

Executive Summary - Draft Minutes
Fifteenth Meeting of the
Joint Advisory Committee on Air Quality Improvement for the
Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua / El Paso, Texas / Doña Ana County, New Mexico Air Basin
Santa Teresa Country Club, Santa Teresa, New Mexico
13 July, 2000

JAC Members Present:

For Mexico:

Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo - Co-Chair - National Institute of Ecology
Quim. Ma. del Pilar Leal - PROFEPA
Dra. Andrea Javalera - Secretariat of Health
Ing. Cesar Nuñez - Alternate for Ing. J. L. Canales - Ecology Dept. - The State of Chihuahua
Biol. Alma Leticia Figueroa Jimenez - Cd Juarez, Dept of Urban Development and Public Safety
Quim. Adrian Vazquez - UACJ
Lic. Miguel Angel Caldron R.
Ing. Rene Franco - MEM

For the U.S.:

Mr. Bill Luthans - Co-Chair - USEPA Region 6
Mr. Fabian Macias - NMED
Dr. Carlos Rincon - Environmental Defense
Mr. Jesus Reynoso -El Paso City-County Health and Environmental Dist.(EPCCHED)
Mr. George Avalos - Doña Ana County Transportation Dept.
Dr. Elaine Barron - An El Paso physician
Dr. Wen-Whai Li - UT-El Paso
Mr. Bob Currey

1) Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Victor Hugo Paramo (VHP) and Bill Luthans (BL) welcomed all to the 15th meeting of the JAC. Both commented on the comfortable and attractive facility overlooking "back nine" at the Sta. Teresa Country Club Golf Course.

2) Presentation and approval of current agenda

The agenda was accepted .

3) Approval of minutes of the 16 March, 2000 JAC meeting

The minutes were approved.

4) Announcements

VHP announced the appointment of Lic. Miguel Angel Calderon Rodriguez (MAC) to a position designated for the business sector. Nominations were solicited from COPARMEX, CANACINTRA, CANACO and other groups. 4 nominations were received. Mr. Calderon has a Masters Degree in Economics, and is a Diplomat in various fields of Political Science and Economics. MAC is also a professor at the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua. The U.S. announced it will be seeking a new member to appoint to the position vacated by Mr. Tom Martin. A press release has been issued and the nominating process will end on August 14, 2000.

5) Consent Agenda Written Updates

Chevron Supplemental Environmental Project

-Summary: A recently conducted "cash for clunkers" vehicle scrappage program undertaken by Chevron as part of an agreed order with the TNRCC "was a smashing success". 219 vehicles were recycled, 340 reviewed, and 121 rejected. Those rejected did not meet program requirements. A \$500 incentive was paid to those whose vehicle was recycled. Breakdown by community: El Paso:111, Sunland Park: 8; Cd. Juarez: 100.

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JAC Strategic Plan

Efforts are still underway to edit, update, and translate the Strategic Plan.

6) Regular Agenda

Air Quality Report

Gerardo Tarin, DGEDU presented the Air Quality Report for Jan-June, 2000. CO: Juarez had no exceedances and El Paso had 1 exceedance during the reporting period. The CO exceedance occurred on 1/19. PM10 for the 26 sampling days (1 sampling day every 6 days): Juarez recorded 7 PM10 exceedances; El Paso reported 1 PM10 exceedance on Feb. 24. Meteorology data for Feb. 24 indicate a high wind event. Ozone: no exceedances of the Mexican Standard for ozone (110 ppb for a 1 hr period) were reported in Juarez; in El Paso, the U.S. 1hr ozone standard (125 ppb) was exceeded once during the reporting period. El Paso twice met or exceeded the U.S. 8hr. ozone standard (85ppb) at CAMS-12 on May 29 (85ppb) and July 9 (88ppb). New Mexico air quality data was unavailable due to recent fire events.

Update on Used Tire Initiative for Cd. Juarez

Currently over 5 million tires are located at the Cd. Juarez landfill. Hundreds more are imported into Juarez each month aggravating the situation. The JAC Used Tire Technical Commission has met to gain support for submittal to the BECC of a letter in support of the Cd. Juarez Solid Waste Plan which include the purchase of a tire shredder.

