

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
939 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94109

APPROVED MINUTES

Advisory Council Public Health Committee Meeting
1:30 p.m., Monday, October 25, 2004

1. **Call to Order – Roll Call.** 1:33 p.m. Quorum Present: Linda Weiner, Chairperson; Sanjiv Bhandari, Elinor Blake, Jeffrey Bramlett, Victor Torrealano. Absent: Diane Bailey, Brian Zamora.
2. **Public Comment Period.** There were no public comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2004.** Mr. Torrealano moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Ms. Blake; carried.
4. **Optical Fence Line Monitoring at Bay Area Refineries and Chemical Plants.** Chairperson Weiner summarized the minutes of previous Committee meetings regarding the subject of optical fence line monitoring, noting that the Committee was asked to recommend whether the technology in operation at the ConocoPhillips Refinery in Rodeo should be installed at other Bay Area refineries. While the Committee is not recommending the further application of this technology, it is recommending improving public access to data from other refinery monitoring systems.

In general discussion, the following points were made:

- a) The posting of fence line monitoring data from the ConocoPhillips Refinery on the Contra Costa County Health Department website has been delayed but is still in process. (Blake)
- b) In August of 2003 staff and the Committee discussed the limited extent to which fixed monitoring systems can assist in monitoring large episodic releases, noting that the data are not in real-time. Both the Health Department and District can use ambient canisters for grab samples in areas of potential maximum impact. The timeliness of the sampling depends on many factors, including how quickly inspectors can arrive at the facility. (Gary Kendall, Technical Division Director, and Kelly Wee, Compliance & Enforcement Division Director)
- c) Staff and the ConocoPhillips refinery have over the past year been discussing the posting of data from refinery Ground Level Monitors (GLMs) on the District's website. (Kendall)
- d) The Committee is recommending an upgrade to the GLM network to equip it with other tools so that if a release event happened, those monitors would be automatically triggered at certain levels to grab a sample at that moment. (Blake) An advantage of collecting a canister in silica-lined stainless steel, which is an inert material, is that it allows for a wide range of chemicals at low levels of concentration.
- e) Devices called Continuous Emission Monitors (CEMs) are installed in stacks, to assess emissions very close to the source, but these do not produce ambient air readings. (Kendall)

Chairperson Weiner requested staff to comment on the recommendations, and the following observations were made:

Staff is presently pursuing items contained in Recommendation No. 1, which will provide greater access to the public to real-time data. This would add GLM data to the website, and add to source-specific ambient data. In addition to refineries, other sources have GLMs, such as electrical generating power plants and sulfuric acid plants. (Kendall)

Staff can investigate the items contained in Recommendation No. 2 regarding equipping GLMs, which monitor for SO₂ and H₂S, with a hydrocarbon analyzer and possibly an analyzer for PM as well. Hand-held PM monitors are available that might be adapted for this purpose. The use of a Zontec automatic sampler with a trigger mechanism set at a low level is also promising. Silica-lined canisters would provide for sample stability, and mounting several canisters together provides opportunities for multiple event sampling. (Kuneniak, Kendall)

Recommendation No. 3 concerns the location of District monitors at the refinery. District staff and the ConocoPhillips refinery have evaluated the monitoring network, studied the history of measurements, meteorology, and the potential impacts in unmonitored locations, and, based on the results, requested the refinery to stop monitoring at a location where nothing significant was measured for 20 years. It was suggested that the monitor be relocated and improvements sought for locating other monitors. Evaluation of the efficacy of the monitoring network is a long-term and continuing endeavor. (Kendall)

Recommendation No. 4 partly repeats No. 3 but shifts the focus to monitors operated by industrial sites under District regulations. Some refineries have commenced with Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), in which refineries endeavor to improve data on emissions by increasing the number of GLMs at the facility and making them more robust. This is occurring at both the ConocoPhillips and Shell refineries. Through settlement negotiations associated with permit renewal and compliance settlements, the District allowed SEP funds to go toward these types of monitoring programs that exceed what is required in regulations. (Wee)

