TSA) findings, and QA challenges and lessons learned in evaluating measurement methods and in improving data review processes.
- **Photochemical Assessment Monitoring** – Including successes in developing and implementing Enhanced Monitoring Plans, experiences with Automatic Gas Chromatographs (**Auto GCs**), and the collection and use of ceilometer data.
- **Automation in Ambient Air Monitoring (Auto GC)**– Including the conversion from manual to automated methods, automating the remote operations of monitors, remotely accessing and reporting data, and automated QA/QC checks within ambient air monitoring programs.
- **Special and Complex Pollution Issues** – Including air pollution monitoring approaches for special and complex pollution issues that do not align well with the other categories. Plan to monitor pollutants using **passive sampling** near the Title V facility upwind/downwind sites.

Regulatory Service Activities Updates

From July 1st, 2025, to Sep 30th, 2025, AMS issued **160** permits, **7** OPs and **118** constructions permit total **125** air and **35** asbestos permits. AMS serviced **135** citizen complaints: **61** involving air pollution, **61** involving asbestos, and **13** involving noise. AMS also performed **548** inspections, **78** air, **115** noise inspections, and **355** asbestos inspections. In addition, AMS observed **9 vehicles** at **12** locations and issued **3 citations** for violations of the City's anti-idling rules. AMS issued **202** (FC&E **187**, Asbestos **15**) new Notices of Violation, resolved **104** (FC&E **91**, Asbestos **13**) Notices of Violation, and collected **\$ 242,548** (FC&E -\$**231,248**, Asbestos - **\$11,300** in fines and penalties.

- Changes are required to update Reg XI Crematory Incinerator, and the main proposed change is the temperature of the crematory from 1800-degree F to 1600-degree F to reduce emissions and usage of fuel oil and updating the work practices and PA-DEP also updated their regulation.

Questions and Discussions,

Mr. Josph Minott: On FIFA, last I heard, they were not going to come to the United States. So we'll see whether that happens or not. I'd be interested in hearing right now, more about the hydrogen hub in Philadelphia because I had heard that the funding might disappear for that and that would be sort of important. I noticed you mentioned couple of things that the EPA now says this is what they want to have do, but if I remember, Air Management Services has been delegated and, and can go above what the EPA requires, Right? So that's something to keep in mind. I don't want to take up too much time. Well done on the anti-idling. I think that's really important. Two quick things. Various monitoring and so much is monitored at some places and at some places are not monitored as well. And I'll stop now but I, at some point I think we should talk about the white house release research priorities memo, because it doesn't make any sense to me whatsoever.

Dr. Carol Ann Gross-Davis: I don't know if Kass wanted to reply to -- I don't know if there was anything.

Dr. Sellasie: Yeah. There is a question and answers session. So, I will have discussed those questions, but I think it is good to follow the agenda. Maybe at the end there is QA from board and the community too.

Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson: -From the perspective regarding what was discussed about the white house, we can follow up with you separately about how the city's approaching the items that are discussed at the federal level and how we're processing and approaching those. We can do it as an executive committee and let you know. I've been, as commissioner, making my round to the various boards to have those discussions. And I apologize I haven't gotten a chance to meet with the Air Pollution Control Board members, but be happy to set up a time with the board members to explain that out.

Dr. Carol Ann Gross-Davis: Thanks Dr. Nelson. That was also one of my comments. I think very specifically our recommendation for the board, for the AMS and the city to really pay attention to proposed rulemaking that can and will make permitting quicker, faster, and, in our view or my view, (to not) put more people at harm or potential risk from air pollution. I think one of the things for me too is so that, the city can kind of protect itself because we spend so much time, I think, as part of this board, really kind of pushing new regulations to protect the citizens here in Philly. I think it's a good thing that you're doing that, but I definitely would be interested to see how we're doing the analysis to see specifically here in Philadelphia how some of these rule changes or guidance can impact our citizens.

Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson:- Thank you. · And I appreciate that. · And, I will say this, one of the mayor's overall goals for the city of Philadelphia is cleaner, greener, and wellness, as well as economic opportunity for all and everybody else. And the air quality components fit into the cleaner, greener. City. We want everybody to have the safest, cleanest air and we want to be very mindful of the things. I can say that when things are submitted, there is a process in place for what we can do to protect this, the codified as well as the regulations that the board has put in place. But I think we should have that discussion so we can go over the process with the board members. I think we'll keep moving with the agenda if the board members are okay with that and we can do our follow-up. Thank you, Kass.

Dr. Carol Ann Gross-Davis: So, we'll do other questions at the end then?

Dr. Sellasie: Yes, Thanks

Presentation on “Control of Emissions from Incinerators (Cremators)” by Maryjoy Ulatowski.

☆ Revision is made to AMRXI (Crematory Incinerator) based on the following premises and backgrounds.

In 2024, Pennsylvania's General Assembly enacted the **Crematory Regulation Act (Act 26 of 2024)**, Established new work practice standards for crematory incinerators, effective immediately upon enactment. Key provisions include an interlock system that prevents the primary chamber from being charged until the secondary chamber reaches and maintains 1600 degrees Fahrenheit, along with requiring temperature monitoring. The act specifically applies to crematory incinerators constructed after April 17, 1989.

- There are no solid waste or municipal waste incinerators permitted in the City of Philadelphia.
- Three (3) human crematories operate under a Minor Operating Permit in the City of Philadelphia. 1 – Nicetown, 1- Lower NE, and 1 – Mount Airy
- One Pet Crematory in Philadelphia issued a Plan Approval in Summer 2025. (SW Philadelphia)

Requirement Updates for new incinerators,

- New incinerators need to meet higher standards for opacity or visible emissions.

- Removed the requirement for HCl and SO₂. SO₂ is no longer a concern in Philadelphia and new work standards added require that no PVCs are to be burned in the incinerators.
- Allow crematory furnaces burning Type 4 waste to operate at not less than 1600 degrees Fahrenheit (871 degree centigrade).
- Crematory furnaces incinerating only Type 4 wastes which must maintain a temperature of not less than 1600 degrees Fahrenheit in the secondary chamber for at least one second prior to the start of cremation.
- Reducing the operating temperature reduces fuel usage. Less fuel usage means less emissions.
- Require continuous monitoring and recording of various flue gas emissions including, but not limited to, oxygen (O₂), opacity, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and temperature
- Requires crematories to have operating permits.
- New incinerations are required to meet the requirements of AMR VI.
 - Clarifies testing requirements for incinerators.

Allowable and disallowable materials charged in crematory furnaces.

- For crematory furnaces, allowable materials to be charged in the unit shall include:
 - Remains of Humans or animals.
 - Cremation containers are made of cardboard, medium density fiberboard, plywood, or pressboard.
 - Wooden caskets are designed and marketed for cremation.
 - Plastic film containing no polyvinyl chloride (PVC), but on a case-by-case basis approved by the Department, may include plastic films containing PVC where necessary to protect the health and safety of the operator; and
 - Bedding and personal effects.
- For crematory furnaces, the following materials not allowed to be charged in the unit include:
 - Medical or infectious waste.
 - Fiberglass caskets or coffins.
 - Metal caskets or coffins.
 - Lacquer/varnish/shellac-covered caskets or coffins.
 - Medical devices (pacemakers, defibrillators, etc.);
 - Potentially hazardous remedial devices (e.g. radioactive implants, etc.) that must be removed from the body prior to cremation; and
 - Any device that can potentially harm or cause issues to the crematory unit's operation.

Summary of Questions raised by Board members (Mr. Joseph Minot, Mr. Terry Soule, Dr. Arthur Frank, Dr. Richard Papino, Dr. Carrol Ann Davis)

1. Why would it produce less pollution if you decrease the amount of temperature that you just have to burn the corpse longer at that point in order to get the same result.

