

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
June 9, 10:00 AM - 10:55 AM

Present:

Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Emily Bull, Maryland Department of the Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Melissa Atwood, City of Alexandria
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Alissa Boggs, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Robert d'Abadie, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order & Review of Meeting Summary

Roger Thunell called to order it at 10 AM. The May 12th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. 2015 Ozone NAAQS RR/MP

Sunil Kumar discussed the draft 2015 ozone NAAQS RR/MP. His presentation outlined the Washington, DC-MD-VA region's request to redesignate from "Moderate Nonattainment" to "Attainment" for the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb, supported by a maintenance plan. He explained that ozone levels have declined since the 2017 base year, with attainment demonstrated from 2021 onwards and the plan projects continued compliance through 2038. The maintenance plan includes air quality data, emissions inventories, mobile emissions budgets, and contingency measures.

He mentioned that future emissions are expected to be lower. The plan sets transportation conformity budgets for VOC and NO_x, including safety margins of 20% for VOC and 40% for NO_x; proposed budgets are 25.7 tpd VOC / 33.0 tpd NO_x in 2032 and 21.4 tpd VOC / 22.3 tpd NO_x in 2038. It also identifies triggers for re-evaluating mobile budgets and lists contingency measures that would be implemented if the region exceeds the ozone standard in the future.

3. Ozone Season Summary

Sunil Kumar briefed members on the 2026 ozone season air quality data. There were two ozone exceedances but no PM_{2.5} exceedances this year until June 5. Both ozone and PM_{2.5} design values remain below their corresponding standards.

4. ALA State of the Air Report (2026)

Sunil briefed members on the ALA State of the Air report for 2026. The report focused on air quality in the Washington, DC-Baltimore-Northern Virginia region using 2022–2024 data. It explained how ALA grades ozone and PM_{2.5} are based on unhealthy air days, severity weighting, and annual PM_{2.5} design values.

Overall, the region was not listed among the top 25 most polluted areas for ozone or PM_{2.5}. While

several jurisdictions still received weaker ozone grades, the report concludes that air quality generally improved compared with 2025, with all jurisdictions passing annual PM2.5 standards

5. State and Local Updates

DC – Thatch Gerike mentioned that DOEE submitted IM SIP regulation in response to EPA’s query.

MD – Roger said that MDE is trying to get an addendum supplemental SIP revision to EPA that will encompass a wide variety of components such as, RACT Threshold, enhanced monitoring, enhanced I/M performance standards, etc.

VA – Doris said there is nothing to report.