



MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
- Air Quality Commission -

The virtual AQC meeting was held using [WebEx](#) on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Peter McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. Chair McGrath reminded everyone of the guidelines for the virtual meeting before asking for a roll call of the meeting attendees.

**Roll Call of the virtual meeting attendees:**

**Air Quality Commission Members Present**

Peter McGrath                  Gordon Miller                  Aaron Levy                  Brian Magi                  Marcus Hackler  
Rosa Mustafa                  Jamie Watts                  Terry Lansdell                  Fern Paterson

**Mecklenburg County Air Quality Staff Present**

Ieshishua Pierce    Megan Green    Jason Rayfield    Chuck Greco    Danielle Jones    Aaron Matijow    Kelly Grass  
Tori Jercich        Kileigh Welshofer    Ivonne Hernandez    Sheldon Turner    Andrew Deal    Katie Nordin  
Suzanne Hollenbeck

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Chair McGrath asked for a motion for the approval of the January AQC meeting minutes.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made to approve the January AQC meeting minutes as written.

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Jamie Watts.

Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously by a roll call vote.

**3. Public Comments to the Air Quality Commission (AQC)**

None

Chair McGrath asked Vice Chair Hackler to lead discussion on the Air Quality permit reviews and to open the public comment for the facilities. Chair McGrath recused himself from the discussion due to Martin Marietta-Recycled Aggregate Facility and Forbo Movement Systems being clients of his law firm.

**A. Air Quality Permit Reviews**

Public comment on the proposed permits will be received at this time. The Air Quality Commission opens public comment for air quality permit reviews per Mecklenburg County Air Pollution Ordinance, Regulation 1.5213 – “Action on Application; Issuance of Permit”. Inclusion on the AQC agenda does not imply or infer any action or opinion by the AQC or its members regarding any permit.

Vice Chair Hackler, opened the public comment period for the facilities below, providing notice of the Mecklenburg County Air Quality’s (MCAQ) intent to issue/modify their air quality permit(s):

Facility Name	Facility Address	Action Type
Martin Marietta-Recycled Aggregate Facility	8701 Red Oak Boulevard, Suite 540, Charlotte, NC 28217	Open Public Comment
Mark Oil - Mountain Island BP	2211 Vinnie's Way, Charlotte, NC 28214	Open Public Comment
Sam's Club # 6540	8909 J W Clay Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28262	Open Public Comment

Facility Name	Facility Address	Action Type
Forbo Movement Systems	10125 South Tryon Street, Charlotte, NC 28273	Information Only

Jason Rayfield, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager, was available to answer questions. Terry Lansdell asked some questions regarding the Flex Plan for Martin Marietta-Recycled Aggregate Facility permit application and how this impacts the permit submitted. Jason informed the AQC members that the facility submitted the required application to incorporate flex changes approved in 2020 for this permit application and the facility has also requested to add 2 portable crushers, 2 portable screen plants and remove 2 crushing plants that are obsolete. Rosa Mustafa asked if the portable crusher would be located off of Beatties Ford Road. Jason informed the AQC members that the facility has provided certification of the equipment location and it was stated that the 2 portable crushers will go to the Charlotte Quarry as well as the Beatties Ford Road location. Rosa asked if this permit application could be tabled until the next meeting. Jason explained that MCAQ staff has received a complete application and will move forward with opening public comments for this permit application. Both Terry Lansdell and Rosa Mustafa expressed concerns about the Martin Marietta permit and were asked to email comments that they would like to have reflected in the summary minutes to Ieshishua Pierce. Gordon Miller asked a question concerning the VOC control devices used at Forbo Movement. Aaron Matijow, Air Quality Supervisor will verify the information and will let Gordon know.

Terry Lansdell would like the following comments reflected in the summary minutes:  
 “In regards to the Martin Marietta permit. I requested more information on the flex plan by the AQC and expressed concerns regarding the increased activity and changes to the production of natural resources for private profit on this permit. I expressed concerns regarding the use and secondary transportation impacts of the use of these new plants and expressed my concerns over the local impacts of this permit on the local neighborhoods.”

**B. General Comments to the Commission**  
 None

**4. Request for AQC Action FY22 Budget**

Megan Green, Mobile Source Program Manager, presented the preliminary fiscal year 2022 budget for the Air Quality program to the AQC members. It was stated that no property tax dollars are being request for the FY22 budget. MCAQ expects level revenue but decreased the amount of budgeted gasoline tax revenue due to reductions in budgeted capital expenditures. Capital expenses include replacement of aging monitoring equipment and PAMs equipment. NC Air Awareness position moved to AQ budget so that position will continue regardless of interruptions to grant funding. There was a question if the NC Air Awareness grant funding was used primarily for salary. Megan explained the funding was used primarily for salary and to purchase some promotional items for the Air Quality Learning Station (AQLS). There was a motion made to endorse the FY22 budget.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made to endorse the FY22 budget for Mecklenburg County Air Quality.

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Marcus Hackler.

Vote: The motion was adopted unanimously.

The AQC members were informed that the Air Quality FY22 budget will be included in the LUESA budget request submitted to the Board of County Commissioners.

[Written handout: Preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 Budget]

**5. Updates and Presentations**

Chair McGrath asked if there were any announcements from the AQC members and MCAQ staff.

**A. Announcements**

**FY22 Budget Priorities Update**

Chair McGrath informed the AQC members that he will attend the March 23<sup>rd</sup> budget workshop to speak on the AQC's priority recommendations for the FY22 budget submitted to the County Manager in December.