Cd. Juarez 2000 Vehicle (Emissions) Verification (VV) Program (5 minutes)

Luis Carlos Salmeron (LCS) indicated that the Juarez VV program is on track with over 100,000 vehicles having received their VV sticker. The City has established a VV Program compliance schedule for the remainder of the year. Traffic police will be ticketing vehicle operators who have not had their vehicle inspected. The compliance schedule will be based on the ending number on the vehicle licence plate.

Air Work Group Update

The recent meeting of the AWG provided an opportunity to update the group of activity on the JAC. MW reported that ALF and he are preparing a letter to send to the National Coordinators supporting the Cd. Juarez Solid Waste Management Plan which includes a proposal to purchase a tire shredder for Jz. MW also provided an update on the Clean Air Investment Fund, an Environmental Defense Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance grant, and a report prepared by Texas A&M on vehicle exportation into Mexico. MW mentioned the document the JAC Oxyfuels Technical Commission drafted which identifies 3 options for addressing the distribution of MTBE as an oxygenate in Juarez during the winter months. Jim Yarbrough, EPA-Reg. 6- presented a report on photochemical modeling currently taking place for El Paso. Carlos Rincon (CR) added that an INE-led project to train city leaders on managing air quality also was discussed at the AWG meeting. This training would provide community leaders with the basics of air quality such as Air Quality Standards, State Implementation Plans, and Economic Instruments that can be used to improve air quality to name a few.

Oxygenated Fuels Technical Commission Report

Chuy Reynoso provided the update on the Oxyfuels Technical Commission (OTC) which has met a couple of times and proposed recommendations regarding distribution of MTBE in the Paso del Norte area. Options for consideration by the AWG include:

- For the 2000-2001 CO season, increase the percent oxygenate in Juarez to 2.7% by weight of MTBE to get full air quality benefit of oxygenated fuel while also recommending that PEMEX and others work towards distributing ethanol gasoline during subsequent CO seasons.
- Recommend the suspension of distribution of MTBE gasoline in Juarez for the 2000-2001 CO season and initiation of ethanol gasoline distribution in Juarez as soon as possible.
- Recommend that the Air Workgroup recommend to Instituto Nacional de Ecología that an oxygenated fuel standard be established for the Mexican border region including mandating the use of ethanol gasoline.

Chuy Reynoso, EPCCHED, presented a resolution for consideration by the El Paso City Council. The resolution is currently under review by the City Attorney's office and outlines the following:

- Recommend to TX Governor George Bush that he take action to eliminate the handling, storage and distribution of MTBE throughout the state before the federal ban takes effect;
- Recommend that the Joint Advisory Committee and Border XXI Air Workgroup raise the MTBE issue at the September Border XXI National Coordinators Meeting;
- Establish a city-wide ordinance to prohibit the distribution, manufacture, storage, and handling of MTBE gasoline and other ether-based gasoline oxygenates in areas identified by the El Paso Public Service Board as a "Zone of Influence" of any surface or subsurface public water supply source or conveyance structure.

Gerardo Tarin presented a report on Mexico's NOM (Norma Oficial Mexicana - Mexico's Official Rules) on gasoline requirements for different areas of the country. The rules were published in 1994 and updated in 1997 to provide data on gasoline properties, oxygenated fuel content and additives. Mexico's rules require a 1%-2% oxygenate content in regions where oxyfuels are required. The JAC is requesting that the NOM be updated to include an oxygenate requirement for Juarez.

Ozone Action Days Program

With the beginning of warm summer weather and stable atmospheric conditions, ozone levels are rising. Veronica Carbajal, OAD Director, presented an update on this year's program. VC indicated the Ozone Action Days Program was created to inform the public of the possible health impacts caused by exposure to elevated ozone levels. The OAD Program has increased public awareness and participation by using a variety of strategies including encouraging members to become ambassadors of the program.

