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TACB Bulletin

6330 HWY. 290 EAST AUSTIN, TEXAS 78723 512/451-5711 SEPTEMBER 1980

TACB SCHEDULES PUBLIC MEETINGS ON MONITORING

The public meeting to discuss the State's air monitoring resources scheduled in San Antonio on November 5 has been changed to November 7. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Bexar County Courthouse, Central Jury Room, Main Plaza, San Antonio.

The TACB will hold a series of public meetings in October and November to discuss the State's air monitoring resources. A major purpose of the meetings is to secure public comments and recommendations on the use of monitoring resources beyond those committed to meeting federal requirements for the National Air Monitoring Network.

To provide background information on air quality issues, the TACB has prepared a packet of papers on subjects including toxic substances monitoring, urban haze problems, and monitoring during emergency episodes.

This packet may be obtained from the TACB Central office or from the Regional office serving the city where the meeting will be held.

BEAUMONT AREA - October 16
City Council Chambers
City Hall
Port Arthur
2:00 p.m.

CORPUS CHRISTI - November 6
Corpus Christi-Nueces Co. Health Dept.
1702 Horne Road
Corpus Christi
7:00 p.m.

FORT WORTH - October 22
City Hall Police Auditorium
1000 Throckmorton
Fort Worth
1:00 p.m.

GALVESTON COUNTY - November 12
Walter & Helen Hall Environmental Bldg.
LaMarque
7:00 p.m.

DALLAS - October 22
Dallas Central Public Library
1954 Commerce Street
Dallas
7:00 p.m.

HOUSTON - November 13
UT School of Public Health
Main Auditorium
6905 Bertner
Houston
7:00 p.m.

ODESSA - October 28
Chamber of Commerce
Board of Director's Meeting Room
400 W. 4th
Odessa
7:00 p.m.

EL PASO - November 19
Tillman Health Center
222 S. Campbell Street
El Paso
7:00 p.m.

SAN ANTONIO - November 5
(site not available at
press time)

AUSTIN - November 20
Texas Air Control Board Auditorium
6330 Highway 290 East
Austin
7:00 p.m.

BOARD AFFIRMS BARRETT PERMIT

Upon the recommendation of the Hearings Examiner, the Air Board, September 26, affirmed the Executive Director's decision granting a permit to Barrett Industries for construction of a coal-fired lightweight aggregate plant in San Antonio.

Issuance of the permit was contested by Communities for Public Service (COPS) whose representatives indicated they will continue their opposition and carefully scrutinize the company's application for an operating permit.

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The Board also adopted an order based upon an agreement between Lone Star Steel Co. and the TACB, which requires the company's sinter plant in Morris County to be in full compliance with its permit application and conditions and with the TACB's excessive visible emissions rule by December 31, 1981.

The Executive Director reported:

--The staff is requesting partial delegation of prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) permitting from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), expecting to assume responsibility sometime in November for technical review of PSD permits. EPA Region 6 has indicated that they will issue the final permits promptly once the TACB has completed the review.

Ground rules for effecting an orderly transfer of the responsibility are being established through a series of discussions with EPA. The TACB does not wish to accept a large backlog of permit applications from EPA and wants to use its own dispersion models in the permit review.

--The Board's ad hoc Permit Fees Committee met with staff Aug. 21 and Sept. 26 to review the appropriateness of establishing a permit fees system. Of the options presented by the staff, the committee favors a system based on capital costs and charging for exemptions that must be decided on a case-by-case basis. The committee will review some of the options with industrial representatives, who would be involved in paying such a fee, and will report back to the Board either in October or November.

--The recent decision of the Travis County District Court upholding the Board's order granting permits to the Pelican Terminal Corp. has been appealed to the Court of Civil Appeals. The major issue in the appeal concerns whether emissions from vessels using the terminal should be considered as part of the permit application for the onshore facility.

The Board also heard a report updating information supplied previously on sulfur dioxide abatement and monitoring at Exxon Corp. and Stauffer Chemical Co., Harris County. The staff concluded that the companies substantially are in compliance. Self-monitoring data supplied by the companies had indicated exceedances of the standard; however, all of the exceedances were attributable to upset/maintenance conditions except for three, which the staff has been unable to explain so far.

The Executive Director advised the Board that the EPA is making some \$3 million in additional funding available to the TACB during the next fiscal year to be used primarily for acquiring data required for development of the 1982 State Implementation Plan in Harris County and other projects. The Board's Budget and Finance Committee will review the contracts that will be necessary to accomplish the additional tasks outlined in recent grant negotiations with EPA.

Future Board meeting dates were scheduled tentatively for Oct. 31, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

**TRANSPORTATION
SEMINAR DRAWS
65 PARTICIPANTS**

Approximately 65 representatives from State, local, and federal government attended the Transportation/Air Quality Planning Processes seminar, Sept. 4 and 5, at the TACB.

