



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
- Air Quality Commission -

The virtual AQC meeting was held using [WebEx](#) on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

Air Quality Commission Members Absent

Janet Garner-Mullins Garrison Scruggs Rosa Mustafa Jamie Watts

Mecklenburg County Air Quality Staff Present

Ieshishua Pierce Leslie Rhodes Megan Green Jason Rayfield Danielle Jones Aaron Matijow
Ivonne Hernandez Chuck Greco Tori Jercich Sheldon Turner Katie Nordin

Guest:

Erin Stanforth, Mecklenburg County Manager’s Office (Sustainability and Resilience Manager)

1. Call to Order

Chair Peter McGrath called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Roll Call of the Air Quality Commission Members

Air Quality Commission Members Present

Peter McGrath Gordon Miller Brian Magi Marcus Hackler Lisa Hooker Terry Lansdell
Aaron Levy

2. Approval of Minutes

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

Action Taken:

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

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Lisa Hooker.

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
Yates Wilbert Vault Company	2839 Rosemont Street, Charlotte, NC 28208	Open Public Comment
C&M Recycling, Inc.	2930 Jeff Adams Drive, Charlotte, NC 28206	Information Only
Roanoke Cement Company LLC	2820 Nevada Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28273	Information Only

Jason Rayfield, Permitting & Enforcement Program Manager, was available to answer questions. Jason informed the AQC members that Yates Wilbert Vault Company is a new permit for a crematory that was previously a registered site. Chair McGrath asked if the new permit for the site is due to an increase in cases from COVID. Jason explained the facility has seen the total number of cases increase above the permitting threshold. Terry Lansdell asked if there was any land use impact for this new permit and Jason said that the facility was consistent and compliant with current zoning. Lisa Hooker asked for clarification on the emission increase for C&M Recycling and Jason explained the increase for PM10. Brian Magi asked if the toxic air pollution for Yates triggered a need for a water quality permit. Jason stated that Yates is subject to a State rule that requires a regulated crematory to do a modeling review for toxic emissions, however, he was not aware from a water quality permitting requirement. There was a question about the number of crematories permitted in Mecklenburg County and it was noted that this is the only site currently required to hold a permit.

B. General Comments to the Commission

None

4. Request for AQC Action on Responding to Comments Received During March AQC Meeting

Chair McGrath informed the AQC members that they needed to approve a written response from the AQC Chair concerning comments received during the March AQC meeting. It was stated that the written response from the AQC Chair was documented in the April AQC summary minutes. There was a motion made to approve the written response from the AQC Chair. There was some discussion on this motion and what actions have been taken in the past to address similar requests.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made to approve the written response from the AQC Chair documented in the April AQC summary minutes to the commenter and post for the public on the Air Quality website.

Made: The motion was made by Gordon Miller and seconded by Terry Lansdell.

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

Fern Paterson joins the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

5. Request for AQC Action to Open Public Comment Period for the Annual MCAQ Monitoring Network Plan

Danielle Jones, Monitoring Program Manager, provided the AQC members with a summary of the 2021-2022 Annual Monitoring Network Plan. It was stated that the network plan has five monitoring stations that measure concentrations of criteria air pollutants. Danielle highlighted the following updates from the 2021-2022 Annual Monitoring Network Plan:

- Monitoring Station Siting Modifications -Update on MCAQ's second near-road NO₂ monitoring station. Monitoring staff has identified a site location and will continue preparing to install and operate the additional near-road NO₂ station in the MCAQ monitoring network as funding and personnel resources allow, with the goal of implementation on or before July 1, 2022.

- Instrument Operation Modification-Update on the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Station (PAMS). Monitoring staff added PAMS equipment to the network at the Garinger site.
- No site shutdown for 2021-2022

There is a 30 day public comment period so a motion was made for the AQC member to open public comment for the 2021-2022 Annual MCAQ Monitoring Network Plan. The AQC members asked several questions before a roll call vote on the motion. Chair McGrath and Brian Magi asked a question concerning the funding for the near-road site and PAMS being on track to meet the start up schedule for both sites. Danielle stated funding for both sites are on track to meet the start up schedule. Gordon Miller asked if a presentation can be given on PAMS to include the technology and data at a future AQC meeting. Danielle suggested providing an update on PAMS at the June AQC meeting and giving another update once staff start collecting data. Terry Lansdell asked if the Friendship Park Monitoring Station was running and if the data was available in real time? It was stated that the Friendship Park Monitoring Station is included with the monitoring stations on the Air Quality website and the data updates every hour. There were some questions about the traffic count data and the reference on the traffic count. Terry Lansdell suggested to add the traffic count number data by year and link where the data comes from and Brian Magi suggested adding the number per month or per year.

