



MECKLENBURG COUNTY - *Air Quality Commission* -

The monthly meeting of the Mecklenburg County Air Quality Commission was held Monday, January 23, 2023, at 12:00 noon in the Hal Marshall Conference Room, at 2145 Suttle Avenue, Charlotte, NC. The meeting was also broadcast virtually on Microsoft Teams.

Air Quality Commission Members Present

*In-Person (I) Virtual (V)

Peter McGrath (I) Lisa Hooker (I) Janet Garner-Mullins(I) Billy Powers(I) Brian Magi(V)
Bill Lawrence (I) Karl Welke (I) Aaron Levy (I) Marcus Hackler (I) Greg Twait (V)

Air Quality Commission Members Absent

Rosa Mustafa

Mecklenburg County Air Quality Staff Present

Leslie Rhodes Ieshishua Pierce Megan Green Danielle Jones Jason Rayfield Aaron Matijow
Tori Jercich Evan Shaw Sheldon Turner Stacy Slobodiuk

Guest

Leslie Young, General Public Taylor Allen, Pediatric Resident Ricky McCormick, Pediatric Resident

1. Call to Order

Chair McGrath called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. by reading the hybrid meeting script before proceeding with the meeting agenda.

Roll Call of the Air Quality Commission Members

Air Quality Commission Members Present

Peter McGrath Lisa Hooker Billy Powers Janet Garner-Mullins Aaron Levy Greg Twait
Karl Welke Brian Magi Marcus Hackler Bill Lawrence

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair McGrath opened the floor for the approval of the December AQC meeting minutes.

Action Taken:

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

Made: The motion was made by Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins and seconded by Marcus Hackler.

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

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

Action Required: Open Public Comment Period

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.

Chair McGrath, 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
Carolina Foods, LLC	12031 Carolina Logistics Drive, Pineville, NC 28134	Open Public Comment
Novant Ballantyne Medical Center	10905 Providence Rd. West, Charlotte NC 28277	Open Public Comment
Pineville Facility	10100 Rodney Street, Pineville, NC 28134	Open Public Comment
7-Eleven # 42263	5225 Albemarle Rd, Charlotte, NC 28212	Open Public Comment

Jason Rayfield, Permitting Program Manager, was available for comments. Chair McGrath asked a question about the Pineville Facility permit application. Jason explained IPEX USA -Pineville Facility makes plastic pipes and fittings and the permit application is for an expansion project where the site is adding equipment and the site is projected to be in compliance as a synthetic minor source. Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins asked a question about the 7-Eleven #42263 permit application. Jason explained this was a permit application for a new gasoline station.

B. General Comments to the Commission

None

4. Updates and Presentations

Chair McGrath opened the floor to receive announcements.

A. Announcements

Atrium Health & Advocate Health

Dr. Aaron Levy and Dr. Karl Welke informed the AQC members that Atrium Health has put forth a plan and momentum into sustainability and climate going forward as part of the next phase as they join with Advocate Health. The plan is to develop a medical education committee that will be part of climate and health connecting the impact of climate on patients’ health and advocating for educating residents and health providers at the hospital. Dr. Levy stated this is still the early phase and the goal is to help educate and protect patients. Rev. Garner-Mullins shared that she serves on the Atrium and Wake Forest School of Nursing Steering Committee for the School of Nursing that will be built at the Historic Brooklyn site; she was able to attend the groundbreaking ceremony and provided the AQC with an update from that event. Chair McGrath asked if this was something usual that happens in the healthcare industry or something that is happening more. Both Dr. Levy and Dr. Welke agreed that this is something happening more. Leslie Rhodes, Air Quality Director, asked Dr. Levy and Dr. Welke to inform Chair McGrath of any opportunities for the AQC to offer input or staff to help in whatever way they can. Chair McGrath suggested at a future meeting having someone come from the Board to speak with the AQC.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding Update (Danielle)

Danielle Jones, Monitoring Manager, highlighted the County Manager's ARP funding recommendations which included \$420,000 to provide much needed equipment replacements to our ambient monitoring network and add new portable monitoring equipment. Danielle informed the AQC members that this will be a phased in approach for the equipment implementation and she will keep the AQC posted.

Recruitment efforts for AQC vacancies

Megan Green, Mobile Source Manager, provided the AQC members with an update on recruitment efforts for AQC vacancies which includes blog post. The AQC members were asked to provide a sentence or two about their service on the AQC that will be highlighted in the blog post. Megan informed AQC members that a picture will be taken highlighting today's AQC potluck luncheon after the meeting today that will also be included in the blog post.

Air Quality Hiring

It was announced that Air Quality is currently hiring and that a link to the job posting was emailed to AQC members. The AQC members were asked to provide this information to ideal candidates before the job posting close on February 18th.

B. AQC Inspection Shadowing Experience

Greg Twait provided an update on the P&E inspection shadowing experience highlighting the process from the pre-inspection in-person meeting with staff to an overview of the field inspection with Katie Stiening, Senior Environmental Specialist. The field inspection happened on January 9th at a concrete facility and it was stated that the facility was in compliance. Mr. Twait was very appreciative of how MCAQ staff accommodated him as he observed the inspection. This shadowing experience was requested at a previous AQC meeting by Billy Powers and staff came up with three options for commission members to volunteer. It was stated that additional shadowing experiences for AQC members have been scheduled. Leslie stated that staff will resend the optional field experience email to AQC members.

C. Mobile Source Updates

Megan provided the AQC members with some rulemaking updates related to mobile sources. The first rulemaking discussed is a federal rulemaking by the EPA (national rulemaking) that affects all heavy-duty on-road engines; it is a new NO_x emission standard for heavy duty diesel engine, and it goes into effect model year 2027. The rulemaking lowers NO_x in heavy duty engine exhaust and the rule also has new testing requirements. EPA says this will have both NO_x and PM benefits. The rule is now final and applies to all heavy-duty engines sold in the United States starting in 2027.

The second rulemaking discussed is a rulemaking that North Carolina is just starting called the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) Program which can be discussed more at a future meeting. North Carolina is going through the process to opt into California standards for medium and heavy-duty trucks. NC will opt in to adopt the California Clean Truck rule, which apply to medium and heavy-duty truck. This rule is design to create a marketplace for electric medium and heavy-duty trucks. The rule set targets for different truck sectors that a percentage of the sales has to be electric or zero emissions vehicles. NC is just starting the process and the AQC will be hearing more from Megan about this process as we move through the rulemaking period. Megan provided a timetable for the draft rule.

D. PM 2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

Leslie informed the AQC members that the EPA has announced their proposal to lower the NAAQS for fine particulate matter. Leslie gave a brief overview of NAAQS which is the federal health-based standard for the six criteria pollutants. EPA is proposing to lower the standard range for PM2.5 standard from its current level of 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to within the range of 9.0 to 10.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The AQC members were shown a graph of Mecklenburg County PM2.5 annual compliance values through 2021. Ultimately, how does the final decision impact Mecklenburg County depend on two things:

1. Where EPA sets the standard? Mecklenburg County is comfortably in compliance if it is set closer to 10.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ the closer is set to 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ the more difficult it will be for Mecklenburg County to meet compliance with that standard.
2. What years of data EPA decide to consider when they make attainment or non-attainment determinations? Leslie stated it will be a 3-year average of data and which three years will matter especially if the standard is closer to 9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

MCAQ is already having conversation with the State Air Quality Director's office about what needs to happen to continue to improve air quality relevant to particulate matter pollution.

5. Next Meeting

February 27, 2023

6. Adjournment

1:13 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.