2. Is there some reason why things like Shellac and such wouldn't burn up at 1,600 as well? · Why that has to be part of, you know, got to be plain wood and, and so forth.
3. Is some PVC allowed to be burned at 1,600?
4. The emission reduction is understandable, by going from 18 to 16, but what was do anybody know what the original – what was the basis of the original standard of,1800?
5. The Pennsylvania regulation was only for crematories that were built after 1989. · And I, I don't know how old the ones we have here in Philadelphia. · Are the ones here in Philadelphia covered by the new regulation? Would the old facility still be burning at 1800 and I'm assuming you don't have the rules to exclude some of those other things in the existing
6. Is AMS regulation stringent than the Pennsylvania rule in this regard?
7. Are there any negative impacts that are sitting out there that may have driven from this change in temperature, or is this just trying to improve the process?
8. If the older ones are not as efficient as the newer ones. Why does it not have to stick to 1,800 degrees?
9. Is there any website where we could see the data? I would love you to be able to share that with the board because I'd love to see it. And when AMS get the dashboard ready? because I think that's another really big challenge from a public access perspective, that data should be accessible in an understandable way. The CDC over the years have spent a lot of data time on some of their dashboards, that really makes the data a lot more accessible. And I was curious about when that dashboard is complete, how you will get that out to citizens as opposed to trying to, like, fumble through the AMS website to find the data?
10. How does this new regulation affect the PM2.5 and NO2 NAAQS city and NAAQs standards, and the city ability to achieve attainment.
11. We were looking at July to the end of September, where technically 40 percent of days were either moderate or unhealthy. If only 60 percent were healthy, as you said it was because of Ozone, but I wasn't sure too, because the only standard that we've lowered since then is PM. So, Does the PM standard that's been lowered had any impact on some of those moderate, unhealthy days?
12. What is AMS perspective because of the amount of grants that were rescinded by EPA? Was there any grant rescinded for the city, impacted vulnerable populations and, air pollution within the city of Philadelphia?
13. Is this, regulation, something that we'll vote on next time?

Question raised by Guests

1. **Mr. Peter Winslaw:** It's, it's sort of a legal question. · So maybe to India -- my question is, to what extent, if any, is the Department of Public Health or Air Management Services or city council preempted from restoring the standards that have recently been loosened by the EPA? · That's the first part. · And the second part is how can the environmental justice community help?

Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson: So, Peter, those are great questions. What I'd like to do is because they're fairly complex in nature and are going to involve a significant response, if you could please pose them -- you know, either write them down on a piece of paper or provide them via email, we will get you the feedback.

2. Mr. Shawn Kearney. Hackett School demo and soil movements. It is a very old property that used to be industrial and they've dug down, like, four feet and, and contacted a bunch of old demolition waste that they built on, and they dug down, they exposed some of it. And now they're talking about dumping rainwater on it. So, it doesn't -- you know, it's not like they were able to excavate and understand the whole situation before they started this project. So, it'd just be nice for the community here to be protected from that dust. a analysis -- well, I, I dug up soil from four different spots and sent it into the University of Pennsylvania and got a test report back. And it's showing it's got high lead, high heavy metal contamination there. I have not been able to get any answer from the construction or from the engineering firm of how they're going to make sure the community does not get poisoned by either dust or the rainwater that they intend now to pull back the covering of that soil and then dump it in there and have it go straight down.

It's -- this is river soil here, so principally clay and silica or sand. And so, you know, where are these contaminants going to move to? They're not just going to go straight down. They move outward like pancakes. So, I'm just concerned that we didn't do enough of our homework to understand, you know, park testing. Where is this contamination going to go? Is it going to go straight down? It doesn't seem likely.

In conjunction to where they're, they're digging right now, which is right behind a school and right next to an elementary playground right across the street, right across Septa, there's the old parking lot which was the original 1910 location of the Horatio Hackett School before it burnt down in 1960. I did It's going to move sideways and then poison people's basements here. And, and I appreciate that, sir. And I will say this, because I just want to be mindful of the conversation and, and keep us within the realm of air management services.

