



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

July 22, 2026
12:00 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Chair: Dave Snyder, Falls Church

MEETING SUMMARY

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

- David Snyder, City of Falls Church (Chair)
- Alan Hew, City of College Park (Vice-Chair)
- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Collin Burrell, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County
- Jessica Gaetano, Calvert County
- Jason Groth, Charles County
- Richard Jackson, DC Executive Office
- Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Sonia Vasquez Luna, City of Manassas
- Doris McCleod, VDEQ
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Kristin Mink, Montgomery County
- Johnathan Morrill, City of Falls Church
- Evandro Santos, Prince William County
- Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation

- Julius D "JD" Spain, Arlington County
- Kristen Weaver, City of Greenbelt

OTHERS

- Samuel Kay, DOEE
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Yolanda Pensmith, Loudoun County

COG STAFF

- Alissa Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Robert d'Abadie, COG Department of Transportation Planning
- Jen Desimone, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director
- Sunil Kumar, COG Department of Environmental Programs

1. CALL TO ORDER, PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES

Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair

Chair Dave Snyder called the meeting to order after staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Members were asked to enter their names and affiliations in the meeting chat for attendance purposes and were reminded that the meeting was being recorded and

streamed. No members of the public were registered to provide comments, and no additional public comments were offered during the meeting. The committee then unanimously approved the May 2026 meeting summary without changes.

2. OZONE STANDARD MAINTENANCE PLAN AND REDESIGNATION REQUEST

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer

Sunil Kumar presented the draft maintenance plan and redesignation request for the 2015 ozone standard. He explained that EPA established the standard at 70 parts per billion in December 2015 and designated the metropolitan Washington region as a nonattainment area in August 2018. The region was later reclassified as a moderate nonattainment area but subsequently met the standard by the August 2024 attainment deadline and received a Clean Data Determination from EPA. These developments allow the region to request redesignation to attainment and submit a maintenance plan demonstrating continued compliance.

The redesignation request compares emissions in the 2017 base year with emissions in the 2022 attainment year and demonstrates that reductions in nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds resulted from permanent and enforceable measures. The maintenance plan includes projected emissions inventories for 2032 and 2038. The 2038 horizon represents ten years beyond EPA's anticipated redesignation action. The inventories cover point, nonpoint, nonroad, and on-road emission sources. Projections show that emissions in the future milestone years remain below 2022 levels, as required.

Mr. Kumar also reviewed the plan's motor-vehicle emissions budgets, which establish the maximum allowable on-road emissions used in the regional transportation-conformity process. The plan includes transportation buffers of 20 percent for volatile organic compounds and 40 percent for nitrogen oxides. Even with these buffers, projected emissions for 2032 and 2038 remain below the 2022 baseline. The plan allows the budgets to be reevaluated if federal emission-control programs are rolled back, emissions models or data change significantly, or transportation-planning requirements extend beyond the current planning horizon.

The maintenance plan also identifies contingency measures that could be implemented if the region exceeds the 2015 ozone standard in the future. Mr. Kumar noted that EPA had completed an initial review of the documents and that its comments had been incorporated into the updated draft. Additional substantial comments or requests for supplemental information would be brought back to MWAQC or its Executive Committee before the public-comment period begins.

During the discussion, a member asked how wildfire smoke, fireworks, and other unusual air-quality events are treated when evaluating compliance. Staff explained that states may seek EPA approval to exclude qualifying data under the exceptional-events process when they can demonstrate that an event outside the region's control affected monitored pollution levels. Staff noted that this process was used for wildfire-related air-quality data from 2023.

A second question addressed emissions from backup diesel generators associated with the region's growing data-center industry. Staff explained that these emissions are included in the inventories developed from state-provided data. Virginia DEQ staff added that data centers report annual emissions and that emergency generator operation is narrowly limited by permit requirements. Chair Snyder noted that data-center-related air-quality issues are also being examined separately and will remain an area of continued attention.

Chair Snyder emphasized that the region's progress reflects sustained efforts by residents and governmental partners at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Following the discussion, the committee unanimously approved releasing the ozone maintenance plan and redesignation request for public review and comment.

Action: The committee unanimously approved the 2015 ozone standard maintenance plan and redesignation request for public review and comment.

3. ADJOURN

Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair

With no additional agenda items or other business raised by members, Chair Dave Snyder called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned. The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2026.