



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

- Air Quality Commission -

The virtual AQC meeting was held using [WebEx](#) on Monday, July 26, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

Air Quality Commission Members Absent

Garrison Scruggs Rosa Mustafa Lisa Hooker Aaron Levy Terry Lansdell

Mecklenburg County Air Quality Staff Present

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

Guest:

Erin Stanforth, Mecklenburg County Manager’s Office (Sustainability and Resilience Manager)
Leslie Young, General Public

1. Call to Order

Chair Peter McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

Roll Call of the Air Quality Commission Members

Air Quality Commission Members Present

Peter McGrath Gordon Miller Brian Magi Marcus Hackler Fern Paterson Janet Garner-Mullins
Jamie Watts

2. Approval of Minutes

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

Action Taken:

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

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller 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
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry Company, Inc.	1335 S. Clarkson St., Charlotte, NC 28208	Open Public Comment
MacLeod Construction, Inc. – North Pointe Business Park Concrete Batch Plant	4304 Northpointe Industry Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28216	Information Only

Jason Rayfield, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager, was available to answer questions. Jason informed the AQC members that the Charlotte Pipe and Foundry permit application is for a minor modification to add three new brushout stations for cleaning steel molds used in the pipe making process. Gordon asked a question about the public notice he saw published in the Charlotte Observer. Jason and Leslie stated that this was part of the enhanced outreach and public communication that resulted from the 2019 Charlotte Pipe public hearing. The AQC members were informed that a public notice of the intent to issue the permit has been published in the Charlotte Observer legal notices, on the MCAQ website and an email will be sent to the 2019 Charlotte Pipe public hearing participants as well as a list of current neighborhood associations and community organizations that was compiled from the City of Charlotte Neighborhood Organization Contact List located near Charlotte Pipe. Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins asked if a copy of the Neighborhood Organization Contact List can be provided to her and it was suggested that she and Megan talk offline after the meeting. Fern Paterson recused herself from the discussion due to Charlotte Pipe & Foundry being a client of her law firm.

B. General Comments to the Commission

None

4. Updates and Presentations

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

A. Announcements

Administrative Hearing

The AQC members were reminded that the Administrative Hearing for Novem Industries will be held on August 3rd at Suttle Avenue in the Hal Marshall Conference Room starting at 1:30 p.m. Peter McGrath, Marcus Hackler, Terry Lansdell, Rosa Mustafa and Janet Garner-Mullins previously volunteered to serve on the hearing panel.

MCAQ Staff Return to Office update

Leslie informed the AQC members that on July 1st staff transitioned to the County's Stage 2 phased in return to work with staff working in the office 1 to 3 days per week through July. In August, staff will step up to adhere to what will likely be the County's telework policy starting January 2022 where employees may telework up to 3 days a week. It was stated that all county employees will return to the office in September and work in the office through December.

August AQC meeting

Chair McGrath suggested to continue with a virtual meeting in August and look to move to in-person/hybrid meeting starting in September.

Carolina's Air Pollution Control Association (CAPCA) Young Professionals Event

Leslie asked Fern Paterson to verify if the upcoming CAPCA Young Professional Event was for CAPCA members only; Fern confirmed that this is a social organization and people who are not members of CAPCA will be able to attend the event. Leslie informed the AQC members that she will have Ieshishua to email the event registration information and a link to include information on CAPCA for anyone interested in joining the association.

Monitoring Personnel Update

Danielle Jones, Monitoring Program Manager informed the AQC members that Keshawn Hinton has been hired as an Air Monitoring Specialist for the Monitoring program and she will be formally introduced at a future meeting since she was scheduled for field training.

