

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION**

**MINOR BARNETTE
DIRECTOR**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSISTANCE AND
PROTECTION ADVISORY
BOARD**

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**FORSYTH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE and PROTECTION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

The Forsyth County Environmental Assistance and Protection Advisory Board met on October 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Equalization and Review Room, Forsyth County Government Center, 201 North Chestnut Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter DeVries, Chairman
Tommy Thompson, Vice Chairman
Jarrette Dineen Richard Sieg
Beth Williams Charles Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nathan Atkinson

FCOEAP PRESENT: Jason Bodenhamer Michael Settle
Bob Ragland Valerie Shores

I. Call to Order:

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of the July 21, 2015 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:

Mr. DeVries opened the discussion to approve the July 21, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Dineen made a motion to accept. Mr. Sieg seconded the motion, all members of the Advisory Board in attendance approved.

III. New National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone:

Mr. Ragland introduced Mr. Bodenhamer, Program Manager for the Analysis and Monitoring Division of the Office of Environmental Assistance and Protection. He showed a slide presentation of information regarding the newly released standard for ozone, the effects of ozone and data collected from air quality monitoring sites.

Mr. Bodenhamer displayed a map of air monitoring sites located in North Carolina. In our network there are 4 ozone sites, 2 of the sites have PM monitoring. The state operates various sites throughout the region. Forsyth County was previously above the ozone standard, thus we were in nonattainment. Beginning in 1998, recorded trends were high for our area. We used to have 30-35 exceedences of the ozone standard during the ozone season, which is currently April 1st through October 31st. In 2004-2005 recorded trends reflected a decrease. And, by April 15, 2008, we were able to achieve attainment.

Mr. Bodenhamer said that according to the Clean Air Act, standards have to be reviewed every 5 years. Some years the standards are deemed sufficient and no changes are made. The standards change because the EPA is constantly doing ongoing review of research on the health effects of ozone. Adverse health effects have been demonstrated at ozone levels as low as 72 ppb while the 2008 standard was 75 ppb. The new standard of 70 ppb was released October 1, 2015.

There are significant health and financial benefits for the population resulting from the new standard. The EPA had to quantify the health benefits before adopting this standard. Changing the standard will result in fewer premature deaths, fewer asthma attacks, fewer emergency room visits and fewer days missed from school and work.

Mr. Bodenhamer said the new standard will also affect cut-points for the Air Quality Index (AQI) used for the forecasts across the nation. The old cut-points were based on the 2008 standard. He showed an O₃ comparison for the cut-points for the Air Quality Index used in the forecasts. He listed the old and new indexes for the green, yellow, orange, red and purple ozone levels. Mr. Bodenhamer said we forecast 365 days a year and when our ozone threshold was 76 ppb or higher, alerts were issued to the

public.

The implementation of this new standard will probably result in fewer code green days and more code orange and yellow days in the future. This is a forecast referenced from the last 5 years of data. We can't project exactly what will happen in the future.

Mr. Bodenhamer discussed the Code of Federal Regulations and read Title 40-Chapter 1- Subchapter C- Part 50.

He explained how the average daily ozone values are calculated. Ozone values are collected throughout the ozone season and each day there is a maximum 8 hour rolling average value calculated. The 4th highest 8 hour daily average for each individual site during the year is used to determine the site's design value. We take that 4th highest value for three consecutive years and average the three 4th highest values. The design value is site specific.

The new standard will be applied from 2014-2016. This is our threshold value for each site. The environmental monitoring station at Shiloh Church has consistently recorded low ozone readings and in our last network plan submitted to the EPA, we requested approval to shut down that site.

Mr. Bodenhamer discussed ozone thresholds, weather, ambient air quality standards and ambient air quality monitoring sites. He discussed the value differences and explained the weather factors involved with lower ozone in 2013-2014. He said it takes more favorable weather factors to get ozone values near the standard. There will be a longer ozone monitoring season starting in 2017. The new ozone season will be from March 1st through October 31st.

Ms. Williams asked if there will be new rules for sources of ozone in meeting this new standard.

Mr. Bodenhamer referenced the data on the slide "exceeding the standard". He said if we were to exceed the standard, we would have to work with the state in developing a SIP.

Mr. DeVries asked what it would take to get us into nonattainment.

Mr. Bodenhamer referenced the threshold values. He said the weather, traffic jams, etc. could influence our designation status.

Mr. DeVries asked if values had to exceed the standard at different monitoring stations.

Mr. Bodenhamer said that we just had to exceed the standard at one station. Each year there is a new design value calculated for each station based on data from the previous 3 years.

Mr. DeVries clarified that one exceedance in a year will not put us into

nonattainment. Mr. Bodenhamer confirmed that we would have to exceed the standard 4 times in one year for us to be at risk of nonattainment.

Mr. Dineen asked about an update regarding the status of the state's plan to close some network sites.

Mr. Bodenhamer said the state has submitted a network plan. House Bill 765 requires the removal of several monitoring sites. Network plans are usually submitted by July 1st of each year. The EPA is supposed to respond to that plan by 10-1-15. Approval has been received to shut down 8 of the 12 monitoring stations but staff are not sure about the other 4 stations. The state has submitted a network plan for 2015 which requires removing and closing down any site that is not required by federal law.

Mr. DeVries asked about the reasoning behind closing the Shiloh Church site.

Mr. Bodenhamer said it is not necessarily beneficial to keep a network monitoring site open which consistently records low numbers. The EPA would not deem it valuable.

IV. Other Business:

Mr. DeVries confirmed there was no other business.

V. Next tentative meeting:

Date: January 19, 2016
Location: 201 N. Chestnut St. Winston-Salem, NC
Board of Equalization and Review Room

VI. Peter DeVries adjourned the meeting.

Dated: 12/21/2015 Minor Barnette Minor Barnette, Director

Approved: Peter H. DeVries Peter H. DeVries, Chairman