

Air Quality Advisory Council
September 10, 2002
Minutes

Members present: Jim Leiter, Dan McCaffery, Ron Mueller, Ellen Porter and Mickey Reese and Garon Smith (Liaison)

Staff: Shannon Therriault and Ben Schmidt

Others: John Gaberson, Alex Gorman, Leif Griffin, Bob Habeck (DEQ), Anne O'Hagen, Harley Jones, Dick Shimer, and Tony Tweedale.

1. Minutes

The Council approved the August 6 minutes without changes.

2. Redesignation

Bob Habeck from the Department of Environmental Quality talked to the Council about the state's role in redesignation. He handed out the "State Implementation Plan Development Guide" to help explain the process, which is a partnership between Missoula and DEQ. As for timelines, he said that Cyra is hoping to get a letter from EPA this month, allowing her to proceed with the CO inventory. She believes she will be done by January (hopefully sooner.) She believes she can get the particulate matter emission inventory (E.I.) done by April 2003. He assured the Council that Missoula's E.I.'s and redesignation were the top priority for the state right now, although certainly not the only work that needs to be done. A hiring freeze at the state is preventing DEQ from hiring an emission inventory person – a job with relatively low pay and high turnover. Cyra, who usually does modeling, has taken on the job of doing Missoula's E.I.'s – along with her other work. The Council discussed what could be done in the meantime. Shannon was hesitant to start any in-depth community discussions about what people might be willing to give up – if nothing needs to be given up. She feels that they need the numbers from the inventories and some modeling before that discussion can really take place.

3. Air Trends

Ben Schmidt gave a presentation on the trends of PM₁₀ and CO in Missoula. He also discussed the department's new monitoring site in Bonner. The department does not have any data back from the state for that site. (The Air Trends report is available on the County's website at www.co.missoula.mt.us/EnvHealth).

Council members asked to be sent the PowerPoint presentation. Shannon will also send it to the Interested Parties email list and post it on the web.

4. Transportation Plan Stakeholders Group.

Ron recommended that the Council wait to elect a new representative to the Stakeholder's Group until the new members were appointed. In the meantime, since a Stakeholder's meeting was coming up on September 23, Dan McCaffery agreed to serve as the interim representative.

5. Department Report.

Permazyme. Shannon talked with a chemist at Permazyme and found that it is not a calcium chloride product like Greg Robertson had reported, but simply an enzyme. It is made from fermenting sugar beets – a lot like beer brewing, but you let the process continue until

everything is fermented. The enzymes increase the wetting action, allowing for a higher relative compaction. They also form weak ionic bonds between positively charged ions (like calcium) and negatively charged ions (like clay particles), cementing the soil together. Shannon talked to the chemist about dust and he said that dust is created in two ways: when the top layer of the permazymed road gets wet, the bonds break up a bit. (That is the crust that Greg was talking about needing to scrape off every once in a while.) The other way dust is created is by the wheels of vehicles crushing particles against the very hard surface. These emissions are far lower than that of an unpaved road, but higher than a paved road. Greg talked about treating the surface by chip sealing it. Apparently there was an experiment 15 (or so) years ago where they treated Coal Mine Road (the BFI haul road) with lignosulfonate and then chip sealed it. They found that the road broke up in short order, especially on the curves. They later went back and paved it, and found that the lignosulfonate created a very good, durable base for the paving.

There are a couple of things on the horizon that the Council should keep their eye on. The Air Pollution Control Technology Verification Center, a public-private partnership with EPA, is doing a study on several dust suppressants. The initial report should be out later this year – and a more long-term report will be out later. She believes that an enzyme is one of the products being tested. In addition, the chemist at Permazyme said that AASHTO is working on developing specs for enzyme-activated soil stabilization that should be out in a couple years.

Smoking Vehicles. The Department got 43 smoking vehicle complaints in August, down from 85 in July and 100 in June. Shannon feels this is a more manageable number for now. Still not a lot of repeats, though.

6. Announcements

Ben talked with Heidi Halverson who said the Council may be interested in a current debate in front of the School Board regarding closing school campuses during lunch, which could lead to less driving. He said the current proposal applies only to freshman and sophomores. The meeting is September 26. You can also call in comments to 728-2400 x2102.

Ellen Porter will give the Council a presentation on LP's ozone monitoring at a future meeting.

Leif Griffin offered to talk to the Council about how Stone's MACT I project was going and what they are planning to do to comply with MACT II.

Garon reported that he has a student set up to do a second winter's sampling of particulate for health effects studies. The student will also chemically speciate them. They now have 140 acres worth of seed oil crops to experiment with for biodiesel, but the funding they were hoping for my fall through because the state has frozen the Research and Commercialization budget.

6. Next meeting: October 1, 2002.