

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting
January 7, 2010
3:00 P.M.
Southwest Clean Air Agency
11815 N.E. 99th Street
Vancouver, Washington

Optional Conference Call Number for use by SWCAA Board of Directors
(360) 407-3780 and PIN No. 689120#

(Note: Please notify Tina Hallock at (360) 574-3058 Ext. 10
if you desire that SWCAA pay the cost of this long distance call because
in this circumstance a state SCAN Operator will need to telephone you.)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - A. SWCAA Chair Don Jensen.

- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
 - A. SWCAA Chair Don Jensen.

- III. Board of Directors Minutes
 - A. Board of Directors Minutes of November 5, 2009.

- IV. Changes to the Agenda
 - A. SWCAA Chair Don Jensen.

- V. Public Comment
 - A. Public Comment.

- VI. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Vouchers.
 - B. Financial Report.
 - C. Monthly Activity Report.

- VII. Public Hearing
 - A. None.

- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business
 - A. None.

- IX. Control Officer Report
 - A. Poor Winter Air Quality Notifications to be made to Board of Directors.
 - 1. Issue – Department of Ecology’s Wood Stove Burn Ban (Curtailment)

Guidelines provide the statewide criteria for calling Stage 1 curtailments as occurred in Lewis County on December 11, 2009. Ecology's guidelines state on page 2 that Stage 1 announcements are based on meteorological conditions. Stage 2 announcements, on the other hand, are based on both meteorological conditions and also monitored air quality data which demonstrates that air quality has already worsened to at least 70 percent or greater of the national air quality health standard (i.e., $25 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or greater). (Attachment No. 1)

2. Summary – The Washington state legislature passed Senate Bill 6753 in 2008 to update the curtailment portion of RCW 70.94.473 of the Washington Clean Air Act. This legislative update addressed EPA's lowering of the Fine Particulate Matter ($\text{PM}_{2.5}$) national air quality health standard from $65 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Washington's statewide clean air agency efforts to prevent unhealthy air quality from occurring for its most vulnerable old and young citizens progressively moves through three possibilities: (1) only a Stage 1 curtailment announcement is needed to maintain healthy air; (2) a Stage 1 curtailment announcement is made but air quality continues to worsen and a Stage 2 curtailment is needed; or (3) air quality worsens so quickly toward the unhealthy condition that it is necessary to move straight to a Stage 2 announcement. Lewis County's conditions on December 11, 2009 did not exceed a Stage 1 announcement and the meteorological information relied upon for this Lewis County decision is included in Attachment Nos. 2 and 3. Clark County, on the other hand, during the week of December 8, 2009 to December 14, 2009 experienced air quality continuously worsening where latter in the week a Stage 1 curtailment was changed to a Stage 2 announcement. Attachment No. 2 shows the air stagnation (i.e., poor ventilation) that was forecast for the Lewis County and Clark County region by the University of Washington Northwest Modeling Consortium for Thursday December 10, 2009 through Sunday December 13, 2009. Attachment No. 3 shows the Oakville, Washington and Lacey, Washington monitoring data that confirmed air quality was worsening leading up to the December 10, 2009 Lewis County Stage 1 curtailment announcement. To obtain even closer monitoring data for curtailment announcements in Lewis County an agreement has been executed with the City of Chehalis for the installation and operation of a Fine Particulate Matter monitor (i.e., $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ nephelometer) to be placed on the roof of Chehalis City Hall. The equipment installation and electricity for this monitor was completed by the end of December 2009. The Department of Ecology needs to complete this installation by hooking up the telemetry system and that effort is hoped to be completed by January 7, 2009. Installation of the Chehalis monitoring station was achieved by shifting one of two Vancouver monitors to Chehalis because funding and staffing does not exist for the installation and operation of a net gain in monitoring stations. Fine Particulate Matter (i.e., $\text{PM}_{2.5}$) monitors in SWCAA's jurisdiction are already located in Vancouver, Yacolt and Longview. Other Fine Particulate Matter monitors are located in Oakville, Lacey and Shelton.

B. Earthjustice Appeal of TransAlta's Coal-Fired Power Plant Title V Permit Requesting the Implementation of Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) and Mercury (Hg) Emission Reductions.

1. Issue – Legal briefs outlining each party’s perspective on the legal issues in this appeal were filed on November 24, 2009 and Motions for Summary Judgment were filed by all parties on December 14, 2009.

2. Summary – Earthjustice has filed a lawsuit on the behalf of several environmental groups (i.e., Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association and Northwest Environmental Defense Center) requesting that the TransAlta Title V permit be amended to include carbon dioxide emission limits (CO₂), mercury (Hg) emission limits and more stringent nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emission limits. The Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) has set a January 6, 2010 date to hear oral arguments on the legal issues raised in this appeal. TransAlta has agreed to reimburse SWCAA for its attorney fees of this Title V renewal permit appeal. SWCAA and TransAlta have been named as joint Respondents in this appeal. SWCAA has hired the Seattle law firm of Marten Law Group to represent the agency during this appeal.

