

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
March 1, 2018 at 3:00 PM
Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 NE 99th St. Suite 1294
Vancouver, Washington

Optional Conference Call Number for Board of Directors 1-800-356-8278 Code: 576617

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
SWCAA Chair Don Jensen
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
SWCAA Chair Don Jensen
- III. Board of Directors Minutes
Board of Directors Minutes - February Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda
SWCAA Chair Don Jensen
- V. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Vouchers
 - B. Financial Report
 - C. Monthly Activity Report
- VI. Info Items & Public Comment
None
- VII. Public Hearing
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business
None
- IX. Control Officer Report
 - A. ATS Estimates Benefits of More Stringent Ozone and PM Standards (February 8, 2018)**
– According to the American Thoracic Society (ATS), “[t]housands of lives would be saved each year, and many more serious illnesses avoided,” if U.S. counties met ATS-recommended national standards for ozone and PM_{2.5}. Based on “scores of national and international epidemiological, animal and human-exposure studies” ATS recommends an 8-hour ozone standard of 60 parts-per-billion (ppb) versus the EPA federal standard of 70 ppb, an 11-microgram-per-cubic-meter (µg/m³) annual standard for PM_{2.5} versus the EPA federal standard of 12 µg/m³ and a 25-µg/m³ 24-hour standard for PM_{2.5} versus the EPA federal

standard of 35 µg/m³. The group estimates that if these standards were met in the U.S. the additional annual health benefits would include 6,270 lives saved, 15,300 cases of serious illness avoided and 12.7 million missed school and work days eliminated. State- and county-specific data related to the ATS-recommended standards are included in a report published by ATS and the Marron Institute for Urban Management at New York University, entitled Estimated Excess Morbidity and Mortality Associated with Air Pollution above American Thoracic Society-recommended Standards, 2013-2015. For further information: <http://www.thoracic.org/about/newsroom/pressreleases/journal/health-of-the-air-2017-report.pdf>

B. CARB Approves Phase 2 Heavy-Duty Rule Including Provisions for Gliders and Trailers (February 8, 2018) – The California Air Resources Board (CARB), by unanimous vote, approved the proposed California Phase 2 heavy-duty truck rule as well as proposed amendments to its tractor-trailer regulation. The approved state Phase 2 standards harmonize with federal standards adopted by EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in October 2016 including requirements for glider vehicles that EPA, in November 2017, proposed to repeal but that “CARB staff thinks are crucial for protecting public health and preventing the circumvention of emission standards.” The Board-approved action varies slightly from the 2016 federal glider requirements by allowing only glider kits to be manufactured in California with engines that comply with 2010 or newer emission standards; the state already requires that all heavy-duty trucks be at least 2007 compliant. CARB also extended the effective date of the rule’s trailer requirements by two years, from 2018 to 2020.

C. Department of Energy Projects Flat CO₂ Emissions from Power Sector Through 2050 (February 6, 2018) – The U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its Annual Energy Outlook for 2018, which includes U.S. energy market projections through 2050. Among other things, EIA’s Reference case projects that total power sector emissions of CO₂ will remain relatively flat due to market conditions that will continue to favor natural gas and renewable energy resources over coal. Though previous versions of the Outlook incorporated the Clean Power Plan into the Reference case the 2018 Reference case excludes it. EIA further projects that natural gas will account for nearly 39 percent of U.S. energy production by 2050, a larger share than any other category of energy production. EIA estimates that wind and solar generation will continue to increase their share of domestic energy production and account for 64 percent of total electric generation growth through 2050. For further information: <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/?scr=email>

D. EPA Issues 2016 Toxics Release Inventory Data to the Public (January 30, 2018) – EPA issued the 2016 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) national analysis – a database that is made public annually and includes information collected from industrial facilities about the chemical wastes they manage and release. The TRI database includes information from approximately 21,600 facilities nationwide. While releases to the environment overall in 2016 (3.4 billion pounds) were similar to the previous year, EPA reports that they have decreased by 21 percent since 2006. Releases to the air decreased by 11 percent from 2015 to 2016. However, between 2006 and 2016, air released declined by 58 percent (by 829 million pounds). EPA reports that nearly every industrial sector decreased air emissions, with the greatest reductions from the electric utility sector. These reductions are the result of shifts from coal to other fuels, the installation of control technologies at coal-fired power plants and the implementation

of environmental regulations. The greatest air reductions since 2006 have been of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, hydrogen fluoride, methanol, toluene and styrene. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/trinationalanalysis>

E. Pruitt Testifies Before Senate Committee, Talks Air and EPA Restructuring (January 30, 2018) – EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt testified before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) for the first time since his January 2017 confirmation hearing. EPW Committee Chairman John Barrasso (RWY) praised Administrator Pruitt’s deregulatory activities and credited the Administrator with contributing to recent economic growth. Minority Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE) challenged the Administrator’s handling of EPA — delaying environmental rules, removing science advisers and taking down climate science webpages. Pruitt defended how he has run the agency over the past year emphasizing his focus on the rule of law, process and federalism, and EPA’s efforts to partner with states. Pressed on whether EPA had conducted an analysis of the emissions implications of the recent withdrawal of the “Once In Always In” guidance on air toxics, Administrator Pruitt responded that the decision had been made in the Office of Policy on the merits of agency authority and not in the Office of Air and Radiation. Senator Carper asked whether the Administrator was pursuing undoing the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases to which Pruitt responded that a decision had not yet been made. Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA) asked about the possibility of relocating EPA activities from Washington DC to each of the 50 state capitals. Although Administrator Pruitt responded that early discussions were underway to explore this type of reorganization he offered no details on timing, implications for the EPA regional offices or other related areas. In addition to air quality, a number of other areas were explored during the hearing including new initiatives for preventing lead in drinking water, the reversal of the Waters of the United States rule and controversy surrounding grant funding cuts made on political grounds by the EPA. For further information:

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2018/1/oversight-hearing-to-receivetestimony-from-environmental-protection-agency-administrator-scott-pruitt>

F. EPA Rescinds Air Toxics Once-In-Always-In Policy (January 25, 2018) – EPA rescinded a policy, known as “Once-In-Always-In” (OIAI), that has been in effect since 1995. In essence, the OIAI policy provided that once a source of hazardous air pollutants is considered a major source under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, then it remains major even if its emissions drop below major-source levels. The intent of the policy, described in an EPA memorandum of May 16, 1995, is to prevent backsliding. In this week’s new guidance, which supersedes the 1995 document, EPA states, “sources of hazardous air pollutants previously classified as ‘major sources’ may be reclassified as ‘area’ sources at any time, provided the facility limits its potential to emit below major source thresholds.” According to EPA, the new policy is based on a “plain language” interpretation of the definitions of “major” and “area” source. EPA indicates in the memorandum that it anticipates publishing a notice in the Federal Register soon to take comment on adding regulatory text to reflect the agency’s decision. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/reclassification-majorsources-area-sources-under-section-112-clean>

X. Board Policy Discussion Issues

As Necessary

XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings

- A. Merit Pool Decision - April
- B. Executive Director Performance Evaluation - April
- C. Agency Budget - May

XII. Adjournment

Notes:

- (1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 72 and 76.
- (2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.