P&E update

Jason provided the AQC members an update on actions that were taken at the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) special meeting held on July 13th concerning a petition for rulemaking submitted by Clean Air Carolina and the North Carolina Coastal Federation to adopt a rule to limit carbon dioxide pollution from the electric power sector in North Carolina. The Petition proposes North Carolina participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) as the primary mechanism to reduce CO2 emissions from this sector. On June 15, 2021, the State AQC held a special meeting and recommended that the petition be presented to the full EMC for action, the EMC approved the petition at the July 13th meeting. Fern asked a question about the EMC approval of the petition. Jason stated that DAQ will review the petition and supporting materials and will put together a proposal of draft rules to send to the EMC for approval. Rules may become effective in January 2023. It was noted that MCAQ has no sites for these rules.

Volkswagen Funding Update

Megan Green, Mobile Source Program Manager, provided the AQC members with an update on the Volkswagen Funding starting with some background information VW Trust Funding. It was stated DEQ will allocate the previous funds set aside for Phases 2 and 3 into one final Phase 2 making \$60 to \$63 million available for Phase 2 funding.

The following Phases 2 changes were highlighted:

- Proposal to prioritize applications in counties that did not receive funding in Phase 1.
- Vehicle electrification to maximize emission and public health benefits. Projects that transition from diesel vehicles to electric vehicles will be eligible for the maximum funding percentages.
- Target outreach in underserved communities through scoring bonuses and by assisting under-resourced communities that may not have applied for grants in Phase 1.

Air Awareness Webinar

The AQC members were informed that the Air Awareness team will partner with the Charlotte Regional Transportation Coalition for a webinar on August 4th at 4:00 p.m. called Connecting the Dots: Air Quality and Transportation. Ieshishua will email AQC members the link to register for the webinar.

B. Photochemical Assessment Monitoring System (PAMS) Overview

During the May AQC meeting Gordon Miller asked if a presentation can be given on PAMS to include the technology and data at a future AQC meeting. Danielle gave a presentation providing an overview of PAMS. PAMS support the ozone NAAQS and the main objective is to develop a database of ozone precursors and meteorological parameters to support ozone model development and track the trends of key ozone precursor concentrations. PAMS program changes requirements were finalized in October 2015 with one of the requirements being PAMS measurements required to be collocated with existing NCore sites in areas with population of greater than 1 million. NCore is a multi-pollutant network that integrates several advanced measurement systems for particles, pollutant gases and meteorology. Danielle highlighted PAMS measurements, explained Sidebar: NO_y and True NO₂ and how VOC data is collected. Danielle recognized Kelly Grass for being the primary point of contact for PAMS and the Air Monitoring team for outstanding efforts on getting the system up and running.

Gordon Miller recognized Kelly and Danielle for putting together a great presentation. Gordon also noted how important this data will be in identifying what's in the atmosphere that will help recognize ozone.

[Written handout: Air Monitoring: PAMS Overview (PowerPoint presentation)]

C. GRADE Story Map

Megan presented the GRADE Story Map to the AQC members. The GRADE Story Map highlights the history of the Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines (GRADE) program that was launched in 2007 designed to reduce oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) by providing businesses and organizations funding incentives to replace or repower heavy-duty diesel equipment with newer, cleaner, less polluting engines. The GRADE Story Map allows you to tour GRADE projects by counties providing information on the number of projects, funding received and NO_x tons reduction for each county. A video was share that provided GRADE testimonials from businesses that has participated in the GRADE program. This information will be used as a marketing tool for GRADE. Megan thanked Sheldon Turner who served as lead and Ivonne Hernandez who helped assisted with this project. Ieshishua will include a link to the GRADE Story Map in the AQC follow-up email.

Jamie Watts leaves the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

D. Ozone Update

Danielle provided the AQC members with an ozone update. So far in 2021, there have not been any exceedance days in Mecklenburg County and only one in the region. The current ozone compliance value is 66 ppb. Chair McGrath asked if there were any PM data available from last week concerning the wildfire smoke. Danielle informed the AQC members that she was out of the office last week however she was able to briefly review some of the data that did show an increase in PM on days the air quality forecasted was code orange.

[Written handout: Ozone Season Update (dated July 26, 2021)]

5. Next Meeting

August 23, 2021 (virtual meeting)

6. Adjournment

12:31 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.