**BOCC Budget Engagement**

Terry Lansdell informed the AQC members that during the BOCC budget retreat, the AQC was mentioned as having the most responses from advisory board members who were invited to complete the FY22 budget priorities survey. Terry commended everyone for their input and Chair McGrath congratulated AQC members.

**New Monitoring Program Manager**

Jason introduced Danielle Jones as the new Monitoring Program Manager.

**Air Monitoring Updates**

Danielle Jones, Monitoring Program Manager, informed the AQC members that the Air Monitoring staff is continuing to work on PAMS at the Garinger site as well as working to finalize the site location with NCDOT for the second near-road monitoring site.

**Webinar featuring AQC members**

The AQC members were informed that an upcoming webinar featuring them has been scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> from noon to 1:00 p.m. and staff will be reaching out to AQC members for volunteers to help with the webinar. An email invitation will be sent and more details to come.

**AQC Annual Report**

Megan thanked everyone that has already submitted articles and reminded everyone that the articles are due by February 26<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who may need more time should let Megan know. Staff will review and update articles so they flow within the report.

**Update on Operations**

MCAQ staff is continuing unannounced drive by observations of permitted stationary sites and ongoing in person inspections for Stage 1 sites and asbestos NESHAP demolition sites since

these are conducted outdoors. Staff is hoping to begin more site inspection with a possible return to the office starting in April.

**Airwaves newsletter**

The annual airwaves compliance newsletter is scheduled to be issued soon and the AQC members will receive a copy.

**B. Analysis of Ozone Concentrations During Pandemic**

Kileigh Welshofer, Air Monitoring Specialist, was introduced to give a presentation on the analysis of ozone concentrations during the pandemic. Kileigh recognized Suzanne Hollenbeck, Senior Air Monitoring Specialist, for her work with the analysis. During 2020, air monitoring staff observed reduced traffic associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. NCDOT Traffic Counts were observed at the I-77 interchange and I-277/US-74 interchange. Traffic during ozone season was compared to historical 2019 traffic. Data show a decrease (nearly twice as much) in traffic at both the I-77 interchange and I-277/US-74 interchange during the stay at home order compared to the entire ozone season. However, there was a decrease in traffic at both interchanges during the ozone season.

Danielle Jones provided data for ozone concentrations at the Garinger and University Meadows monitoring sites. A predictive analysis was completed by staff using a simple model that took into account meteorological forecasts to predict the average concentration of ozone that was expected at each monitoring site, which was then compared to what was actually seen at each site. In 2020, the average ozone concentration measured at both Garinger and University Meadows was lower than predicted, and lower than the average concentration measured at these sites from 2016-2019. It was stated that according to the ozone AQI for 2016-2020, the number of green “good” days seen in 2020 was the highest number seen within this 5 year span. Mecklenburg County’s current ozone compliance value is 67 ppb, which represents a 3 ppb decrease from the 2019 ozone compliance value of 70 ppb. The NAAQS for ozone is  $\leq 70$  ppb.

Jamie Watts asked since the traffic is starting to climb back up, are there any plans to do forecast for traffic going into 2022? It was stated at this time that staff has not decided to forecast for traffic going into 2022. Terry Lansdell asked if staff was able to provide the references for the traffic count data. Terry suggested that it be specified that staff is referring to motor vehicle traffic in the traffic count which excludes some data on active transportation count. Aaron Levy asked if there are any plans to expand the report showing data on the impact from transportation expand into next year. Gordon Miller

suggested that a similar analysis could be completed for NOx. The AQC members were informed that this information will be presented to the Environmental Stewardship Committee.

[Written handout: An Analysis of Ozone Concentrations During the COVID-19 Pandemic (PowerPoint Presentation)]

**C. Update on Gasoline Release Site at Oehler Nature Preserve**

Jason provided an update on the gasoline release site at the Oehler Nature Preserve. The gasoline spill was caused by a break in the pipeline occurring on August 14<sup>th</sup> in the Oehler Nature Preserve. Jason and Leslie were able to visit the site on February 3<sup>rd</sup> where they were informed that much of the liquid product spilled has been collected. Soil remediation is currently taking place and this may go on for many years. Colonial has provided information on the air monitoring data to MCAQ staff. It was stated that no short-term VOC or benzene health-based limits have been exceeded, however, staff would like to verify long term effects from the clean up efforts. Staff would also like to learn more about the control devices Colonial is using for the site remediation. The AQC members were informed that no surface water was impacted.

Chair McGrath asked if Colonial had to get a permit for the remediation system from MCAQ and is MCAQ collecting any monitoring data. Jason informed the AQC that the remediation project did not require a permit initially at onset of cleanup as this is only required at Title V sites. MCAQ staff has requested more information to verify compliance and to see if a permit may be needed for the longer term cleanup. There is no MCAQ air monitoring taking place at the site however Colonial continues to operate various monitors. Terry asked a question about the oxidizers used as control devices and it was stated that this is the best technology that can be used for this activity. Rosa asked a question about preventing accidents like this going forward and how Colonial is planning to monitor. Jason provided some information on how Colonial is studying the pipe section and reviewing their flyover procedures. Chair McGrath asked staff to keep the AQC members updated of any new developments.

**6. Next Meeting**

March 22, 2021(virtual meeting)

**7. Adjournment**

12:51 p.m.

*Mecklenburg County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities. Mecklenburg County will make reasonable accommodations in all programs to enable participation by an individual with a disability who meets essential eligibility requirements. Mecklenburg County programs will be available in an integrated setting for each individual. If accommodations are necessary for participation in any program or services, participants are encouraged to notify staff.*