Action Taken:

Motion: A motion was made to open public comment for the 2021-2022 Annual MCAQ Monitoring Network Plan.

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

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

[Written handout: 2021-2022 Annual MCAQ Monitoring Network Plan-Mecklenburg County Air Quality Plan]

6. Updates and Presentations

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

A. Announcements

Article in Pediatric Journal

Dr. Aaron Levy informed the AQC members of an article published in the Pediatric Journal discussing ambient air pollution health hazards to children. Dr. Levy will email the link to the article.

MCAQ Staff Return to Office update

Leslie informed the AQC members that staff is preparing to return to the office in the County's Stage 2 phased in return to work starting in July. The phased in return to work will allow up to 25 percent occupancy rate of the building with a possibility that number may increase later. The AQC members should expect the June AQC meeting to be held virtually and there will be some discussion concerning holding future meetings virtually or a hybrid approach moving forward.

MCAQ staff is continuing with field inspections for Permitting & Enforcement and Monitoring staff.

Mobile Source Update

Megan Green, Mobile Source Program Manager, informed the AQC members that she has arranged for the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CRTPO) staff to attend the June AQC meeting to brief on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Spring Compliance Workshop

Jason reminded the AQC members that the Spring Compliance Workshop will be held virtually via WebEx on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 25th and 26th, with the target primary audience being permitted and registered site contacts. The compliance workshop will focus on Keys to Air Compliance Excellence with the focus on air quality permitting 101.

B. Update on SC Odors Impacting Southern Mecklenburg

Leslie updated the AQC members on the New Indy odor complaints. Fern Paterson recused herself from the discussion due to New Indy being a client of her law firm. The AQC members were updated on the order issued by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) on May 7th to New Indy requiring the facility to submit a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for outdoor air quality monitoring both on and off the facility property. Leslie also discussed the emergency order issued by EPA Region 4 on May 13, 2021, under Section 303 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to New Indy Containerboard to reduce emissions of hydrogen sulfide.

Megan informed the AQC members as of May 7th SCDHEC has received over 17,000 complaints concerning the sulfur odor in Upstate SC, Mecklenburg and Union counties, NC. It was noted that MCAQ received a spike in complaints during April and have only received a few complaints in May probably due to NC residents reporting complaints to SC. MCAQ staff is continuing to review complaints and taking actions as appropriate. A referral link is also being added to the website, which allows access to SCDHEC and EPA information from MCAQ's website.

Danielle informed the AQC members that MCAQ staff has worked with North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) to establish a monitoring site in Ballantyne and Waxhaw; it was also stated that the EPA has a monitoring site in Marvin. On May 9th there was a spike at the Ballantyne monitoring site. It was stated that the site went down for a few days shortly thereafter, however, staff was able to receive data from the EPA's monitoring site. Data provided from May 12 through May 21 showed readings at the EPA and State monitoring sites from 0 ppb to 10 ppb. It was stated this is compared to the acute MRL value for H₂S of 70 ppb and these readings show you may smell H₂S odor but levels are below the health-based acute MRL.

C. Colonial Pipeline Update

Leslie provided an update on Colonial Pipeline highlighting the cyberattack that disrupted communication causing the pipeline to be shutdown and having an impact on gasoline distribution making it difficult to get gasoline. It was stated that on May 14th, MCAQ received the required permit application including air dispersion modeling to demonstrate compliance with the air toxics regulations and staff is reviewing the application.

D. Ozone Season Update

Danielle provided the AQC members with an ozone update. So far in 2021, there have not been any exceedance days in Mecklenburg County or in the region. The current ozone compliance value is 65 ppb.

[Written handout: Ozone Season Update (dated May 24, 2021)]

7. Next Meeting

June 28, 2021 (virtual meeting)

8. Adjournment

12:38 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.