

December 4th, 2012 AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Meeting

AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeremiah Dunham	Health and Human Services Commission
Rusty Myers	Alaska Pacific University
Jedediah Smith	Public Transit Advisory Board
Lois Epstein	The Wilderness Society
Bruce Lee	Arctic Import/ I/M Representative
Stacey Dean	P&Z
Tom Grman	Alaska DOT & PF

Staff and Public in Attendance:

Cindy Heil	ADEC
Barbara Garner	Citizen
Craig Lyon	AMATS
Eva Aigner	Design PT
Matt Stichick	MOA/DHHS
Steve Morris	MOA/DHHS
Anne Schlapia	MOA/DHHS
Chris Salerno	MOA/DHHS
Stacey Cooper	MOA/DHHS

Jeremiah Dunham called the meeting to order at 11:34am.

Approval of April 2nd and April 17th, 2012 Minutes

Rusty Myers made a motion to approve the April 2nd, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved. **Rusty Myers** also made a motion to approve the April 17th, 2012 minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

Revised Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan

Matt Stichick gave a presentation on the revised Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan (available on AMATS Air Quality Advisory Committee page with meeting materials).

Matt explained that the number of carbon monoxide (CO) sites will be cut to two as long as EPA agrees with the plan. The Turnagain and Garden sites will remain, as those are the sites with the highest concentrations of CO. Matt mentioned that the future of the Turnagain site is uncertain since the church that serves as the monitoring site is for sale. He also explained that the EPA only requires one CO monitoring site, but an alternate site would attempt to be found in the Turnagain area if the church is sold and the CO monitor cannot remain there.

Barbara Garner asked if PM-2.5 is being monitored at the Tudor site since it is near the ASD bus lot and the ongoing problem with diesel fumes from the buses. Matt explains that while there is a continuous PM-10 monitor at Tudor, there is currently no PM-2.5 monitoring at that location. The Anchorage Air Quality Program does not monitor

PM-2.5 at the Tudor site because, historically PM2.5 concentrations there were low, and resources are too limited to support continuous PM2.5 monitoring at that location.

Lois Epstein expressed concern that there may not be a CO monitoring site in Turnagain in the future. She recommends that the LMP be amended to add language to underscore the importance of maintaining a monitoring site in the Turnagain area since that is the area with the highest concentrations of CO. **Matt Stichick** and **Steve Morris** explain that they feel it is not a good idea to limit air quality monitoring efforts to a certain area because monitoring priorities and resources may change in the future. Matt also explains that amending the LMP will set the timeline of approval back. Lois recommends the following language be added to the LMP on the bottom of page III.B.12-3:

Additionally, because the Turnagain monitor consistently measures the highest CO concentrations in the network, The Municipality Of Anchorage supports continuation of a monitoring site in the Turnagain/Spenard area.

Stacey Dean reminded the committee that the federal requirement is for only one CO monitor in Anchorage. She explains that it is expensive to maintain a site, vehicles are more efficient than before in terms of CO pollution and that she is not inclined to add a second or keep a second station if the federal government does not require it. Matt adds that CO concentrations are decreasing due to better vehicle emissions control. Wood smoke is now of greater concern than CO for air quality conditions in Anchorage.

Lois Epstein made a motion to amend the LMP to state additionally that a CO monitor be kept in the Turnagain area as per her language she suggested. **Rusty Myers** seconded the motion. Four voted in favor of the motion and three voted against. The motion passed.

Tom Grman expressed concern that the amendment is limiting. Matt mentioned that the Turnagain area is an important monitoring area regardless of the amendment. **Jeremiah Dunham** reminded the meeting that the EPA will have the final word on the LMP.

A motion was made to approve the revised Carbon Monoxide LMP. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Revision of Air Quality Committee Bylaws

Steve Morris gave a brief history of the by-laws. They were passed in 1992 and have not been amended since then. He said it seems like it has been long enough that the by-laws should be reviewed. One suggestion is to eliminate the committee position dedicated to an I/M representative since the I/M program no longer exists. Steve has tried to leave more flexibility in the composition of the committee to reflect the issues that may be important at the time.

Jedediah Smith moved to approve the recommended edits to the by-laws. **Stacey Dean** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Planned changes to Anchorage Air Quality Program due to reduced budget

The Municipality Of Anchorage 2013 operating budget approved by the Assembly in late November reduced the city financial contribution to the Air Quality Program by half. The program will lose two staff members, Steve Morris and Stacey Cooper due to these cuts. The remaining staff need to prioritize the monitoring sites. The site at DHHS which includes two particulate monitors and one CO monitor will be closed and the CO monitor at Parkgate in Eagle River will also be closed. The program is also requesting to discontinue ozone monitoring. The EPA needs to approve these requests before any of the sites close. **Matt Stichick** also explained that response time to code enforcement complaints will also increase due to the reduced staff size.

Lois Epstein asked how much it costs to run the DHHS monitoring station. **Matt Stichick** estimated that the operational costs are \$3,000 which does not include labor time. **Steve Morris** added that last year, 1.8 FTE were dedicated to field monitoring. Twenty percent of that time was for the DHHS site. Steve estimated that cost was approximately \$35,000.

Barbara Garner mentioned that the diesel fumes at Tudor are still an open complaint She wanted to make sure that still remains true. **Matt Stichick** explained that the staff will still have to respond to all complaints. The response time may just be longer.

Lois Epstein thanked Steve Morris and Stacey Cooper for their service to the AMATS Air Quality Committee and to the Air Quality Program.

Jeremiah Dunham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:43pm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.