Please, and I would love to contact anyone there, because I'd like to submit the PowerPoints and PDFs that I've generated thus far that explain the history and then the testing that I did and the analysis I did and the testing of the university. So, I'd like you to. I would like to share this with somebody, so we don't put residents at risk.

Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson: I apologize. Mr. Kearney, what we'll do is if we can have -- I believe Menelik should have your email address from your registration, and we will go ahead and connect you with the DEP website so you know how to get access. And also we can -- so we can get you some information that way as well as AMS's FCE group is monitoring and inspecting the site as well. So we can provide you some additional details, but Menelik can reach out to you via email.

And I believe our, our enforcement folks are in the room at Essington Avenue where this meeting is being held. · And sir, we -- I also have, I believe -- I'm hoping that Ms. Trainor is on and she will work with our folks that deal with the notices of intent to remediate and everything with the EP. · And we can absolutely follow up with you.

Dr. Sellasie: Except dust control for excavation work, which AMS is doing now. But the soil test and other kinds of stuff, only PADEP involved. But if we must be involved, maybe we can do dust monitoring like putting some monitors depending on the area.

Dr. Palak Raval-Nelson: So, again, this is why I'm making sure that Ms. Trainor is on because what you're describing, I agree with you completely. · And, and in my prior role as environmental health services director, I spent a lot of time regulating lead and, and other things. · So what, what I want to do is, Ms. Trainor will follow up with you, sir. These are all -- these would all be regulated soil. The city does not do soil sampling. When residents take soil samples and send them in for analysis, the DEP, to verify that, they must run samples. · So let us get back to you, if that's okay with you.

We've gone through the comments. · We have our follow-ups for Mr. Winslow and Mr. Kearney. Mr. Kearney's issues are more around the soil and all. · We'll do that follow up. · Mr. Winslow's stuff we'll also follow up. · And then we'll follow up separately for the board from, from just, you know, the executive section as we need to like we're doing with the other boards.

Summary of Answers and Explanations given by Dr. Sellasie, Ms. Ulatowski

Combustion wise, if you're burning at a higher temperature, you're using more fuel. · And the more fuel you use, the more it emits per a certain amount of fuel. · So you're increasing NOx, VOC and carbon monoxide emissions from more fuel on the incinerator process wise. · So the PM is the concern, but we've lowered standards for PM too. · It's lower opacity measures and they have to do a stack test for the new incinerator. So, so combustion wise, you're emitting more NOx, carbon monoxide, VOCs when you're burning more fuel. I'm discussing still with the commissioner and others and EPA, PADEP too. We are also discussing it with the law department. India also involved in this. Maybe we'll see in the next three months, we'll meet and we'll explain what have been done and what's the federal is doing.

I think they (MARAMA or other agencies) found 1,600 degrees for cremation by research, that can efficiently burn the remains of the body, which is organic matter -- including all the organic remains and fragments of bones. So that's what they are looking for. 1,600 degrees is good. And, they can also get some remaining of fragment of bones, which makes it smaller and give to the to the people "to families" of those deceased people. So that's what they put in the pot or pot kind of stuff actually. As Maryjoy said, this reduces emissions and fuel for the owner and that's why they reduced from 1,800 to 1,600 degrees.

We discussed this at the MARAMA meeting, and the other state had also 1,600 degrees in their regulation. Pennsylvania had 1,800. And just for clarification, it's just the crematory which is burning human waste or animal waste. We're not changing it for incinerators, if there's an incinerator in Pennsylvania or, in Philadelphia, which we don't have. The crematory duration stays the same, only the temperature is changed

The time is usually from two hours to three hours, depending on the body if it is small or big. I read how other states are doing it, it says from 1,400 to 1,800 degrees. So, the average they took is 1,600, for most of the states, that is not only in the MARAMA Middle Atlantic regions, but also at the NACAA level. We are not alone. So almost all States and Cities took 1,600.

We don't want them to burn Shellac; it has a lot of VOCs. Like, plastic has a lot of HAPS. So, we don't want that, like PVC being burned in the incinerator. In the Regulation, we added those sections for what's allowed and disallowed. So, they should only burn, like, wooden casket or something that doesn't have a lot of VOCs or HAPS emissions.