C. California Adopts Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

1. Issue – The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has adopted a regulation to implement a Low Carbon Fuel standard that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation fuels in the state by 10 percent by 2020.

2. Summary – The new rule will take effect in 2011 and seeks to diversify the types of transportation fuels used. According to CARB, more than 1.5 billion gallons of biofuels will be needed to implement the rule. This need will necessitate the construction of more than 25 new biofuels facilities and, thus, creating more than 3,000 new jobs, primarily in rural areas of California. Greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector account for 40 percent of California’s greenhouse gas emissions. The Low Carbon Fuel standard is expected to achieve 16 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2020.

D. EPA Issues Final Small Nonroad Engine Rule.

1. Issue – Five years after states were barred by Congress from regulating emissions from small nonroad spark-ignition (gasoline powered) engines under 50 horsepower, the EPA Administrator signed a final rule setting emission standards and fuel evaporative emission standards for small engines under 25 horsepower, as well as marine engines.

2. Summary – Affected engines include: (1) gasoline powered nonroad engines below 25 hp when used in household and commercial applications, such as lawn and garden equipment, generators, utility vehicles, airport service equipment; and (2) gasoline powered marine engines and vessels, such as outboard engines, stern drive/inboard engines and personal watercraft. According to EPA, by 2030, the new standards will reduce annual volatile organic hydrocarbon emissions by 600,000 tons, nitrogen oxide emissions by 130,000 tons and fine particulate matter emissions by 5,500 tons by 2030 and annual carbon monoxide emission reductions of 1.5 million tons. In 2003, Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO) was instrumental in enacting a legislative amendment that prohibited states except California from adopting emission standards from nonroad engines under 50 hp,

citing potential fire threats from catalytic converters on lawnmowers. EPA subsequently conducted a study and found these engines to be safe.

E. Google Earth Launches CO₂ Emissions Map.

1. Issue – Google Earth has launched the Vulcan project, a new high-resolution, interactive map of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels that allows the public to view air pollution from factories, power plants, roadways and residential and commercial areas.

2. Summary – The United States accounts for 25 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions. The Vulcan layer on Google Earth shows carbon dioxide emissions in metric tons at the state, county or per capita level and breaks down emissions by the different sectors responsible for the emissions, including aircraft, commercial, electricity production, industrial, residential and transport. Vulcan project data is intended to complement NASA's Orbiting Carbon Observatory, a satellite that quantifies levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

F. Surplus Equipment.

1. Issue – From time-to-time SWCAA needs to surplus equipment that is either old, obsolete or has failed.

2. Summary – Two of the agency's Prius vehicles have reached over 70,000 miles and will be surplus through the state auction so that the agency can insure that it maintains a fleet that is uniformly in good condition. The agency's telephone system is also experiencing occasional random failures in which the system has to be reset indicating that this critical existing telephone system should be replaced and surplus.

XI. Board Policy Discussion Issues

A. As Necessary.

XII. Issues for Next Meeting

A. Public Hearing.

1. None.

B. New Business/Unfinished Business.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2010.

C. Control Officer Report.

1. As Necessary.

D. Board Policy Discussion Issues.

1. As Necessary.

E. Meeting Date and Location

1. February 4, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., Southwest Clean Air Agency, 11815 NE 99th Street, Vancouver, Washington.

XII. Adjournment

Mission Statement

“To Preserve and Enhance Air Quality in Southwest Washington”

Board of Director Values

1. It is important for the region to first achieve healthy air before focusing on other air quality issues.
2. Local control of southwest Washington air pollution issues should be apparent to our constituency.
3. It is important that compliance with federal and state air pollution regulations be achieved.
4. A partnership that is fully reciprocal is desired with the Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
5. All decisions made by the Board should be guided by a principle of doing what is best for the region as a whole.
6. It is important to strive for a good working relationship with the residents and industries of southwest Washington.
7. The effort to obtain stakeholder input on agency actions is a key component of the agency’s public involvement process.
8. The pursuit of reductions in air pollution should be based on achieving the largest air quality benefits first.
9. The basis for air pollution reduction measures should be rooted in sound science.
10. Education should be utilized as an important tool for achieving sustained voluntary compliance.
11. The priority of enforcement decisions should first be on ensuring education is achieved and then issuance of civil penalties.
12. Effective enforcement means that recalcitrant sources are brought into clear compliance.
13. The Board prefers to be involved at the policy setting level for the agency rather than the day-to-day management issues.
14. Fiscal expenditures by the agency should be consistent with the Board approved budget.
15. The fair treatment of the agency’s employees is an important goal of the Board.

Note: (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 10.