Recommendation No. 5 deals with Continuous Emission Monitors (CEMs), which are placed in the stack to measure specific pollutants. There are about 101 CEM systems in the Bay Area representing over 300 analyzers, and their application to new sources and different source categories can be investigated. They produce real-time data 24 hours a day, and the District issues a monthly report on the data. The challenge is to work with industry to place the voluminous and diverse data into a standardized format. At the present time the data is issued on paper and takes considerable time to review. In reply to the Committee's urging that the data be presented in a graphic form that is accessible to, and translated for, the public, staff noted that at the present time there is no regulatory mandate to report the data in real-time and no regulatory guidance on how to standardize the data. Regulations stipulate that any indicated excess of a CEM must be reported to the District. (Kuneniak)

Recommendation No. 6 concerns reviewing CEM data in terms of source categories throughout the various refineries, in order to ascertain whether or not additional CEMs might be needed, and also whether or not the right CEMs are in the right places. A phase-in of a prioritization of CEM monitors and data would be necessary because the task would be too large to do all at once. The District issues monthly reports, and these could be made available in summary form in a more easily understood format on the District's website. This would take considerable time to prepare given the volume of data. (Kendall, Wee, Kuneniak)

Recommendation No. 7 concerns a program that is in process, and the focus of the CARE program is to inform the public of risks associated with air toxic contaminants, and about directing District programs to reduce those risks where they are at the highest level. The first item to be developed is a gridded inventory of toxic emissions and this will be shared with the public. (Kendall)

Chairperson Blake called for public comment, and the following individual came forward:

Dennis Bolt
Western States Petroleum Association

stated the Committee started with the task of reviewing whether fence line optical monitoring should be applied to other refineries and has concluded by recommending modifications to other types of refinery monitoring systems. The data generated by the Committee's recommendations would not be in context with emissions from other industrial sources in the Bay Area. New sampling mechanisms for District GLMs should be applied District-wide, and if CEM data is to be posted it should be District-wide as well. It is not appropriate to focus only on refineries. If more monitoring data is needed for providing more information to the community, it must be in context, and concern all industrial facilities in the Bay Area. The refineries oppose posting only refinery CEM data on the District's website.

Mr. Kendall noted that the District's website has a section devoted to the test results on Title V facilities, and refineries are among them. The Committee's recommendations have some consistency with this kind of approach. Mr. Bramlett noted that the context issue is an important one for evaluating the data, and the CARE program is a step in the direction of providing both context and priority.

Ms. Blake reviewed several suggested edits, with "District" to be inserted in front of "GLM" in No. 3; the sentence clauses switched in No. 4; the referencing of "source oriented" GLMs in Nos. 1, 2 and 3; and an indication in No. 4 that "refineries operate ground level monitors." In No. 5 the final sentence should indicate that "these reports could be required in electronic form, standardized and posted on the District's website with general explanatory information, graphical presentations and other methods and materials that make them more readily useful to the public."

Mr. Torreano moved adoption of the recommendations as amended; seconded by Mr. Bramlett; carried unanimously.

- 5. Discussion of Advisory Council Activities.** Ms. Blake noted that a reflection on the year's work would be helpful in preparing for the January Retreat in terms of future Council and Committee process, procedure and direction. Mr. Bramlett observed that it is important to keep apprised on whether Council recommendations are being addressed. The document tracking Council discussions and deliberations provided by the Deputy Clerk is helpful. Mr. Bhandari noted that in the Advisory Council at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, much material was reviewed but it was never made apparent what impact the Council had. The first tour of the District was outstanding, however, and more orientation along those lines should be pursued. Mr. Torreano noted that an organization chart of the District would be helpful as well. Mr. Bramlett suggested ways to streamline the wordsmithing of amendments to recommendations during Council meetings.

6. **Committee Member Comments/Other Business.** Ms. Blake stated that a recent letter from Executive Officer/APCO Jack Broadbent to the Governor was sent to the entire Advisory Council. The Board Executive Committee received the Council's recommendations at the end of September, and asked excellent questions in the discussion with the Council representatives.
7. **Time and Place of Next Meeting.** Chairperson Weiner suggested that since the Committee has completed its review of its work plan topics (community risk assessment, the precautionary principle, indoor air quality, refinery optical fence line monitoring) and met monthly at the beginning of the year for several consecutive months, it should resume meeting after the January 2005 Retreat. The Committee members expressed consensus with this suggestion.
8. **Adjournment.** 3:15 p.m.

James N. Corazza

James N. Corazza
Deputy Clerk of the Boards

:jc