Paso del Norte Clean Cities Coalition

Carlton Bennett (CB) provided an update on the Regional Transit Initiative. The PDNCCC has been working w/ Collin Messer, Santa Fe Community College/Energy Technology Training Colin and convened a meeting of 15 transit systems from the Western U.S. to discuss problems plaguing natural gas fueled fleets. The PDNCCC is also working with the College of the Desert, Palm Desert CA and Ruby Mountain, Inc. A follow-up meeting was held with local folks in El Paso. Next steps development of a SWAT team to help fleets work through their problems and set up a forum to help mitigate problems some of the transit systems are having. Several JAC members have drafted a letter directed to Mayor Carlos Ramirez offering any kind of technical assistance that could move the City of El Paso away from considering the purchase of more diesel powered buses and diesel engines to replace outdated and worn engines.

Paso del Norte Air Research Program (PdN-ARP)

Ruben Orquiz from UTEP presented preliminary results to date on this project. The objectives of the PDNARP study were to determine 1) the gravimetric temporal and spatial variations of PM; 2) the correlation between PM_{fine} and PM_{coarse}; 3) the chemical constituents of PM_{fine} and PM_{coarse}. Analysis of samples was conducted by Elemental X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) performed by DRI and Elemental Inductively Coupled Plasma/ Mass Spectrometry (ICP/MS) performed by UTEP. Conclusion obtained from this study indicate. 1) Study found several high 24-hr PM₁₀ concentrations at the Sun Metro site, Mission site and the Advanced Transformer site. 2) PM₁₀ results indicate that PM₁₀ pollution has not improved since 1993. 3) Comparing the PDNARP results to the 1990 results, the PM_{fine}

concentrations have decreased. 4) With the PDNARP PM results and the results from the 1997 study, there is strong indication that there is a strong PM spatial variation. 5) Trace Metal concentrations are lower today than reported in the in the previous studies. 6) PM₁₀ is mostly dominated by the coarse fraction, which contains higher concentrations of geologic material; 7) Because of diurnal variation peaks, hourly elemental analysis should be conducted.

Website for JAC & PDNAQTF

Bob Gray reported Summary: www.ozonemap.org and www.bordercleanair.org provide excellent websites to learn about air quality activities in the Paso del Norte Region. www.ozonemap.org provides visual data to track the formation and transport of regional air pollution. Haze and visibility degradation are indicators of poor air quality in Paso del Norte. Cameras installed at various locations provide images to conduct visibility research. Minutes of previous JAC meetings are also now on-line.

7. New Initiatives

Brickmakers Technical Commission.

Pilar Leal (PL), PROFEPA, reported that the Brickmakers Technical Commission (BTC) has met on the Mexican side to discuss research on the ecological brick kiln (EBK) and other issues pertinent to the Juarez brickmaking community. They've met 5 times since 31 March During these discussions 2 strategies have developed; one scientific, the other policy. 1) The BTC has designed a workplan among social and academic parties working w/ the brickmakers to design a kiln which generates a minimum of emissions. UACJ is coordinating an effort to design a prototype kiln with input from the brickmaking community 2) the BTC has developed a relationship that depends on information availability and participation among the principal actors most importantly the environmental groups, the brickmakers, academics and policy makers.

BECC

Carlos Rincon reported that he attended a recent meeting at NADBANK which has developed a Draft on "Utilizing the Lending Capacity of the NADB". The Draft is currently available on the Web. NADBANK is requesting feedback from interested persons to determine if air quality initiatives could be funded using NADB funds. CR requested that we be aware of this document and send a letter of support for these types of initiatives to the NADB. Elaine Barron (EB) asked if these are loans or grants. To wit CR responded that NADB funds primarily loans. EB added that NEJAC is seeking representatives from the private sector. Anyone w/ recommendations should provide her with names so that she may furnish the chairs of this committee.

8. Highlights and consensus items of the meeting.

The JAC Oxyfuels Technical Commission will improve technical information prior to moving forward to making a specific recommendation to the AWG.

The JAC will send a letter to Mayor Ramirez that is concise and has all the blanks filled in.

Matt Witosky and Jim Yarbrough will send a letter to Adrian Fernandez regarding the importation into Cd. Juarez of PM2.5 monitors.