For special situation like during COVID time where they can't open the body, they have to incinerate it with the plastic bag because you don't want the operator being exposed to certain diseases or anything. So that -- that's what the statement there is for. Like, in times of exceptions, or case by case situation, that could be decided to use plastic. And it's in those best practices from MARAMA and other states are doing.

In Philadelphia, we have three cremators, I think one is a little older than in 1989, but the two are fairly new, so they were built in the 2000s. So, the reg is proposing that if they burn human waste, they can operate at 1,600. If they're a burning type 4 waste, they can operate at 1,600.

We have similar rules to PADEP. Then after our quarterly meeting discussion with PADEP, we decided together. We have a quarterly meeting with PADEP. We had one last week, for example. We discussed this kind of stuff that they want us to be on the same page, for same regulations. Of course, we can make it more stringent because this is a local one, but it should not be less stringent.

AMS has a performance meeting every quarter with the commissioner. The city's benchmark for PM2.5 performance standard is 10 microgram per meter cube, which is lower than the 12 microgram per meter cube. Even now, as the new standard has been reduced to 9, which is less than 10 but EPA hasn't approved so far, legally speaking. As the commissioner said, we are continuing to do our best to protect the Philadelphians, making the air safer. The problem here is they check only the federal regulation, but we have all federal, state, and local regulations. We have 15 AMR regulations now. We can make 16 in the future because of the mayor policy which is greener and cleaner City. So that is the air that we are still working on regardless of what the federal is doing. And the other point you asked previously, "What is the city plan if the federal is doing something "that reduces air quality standard"?" I discussed this week during our supervisory meeting with the commissioner, and I mentioned to her that there are a lot of plan approvals So, we can change most of them based on the balance, the money, and others. We will switch to installation permits. Especially those "facilities" which put together like

five, or six installation permits to get one plan approval; then we will keep less -- now, even the plan approval is a lot of money. The fees are changed from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for plan approval. So, we can divide it into installation permits instead of plan approval.

We use the 2015 Ozone standard, 70 parts per billion (70ppb). For PM2.5, we started using the ug/m³ (microgram per meter cube) The new regulation for PM2.5 is now postponed by EPA. And discussed this last week's meeting with PADEP. · So maybe we will not use the 9 instead we are using the 12 microgram per meter cube. So, the EPA's current administrator wants to postpone that one until they decide if we reduce it to 9 or stay with the 12 ug/m³. But the report I submitted is based on the latest regulation, 9 ug/m³ and 70 ppb for ozone.

Summary of Answers and Explanations given by Dr. Naval-Nelson

One of the main things that the AMS team has been working on is that our communications folks and communications director, Jim Garrow, as well. We are working extensively to make sure that the dashboard is understandable and in a language that is plain and easily understood. So, there's a whole movement afoot. We've worked on public health and Vulnerable patients for years. Being in this role as health commissioner, that is at the forefront of my mind always. And Jim Garrow has been working directly with Dr. Sellassie and the AMS team to make sure that the - what is put out on the website and what is available to the public is legitimately accessible to all that want to see it.

Dr. Gross-Davis, this ("the new EPA rule on grants and other regulations") is one of the reasons why I want us to have the, the appropriate exec meeting to go over, we've had administrative changes, we have a new health commissioner, I'm not that new anymore, but we have new members, so I want to take full responsibility. Dr. Sellassie and Menelik will make sure they reach out to my scheduling assistant. We'll set up a time for the board so we can go over all these things because you're the last board that I need to meet with like this.

Minutes Approved:

Dr. Palak Naval-Nelson asked the board to approve the last three ABCB meeting minutes.

Mr. Joseph Minot confirmed the Quorum and provided the motion to approve the minutes from Oct 26th, 2023, October 31st, 2024, and Jan 30th, 2025. The unanimously approved the minutes and motions passed by the quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting Dr. Arthur Frank
Second to motion, Dr. Palak Naval-Nelson

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50PM.