

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH PROGRAM
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Community College of Allegheny County – Allegheny Campus
K. Leroy Irvis Science Center, Room 302
808 Ridge Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Meeting No. 07-23**

December 11, 2023 - 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present

Dan Bricmont, (Chair), Bricmont Law (in person)
Chip Babst, (Vice Chair), Babst Calland (TEAMS)
Anna Batista, High Street Consulting (TEAMS)
Jeanne Clark, ALCOSAN (TEAMS)
Steven Hvozdoch, Clean Water Action (TEAMS)
Mark Jeffrey, US Steel (in person)
Courtney Maronich Vita, Friends of the Riverfront (TEAMS)
Robert Orchowski, Hillcrest Group (in person)

Committee Members Not Present

Sara Marie Baldi, Salvation Army
Mary Ann Bucci, Port Commission
John Palmiere, Allegheny County Council
Anna Siefken, CMU

Participants Present

Tom Bailey, Resident, Penn Hills (in person)
Lee Ann Briggs, SBAC/EMAP (in person)
Chavaysha Chaney, Women for a Healthy Environment (TEAMS)
Coleen Davis, U. S. Steel (TEAMS)
Matthew Delibero, U. S. Steel (TEAMS)
Amanda Gillooly, GASP (TEAMS)
Stephen Hepler, DEP (TEAMS)
Brian Joos, Citizen (TEAMS)
Matt Mehalik, Breathe Project (in person)
Ned Mulcahy, GASP (TEAMS)
Carol Wivell, Citizen (TEAMS)
Tishie Woodwell, U. S. Steel (TEAMS)
Ken Zapinski, PGH Works (in person)

ACHD Staff Present

Geoffrey Rabinowitz, ACHD (in person)
Jason Maranche, ACHD (in person)
Sandy Fischer, ACHD (TEAMS)
Tom Lattner, ACHD (in person)
Pearl Robinson, ACHD (TEAMS)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Bricmont called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. A quorum was present. Introductions were made.

2. Chair's Remarks – The Chair had no remarks.

3. Approval of Minutes August 14, 2023, meeting:

Action: Bob Orchowski moved to approve the minutes from August 14, 2023. Mark Jeffrey seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously passed. Bob Orchowski abstained as he was not present for the meeting in question.

Approval of Minutes October 3, 2023, meeting:

Action: Bob Orchowski moved to approve the minutes from October 3, 2023. Mark Jeffrey seconded the motion. Dan Bricmont, Chip Babst, Mark Jeffrey, and Bob Orchowski approved. Steve Hvozdoovich, Anna Batista, Jeanne Clark, and Courtney Maronich Vita abstained as they were not present for the meeting in question. There was not a quorum to vote, so the minutes will be revisited in the next meeting.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Criteria Pollutant / Air Monitoring – Coleen Davis presented a review of the last meeting of the subcommittee on November 29, 2023. Comment period for monitoring plan ended December 1st, 2023. Highlights of the changes include a new monitor at the Avalon site, a new H₂S and SO₂ monitor at the Clairton site, and a special study of true NO₂ at the Liberty Site. Through the 3rd quarter of 2023, all monitors are attaining all NAAQs standards, PM_{2.5} and SO₂ redesignation request has been submitted, and some exceedances have been recorded due to wildfires. No future meeting is planned at this time.
- b. Regulations in Progress – Bob Orchowski presented a review of the Regulations in Progress table that was updated by Tom Lattner. The subcommittee has not met, and no future meeting is planned at this time.

5. Committee Member Appointments – Geoff Rabinowitz explained that any new appointments will be set by the new administration, as that is under the purview of the new County Executive.

6. Program Updates – Jason Maranche presented an update referring to the Criteria Pollutant / Air Monitoring review regarding attainment and work to be done moving forward for 2024. Geoff Rabinowitz commented on the move of the Air Quality Program office, the new location of the Air Advisory meeting at CCAC North, and where he sees the meetings being held in the future.

Steve Hvozdoovich asked if the Program was considering adopting the protocols from DEP's new Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy and PennEnviroScreen Tool. Geoff Rabinowitz stated that ACHD did make comments during the DEP's policy's comment period and mentioned that ACHD does have an Environmental Justice Policy that serves beyond the Air Quality Program that is used currently.

Bob Orchowski asked about the status of the G.A.S.P. lawsuit regarding the remodeling of Building 1 at the Clack campus. Geoff Rabinowitz said he would check on the status and get back with an answer.

Mark Jeffrey asked if the installation of officers for the Air Advisory Committee will make the February agenda. Dan Bricmont confirmed that it would be added to the agenda.

7. Other Business/ Citizen Comments

Ken Zapinski – reviewed PGHWORKS’ report, Clearing the Air 4.0, which provides an analysis of air quality data locally and around the country. He stated that the analysis differs from what the EPA does which focuses on regulatory compliance. Dr. Rabinowitz stated that as a regulatory authority, ACHD only uses data from the official EPA monitors to determine compliance, which is all publicly available. Bob Orchowski encouraged ACHD to objectively comment to the American Lung Association’s portrayal of the air quality in Pittsburgh with the EPA monitor data.

Tom Bailey – spoke on the poor air quality of the Penn Hills area and the impacts on his wife as a member of the sensitive group in the Air Quality Index. He stated that the focus of the committee should be on contesting USS’s Title V permit. Geoff Rabinowitz replied with the dates of the public hearings and public comments scheduled for USS permits.

Carol Wivell – requested the link to the PGHWORKS report and requested an update to the Program’s web page regarding PM_{2.5} sources to include open burning.

Brian Joos – requested that incentives be given to industries to work towards achieving the World Health Organization’s PM_{2.5} standards and that ACHD/the committee keep in mind the WHO’s PM_{2.5} standards.

Matt Mehalik – questioned ACHD for circulating the PGHWORKS report to the committee. He also gave a review of how the Breath Meter works and that it is located on the Breath Project website. He then questioned why the Health Program is allowing commercials from an organization, whose employees sit on this committee, showing it has helped improve the air quality in the county.

Bob Orchowski – wanted to go on record as saying the American Lung Association has woefully misrepresented the air quality of Allegheny County for many years. He would like to see the Air Quality Program do a comparison between the data of the Program and the information on the Breath Meter.

Lee Ann Briggs – requested an update on the Regulated Entities Portal (REP). Geoff Rabinowitz described the software and said testing is moving forward for an anticipated launch of some aspects in the first quarter of 2024.

8. Future Meetings and Adjournment

Action: Bob Orchowski moved to adjourn, and Mark Jeffrey seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 7:06 PM.

Next Meeting: will be announced.