The Brickmakers Technical Commission will proceed by incorporating all interested parties in pertinent discussions as they develop.

Alma Figueroa and Matthew Witosky will draft a letter from the AWG to the BECC regarding JAC support for the Cd. Juarez Solid Waste Management Plan more specifically for the purchase of the Tire Shredder.

9. Establishment of date for next meeting

October 4 in El Paso.

10. Adjourn

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Bob Currey asked what happens when a vehicle fails the test. LCS replied that in Arizona, 25% of vehicles don't pass the test. In Jz 25% of vehicles also don't pass the first test. In El Paso about 22% of vehicles don't pass the test. If the vehicle doesn't pass the VV test, the Certifying Mechanic provides the owner with a Notice of Refusal

which provides a list of “trained mechanics and garages” to where the vehicle owner can go to have the vehicle repaired. The person has 30 days to repair the vehicle and retest. Of the 25% of not passing vehicles the first test, 15% are retested. 10% take another car. 3 vehicles are abandoned daily in the streets of Jz. This adds up to about 100 vehicles/month and 1200/yr. These are mostly junk vehicles that don't pass the test. Alma Leticia Figueroa stated that funds have been provided to purchase 2 BAR90's to test vehicle emissions on the bridges. The equipment is here; we just need operators.

Air Work Group Update

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Carlos Rincon (CR) added that an INE-led project to train city leaders on managing air quality also was discussed at the AWG meeting. This training would provide community leaders with the basics of air quality such as Air Quality Standards, State Implementation Plans, and Economic Instruments that can be used to improve air quality to name a few. North Arizona University has developed a program to provide such training. VHP suggested that the program be conducted at a higher level; perhaps this type of training will work at the Delegado and Subdelegado level. CR added that since it is difficult for a local executive such as the Mayor of El Paso or Juarez to know what is taking place on the other side of the border we could make a case that this training is best conducted in an air basin where there is momentum in air quality management. Adrian Vazquez stated he'd like to provide these training sessions to public officials and Diputados and also include training on the updated LEEGPA as well. There are major issues regarding air quality issues on the Border of which the Chihuahua State Legislature does not have a clear vision.

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as a "Zone of Influence" of any surface or subsurface public water supply source or conveyance structure.

Chuy has been checking with different sources and found that it is not illegal to transport ethanol (ETOH) via pipeline as long as you maintain product integrity and prevent separation of the ETOH from gasoline. Carlos Rincon (CR) reported this issue at the AWG meeting in SD. INE is working with us to have experts from INE and the Mexican Petroleum Institute to develop formulations for cleaner burning fuels. Feedback we received from Adrian Fernandez, INE, was that before proceeding to move this to the National Coordinators (NCs) we need to conduct cost/benefit analysis to compare a number of variables such as cost of ETOH and MTBE, transportation costs by pipeline, truck, or train and consider the benefits gained from one fuel or the other.

One of the concerns is if the distribution of MTBE is banned in Juarez whether any type of litigation can be generated and is PEMEX willing to continue using MTBE regardless of the JAC recommendations. When asked what is PEMEX position on this ChR replied that we haven't talked w/ them yet. Work conducted by the CAAAC covered oxyfuel cost issues. EPA's analysts indicated that the cost differential is about 1-2 cents (U.S.) per gallon. Elaine Barron responded to the litigation worry by saying to not worry about litigation. Community groups can't tie their hands by worrying if litigation will be an outcome of their actions.

VHP asked what is the OTC requesting of the National Coordinators. CR responded he hopes that 1) the Co-Chairs of the AWG report to the National Coordinators that the MTBE issue be addressed more fully and 2) Mexico updates the NOM proposing rules change of the NOM to require oxygenated gasoline among the Border states which are in noncompliance with the Mexican CO Standard.

