

Draft AGENDA

The 12th meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Air Quality in the Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin

DATE: Thursday September 2, 1999
TIME: 10:00 am - 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Corbett Center, NMSU Campus

1. Welcome and introduction. Federal Co-Chairs
2. Presentation and approval of current agenda JAC Members
3. Approval of minutes of the 27 May, 1999 JAC meeting JAC Members

Announcements

-New JAC Member: At the previous meeting of the JAC, the EPA announced that a new member would be appointed to a position designated for the private sector. The EPA received several nominations. **Today's Action:** The new JAC member will be introduced in the opening comments of the U.S. co-chair.

Bill Luthans, EPA

Consent Agenda Written Updates - submitted for approval

Oxygenated Fuel In Juarez.

Summary: The Joint Advisory Committee and the Air Work Group sent a letter to PEMEX responding to PEMEX request for information regarding the supply, cost, and source of oxygenate for fuel that could be distributed for retail sale in Juarez. An update will be provided regarding PEMEX response. **Today's Action:** None.

Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo, INE

WGA Border Congestion Workshops

The Western Governors' Association hosted a workshop in San Antonio, Texas on April 28 - 29 to discuss the causes of and solutions to the problem of congestion at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border due to a concern about the effects of border congestion on both air quality and commerce. A formal report will be issued soon. At the 5/27 JAC meeting it was agreed to keep the group informed of events resulting from the workshop. An update can be found at the following website:

<http://www.westgov.org/wga/publicat/press/PR-WKSP.HTM>

Today's Action: none

Regular Agenda

Short (2-3 Minute) Updates

Update on U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI)

-The Environmental Protection Agency has issued a new Air Quality Index that provides critical information about precautions individuals with sensitive health conditions (particularly children with asthma) should take on days when air pollution poses threats to public health.

Mr. Matthew Witosky, EPA

Air Quality Report -

-Air Quality report for Apr-July 1999 will be presented.

Biol. Luis Carlos Salmeron, DGE
Joe Rodriguez, EPCCHED
Fabian Macias, NMED

-PM2.5 Report for Southern Doña Ana County, NM

Update on Dedicated Commuter Lane (DCL)

-The DCL is slated to open soon. A report on the effort that was undertaken to make it a reality.

Dr. Carlos Rincon

Jesus Reynoso
El Paso City-County
Environmental District

MTBE as an oxygenate

-An EPA Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) recently released a report citing the gasoline oxygenate MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) as a possible risk to drinking water supplies should it leak from underground storage tanks into the local aquifers. The BRP recommendations confirmed EPA's belief that the use of MTBE in gasoline should be significantly reduced as quickly as possible without sacrificing the gains we've made in achieving cleaner air. This announcement can be found at www.epa.gov, press releases for July 26 & 27, 1999. A report on the use of MTBE in El Paso will be presented.

Update on Vehicle Importation

-The JAC and the Air Work Group acknowledged in previous meetings that vehicles imported from the United States into Mexico present a problem for urban air pollution in Paso del Norte. The JAC Strategic Plan includes the study of this issue as a mobile source priority. The JAC Technical Commission on Vehicle Importation has met several times and will report its findings.

Biol. Alma Leticia Figueroa, DGE
Archie Clouse, TNRCC
Jesus Reynoso, EPCCHED

Clean Air Partnership (CAP) Ozone Action Days Program

-The CAP has declared several Ozone Action Days.

Veronica Carbajal
CAP Coordinator

Cd. Juarez 1999 Vehicle (Emissions) Verification (VV) Program

Cd. Juarez, in July, began enforcement of a VV Program as established under Article 20 of the State of Chihuahua Transit Laws. At an earlier meeting of the JAC a proposal was made requesting the Mayor of Juarez to send a letter to the Governor of Chihuahua requesting that Article 20 of the Chihuahua Transit Laws be enforced as stated by Law. A response from the Mayor's office will be provided

Biol. Luis Carlos Salmeron, DGE

Update on Used Tire Initiative for Cd. Juarez

Currently over 4 million tires are located at the Cd. Juarez landfill. Hundreds more are imported into Juarez each month aggravating the situation. Proposed solutions for the adequate disposition of this environmental issue will be discussed.

Biol. Alma Leticia Figueroa, DGE

Report on Sustainable Development Workshop for the Urban Environment in Cd. Juarez

-On July 22 & 23 a workshop was held in Cd. Juarez to discuss timely issues surrounding the Sustainable Development of the Urban Environment. Several recommendations were submitted and will be discussed.

Biol. Alma Leticia Figueroa, DGE

Comments and observations by the Public

BREAK

Regular Agenda (10-15 minute discussions)

Proposal to Modify the Ecology Law for the State of Chihuahua

-The State of Chihuahua Environmental Department recently proposed an update and modifications to the Laws directed toward protection of the environment.

Biol. Luis Carlos Salmeron,
DGE-Juarez
Ing. Cesar Nuñez
DGE-Chihuahua

Environmental Brickkiln Projects

-Several efforts have been undertaken to reduce smoke emissions from brickkilns in Juarez. In developing countries where batch-type brickmaking processes are prevalent, success in reducing emissions has worldwide implications. Two reports on activities will be presented.

Mexico 68 Project
Adrian Vazquez, UACJ
KM-20 Project
Luis Avila, UACJ

Natural Events Policy for Texas

John Gillen, TNRCC

Natural Events Action Plan for New Mexico

Fabian Macias, NMED

Regional Haze Regulations

A description of possible effects on the Paso del Norte airshed will be presented.

Cecilia Williams, NMED

JAC Members

6. New Initiatives

JAC Members

7. Observations and Comments from the Public

JAC Federal Co-Chairs

8. Highlights and consensus items of the meeting.

JAC Federal Co-Chairs

9. Establishment of date for next meeting

10. Adjournment