Houston is the only area for which are quality-related planning is

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required to comply with provisions of the Federal Clean Air Act; however, representatives from the metropolitan planning organizations from Dallas and San Antonio indicated that they are continuing efforts to have air quality considered in transportation development programs and activities in their areas.

A representative from EPA Region 6 said that it is uncertain what, if any, additional transportation-related measures would be required in areas such as Dallas or San Antonio after 1982 if the approved plans for those areas should fail to produce the expected air quality benefits.

VEHICLE STUDY DRAWS TO CLOSE IN HARRIS COUNTY

Three of the four components of the Harris County Vehicle Emissions Testing Program have been completed. Testing continues in the City of Houston study.

The decentralized field study tested approximately 1400 vehicles from May 19 to August 29 at five Department of Public Safety (DPS) licensed safety inspection stations.

The centralized study, conducted at a centrally located facility, tested approximately 4700 vehicles from March 3 to August 30.

Between seven to eight hundred Federal Test Procedures were performed on approximately 180 vehicles identified as high emitters by tests administered in the centralized test station.

DPS also conducted studies in support of the testing program. Preliminary results indicate that approximately 30% of licensed safety inspection stations would drop out of the program if they were required to purchase an emissions analyzer, even with a price increase for the inspection. The DPS study also suggested that about 15% of vehicles on the road have a disablement of at least one emission control device, and 13% had missing fuel filler necks.

Radian Corporation's draft final report on the overall data analysis of the Harris County program is scheduled for delivery, October 15.

REGULATION HEARINGS SET LATER THIS YEAR

Public hearings on proposed revisions to TACB Regulations I, III, IV, V, and VI, are rescheduled tentatively for late November or early December in Austin, Houston, and Odessa. Additional revisions will be considered at hearings planned for February or March.

Major revisions being proposed are:

- changing the General Rules to incorporate the "bubble" concept of alternate emissions control and to define "potential to emit" as used in "major facility/stationary source" and "major modification"

- adding a rule to Regulation I to allow a facility unable to meet opacity limits to apply for an alternate limit, under certain conditions

- revising Regulation III to delete out-of-date measurement methods for fluorides

- adding a rule to Regulation IV to allow military personnel who are shipping personal vehicles overseas to remove catalytic converters and fuel restrictors five days prior to departure and five days after returning

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--deleting the requirements for control of volatile organic compounds in Ector County because the Board has recommended and EPA has proposed that the county be reclassified to "attainment," and deleting the exemption for non-uniformly distributed web coating. Also proposed is the inclusion of a vapor recovery system as an alternate control for large storage tanks and other minor changes for clarity and consistency.

--amending Regulation VI rules on offset transactions to require a "net decrease" in emissions rather than the presently stated "no increase" to comply with EPA requirements. Other proposed changes include amending the public notification rule to allow a permit applicant to include additional information in the notice and to allow the Executive Director to delegate to appropriate persons the authority to exempt relocations of previously permitted facilities from the public notification requirements.

Copies of the proposed revisions are available from the TACB Central office and from all Regional offices.

**EL PASO, HOUSTON
SLATED FOR
AEROSOL STUDY**

The TACB has contracted with Environmental Research Technology, Inc. (ERT) to assist the Agency in developing a design for a particulate matter (aerosols) and visibility study in El Paso and the Houston/Gulf Coast area. The design, which will take about one year to develop, will provide detailed procedures for performing the aerosol and visibility study in the two areas.

ERT met with TACB staff and other involved groups in Austin and Houston, September 15-19.

**AIR MONITORS
SHIFTED IN
HOUSTON AREA**

The TACB is redesigning its air monitoring network in the Houston area to provide additional information concerning background levels of air pollutants.

In conformance with EPA requirements for federal National Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS), two TACB stations will be moved to different locations within the Houston area. The continuous air monitoring station (CAMS) at Mae Drive in Houston will be moved north of the central business district, and the Aldine station will be moved northwest of its present location. These newsites will become NAMS, contributing data toward the analysis of air quality nationwide. The CAMS at Texas City, Clute, Seabrook, and Baytown will remain as presently sited.

Four new CAMS sites will be established. One CAMS, monitoring sulfur dioxide, suspended particulate, and nitrogen dioxide has been deployed to the Alice B. Johnson Junior High School in Channelview. The other three stations will monitor sulfur dioxide only and will be deployed later this year or early next year.

Additional monitoring in the Houston area will be conducted by a contractor April 1, 1981 to October 31, 1981, collecting air quality and meteorological data to assist the TACB in its 1982 State Implementation Plan submittal to the EPA.