Pilar Leal congratulated the OTC but added we need more technical support in order to substantiate the recommendations being developed. Early on when the JAC submitted a letter to PEMEX we did not consider the issue of the type of oxygenate we wanted. Now we're saying we don't want what we've given and that we want oxyfuels with ETOH without having sufficient technical information on the impact that could be caused by ETOH. We need to request and consider the opinion of PEMEX, and we can't go to the National Coordinators with unsubstantiated recommendations. Yes there are some air quality benefits and there may also be a risk to the aquifer by using MTBE. But we're also risking a credibility problem by characterizing a risk but lack technical expertise at the local level to support our recommendations. The Water Work Group needs to participate in these discussions and be able to describe the risk. I'm not ready to say "MTBE, run for your lives." Sometimes we don't have correct or sufficient information and sometimes our emotions get in the way of reason. Work on the OTC needs to be conducted more closely w/ INE and EPA to clarify what we want to provide the National Coordinators. PL indicated she hopes that after Adrian Vazquez and Carlos Rincon visit w/ PEMEX in MX we can arrive at some sort of resolution or direction regarding the type of recommendation we make for the National Coordinator. 1.

A comment was made indicating that EPA will soon come out w/ a statement on MTBE and some problems have developed w/ guidelines. A health risk assessment needs to be undertaken to study the community and determine what is the risk. Are we going to be worse off by air or water contamination? Perhaps cumulative health risks are worse than individual health risks.

In Chih. there is arsenic contamination in the water supply. We can't have a knee jerk reaction to every environmental hazard we address. MTBE wasn't mandated; EPA mandated an oxygenate. EPA's working through the TOSCA (Toxic Substance Control Act) to determine if the cumulative risks associated w/ contamination of groundwater by MTBE are addressed.

Bob Currey stated that EPA, SEMARNAP, and EPCCHED are multimedia environmental agencies, but we're an air group. MTBE causes water problems. We must be able to deal with the unintended consequences of our recommendations. What would be the best alternative if we're going to oxygenate gasoline. What would be the technical issue to address in a positive manner.

CR stated that as an OTC member and with the input of experts from PEMEX we would like in- depth documentation on the 3 scenarios the OTC has recommended, and we hope the AWG takes this issue to the National

Coordinators . As soon as we (CR & Adrian Vazquez) meet with Adrian Fernandez and PEMEX in MX, D. F. to discuss the options that have been developed we will have a greater amount of technical information from which to move forward.

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Paso del Norte Air Research Program (PdN-ARP)

Entering Phase II of a study to characterize PM_{2.5} and other particulates which degrade visibility and cause respiratory problems, this SCERP (Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy) project includes participation from UT-El Paso (UTEP), New Mexico State University (NMSU), University of Utah (UofU), Arizona State University (ASU), ITESM-Monterrey, (Universidad Autonoma de Cd. Juarez (UACJ) and Tecnologico de Juarez. Ruben Orquiz from UTEP presented preliminary results to date on this project. The objectives of the PDNARP study were to determine 1) the gravimetric temporal and spatial variations of PM; 2) the correlation

between PM_{fine} and PM_{coarse} ; 3) the chemical constituents of PM_{fine} and PM_{coarse} . Analysis of samples was conducted by Elemental X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) performed by DRI and Elemental Inductively Coupled Plasma/ Mass Spectrometry (ICP/MS) performed by UTEP. Conclusion obtained from this study indicate. 1) Study found several high 24-hr PM_{10} concentrations at the Sun Metro site, Mission site and the Advanced Transformer site. 2) PM_{10} results indicate that PM_{10} pollution has not improved since 1993. 3) Comparing the PDNARP results to the 1990 results, the PM_{fine} concentrations have decreased. 4) With the PDNARP PM results and the results from the 1997 study, there is strong indication that there is a strong PM spatial variation. 5) Trace Metal concentrations are lower today than reported in the in the previous studies. 6) PM_{10} is mostly dominated by the coarse fraction, which contains higher concentrations of geologic material; 7) Because of diurnal variation peaks, hourly elemental analysis should be conducted.

Website for JAC & PDNAQTF

Bob Gray reported Summary: www.ozonemap.org and www.bordercleanair.org provide excellent websites to learn about air quality activities in the Paso del Norte Region. www.ozonemap.org provides visual data to track the formation and transport of regional air pollution. Haze and visibility degradation are indicators of poor air quality in Paso del Norte. Cameras installed at various locations provide images to conduct visibility research. Minutes of previous JAC meetings are also now on-line.

7. New Initiatives

Brickmakers Technical Commission.

Pilar Leal (PL), PROFEPA, reported that the Brickmakers Technical Commission (BTC) has met on the Mexican side to discuss research on the ecological brick kiln (EBK) and other issues pertinent to the Juarez brickmaking community. Since 31 March they've met 5 times w/ FEMAP, Chih. State Government, UACJ, reps. from the brickmaking community, MEM, & PROFEPA, During these discussions 2 strategies have developed; one scientific, the other policy. 1) The BTC has designed a workplan among social and academic parties working w/ the brickmakers to design a kiln which generates a minimum of emissions. UACJ is coordinating an effort to design a prototype kiln with input from the brickmaking community 2) the BTC has developed a relationship that depends on information availability and participation among the principal actors most importantly the environmental groups, the brickmakers, academics and policy makers.

The first meeting included about 20 brickmakers mostly interested in improving current designs to minimize emissions. The UACJ will develop plans based on recommendations from brickmakers and FEMAP to construct a prototype kiln. Testing will be conducted to determine emissions. Carlos Rincon stated his participation w/ the BTC included funds procurement in 3 areas: 1) working with the UACJ team he'll find funds to compile and examine data; 2) from the prototype kiln designs he'll find funds to construct it and conduct emissions tests; and 3) funds will be procured to evaluate emissions data to determine emission factors to help further modify the kiln to provide for efficient kiln design. Combining the political and technical information the JAC and interested parties will conduct a workshop where the result could be that SEMARNAP can propose this type of endeavor to the other Mexican States where brickmakers are also located and can perhaps use the new kiln. Finally, working with the fiscal incentives workgroup we can work toward the large-scale construction of new kilns. Cesar Nuñez added that one of the aspects considered in this endeavor is the long-term relocation of the brickmakers and kilns into a neighborhood that is more amenable to the construction of these kilns and the brickmaking microindustry.

Dr. Antonio Lara stated that NMSU has been working with the brickmakers for the past 5 years and there has been no contact whatsoever with NMSU or his staff. He indicated that this is our heart and our soul, and he finds it quite appalling that he hasn't been informed of any of the 5 meetings that have taken place given that NMSU constructed the first prototype which literally reduced emissions and provided the momentum for these efforts. Carlos Rincon responded that the BTC has been working w/ political entities and the brickmakers. Adrian Vazquez added that we all have learned more from the efforts of NMSU. This is an opportunity by those who have seen the NMSU-EBK and would like to participate, and the brickmakers would like to provide an opinion on this effort also. Dr. Paramo recommended that the best way to proceed with the BTK is incorporate all interested parties in pertinent discussions of the BTK.

BECC

Carlos Rincon reported that he attended a recent meeting at NADBANK which has developed a Draft on “Utilizing the Lending Capacity of the NADB”. The Draft is currently available on the Web. NADBANK is requesting feedback from interested persons to determine if air quality initiatives could be funded using NADB funds. CR requested that we be aware of this document and send a letter of support for these types of initiatives to the NADB. Elaine Barron (EB) asked if these are loans or grants. To wit CR responded that NADB funds primarily loans.

EB added that NEJAC is seeking representatives from the private sector. Anyone w/ recommendations should provide her with names so that she may furnish the chairs of this committee.

8. Highlights and consensus items of the meeting.

The JAC Oxyfuels Technical Commission will improve technical information prior to moving forward to making a specific recommendation to the AWG.

The JAC will send a letter to Mayor Ramirez that is concise and has all the blanks filled in.

Matt Witosky and Jim Yarbrough will send a letter to Adrian Fernandez regarding the importation into Cd. Juarez of PM2.5 monitors.

The Brickmakers Technical Commission will proceed by incorporating all interested parties in pertinent discussions as they develop.

Alma Figueroa and Matthew Witosky will draft a letter from the AWG to the BECC regarding JAC support for the Cd. Juarez Solid Waste Management Plan more specifically for the purchase of the Tire Shredder.

9. Establishment of date for next meeting

October 4 in El Paso.

10. Adjourn