



Advisory Council Minutes
September 27, 2007
Regional Health District
Environmental Health Conference Room

Members Present:

Jana McDonald
Ray Kelleher
Chet Jahns
John Hjaltalin
John Livingston

Staff Present:

Bill Dameworth
Matt Holmquist
Ron Edgar
Mary McDermott

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m.

1. Approval of the August 30, 2007:

John Hjaltalin moved to approve the August 30, 2007 minutes and Ray Kelleher seconded it. Minutes approved.

2. Wood Stove Curtailment Program – Matt Holmquist:

For enforcement limitations, there is an issue with regard to the inspector getting out to complaints, responding in a timely matter. There is a woodstove start-up time where it starts out dirty and cleans up as it gets warmed up which is a 20 minute start-up period; opacity can only be read during the daylight hours; home entry is a liability and is not done; and smoking chimneys are not illegal, it is the amount of smoke coming out of the chimney and opacity exceedances have to exceed six minutes or more in any hour over 20% opacity. Some chimneys may look like they are exceeding the limit but the sun has to be behind the person looking at the smoke, not behind the smoke. On-site complaint response is generally not performed because over the years we have learned that it is unproductive having inspectors running around checking on smoke when 99% of the time there is not an issue. Instead, we mail information out from the office when complaints are received. Inspectors do watch for heavy smoke anytime they are out in the field. The warning letter that is mailed out explains what is prohibited to burn and other literature on how to burn clean is included.

Woodstove curtailments consist of two stages. During a Stage I, they always have to meet the opacity limits (year round, there are no exceptions for opacity) and have to use an EPA

certified device or have an exemption from Spokane Clean Air. During a Stage II, they must meet opacity limits and have an exemption from Spokane Clean Air. Certified devices have a permanent label on the back of the device that says it is EPA certified or a temporary label that says the same thing. If the device was installed new in 1992 or after, it is very likely a certified device. The make and model number of the device can also be checked on an EPA list to see if it is certified device. Written exemptions are granted if there is an inadequate/sole source of heat or the individual is low income. Spokane Clean Air has approximately 22 exemptions this season. There is a possibility that this number may grow because of the lowering of the curtailment limits and calling more curtailments. Enforcement during curtailments includes a three hour burn down time and inspectors do surveillance for compliance of excess opacity, use of certified devices during a Stage I and use of woodstoves with exemptions during a Stage I and II.

In summary, we get approximately 200 woodstove complaints annually. Generally they are responded to with a mailing of educational literature. Inspectors are always watching for excessive smoke in the field, and during a curtailment the inspectors are out in force making sure people are complying with the requirements. The way the inspectors verify if the wood stove is certified is by asking them to look at the back of their stove, show them the documents that came with the stove or give them the make and model of the stove. There is really no way to know that the devices are certified or not, but if they are exceeding the limit, they will be notified by mail or the inspector may go to their door and leave information. Everyone will get a warning and there will be a lot of education due to the new curtailment limits. Commercial buildings may get exemptions, but their limits are more stringent. They have a three minute exceedance of the opacity limit per hour because a lot of these sources that are burning are registered facilities and they know what the requirements are from years past and in dealing with Spokane Clean Air. There are a lot of warnings given to commercial and residential establishments. Matt would like to remove commercial establishments from the exemption program because as a business they should be able to have an alternative source of heat during curtailments. Ron added that the trigger value was a 65 microgram PM_{10} trigger; then it went down to a 35 microgram $PM_{2.5}$ standard and now we have adopted a 20 microgram $PM_{2.5}$ standard trigger value. Matt added that the Stage II curtailment is at 30 micrograms and the Stage I is at 20 so there is not a lot of wiggle room.

3. Update on Wood Smoke Advisory Group – Bill Dameworth:

Bill stated he missed the last meeting, but they talked about what each of them wanted out of this group. There are three meetings left and at that time the group has to submit recommendations to the legislature and Ecology is going to put some budget things together for the Governor's budget which should include some additional wood stove change-outs. Spokane Clean Air asked for an additional \$150,000 for the wood stove change-out program. The group went over the issue of what happens when you sell your house and you have to replace the stove and a lot of them didn't want that. Bill has suggested having a disclosure on the form that states whether the device is certified. Then it can be between the buyer and seller whether they replace it or how that is done. Puget Sound would prefer to get rid of all wood stoves and have people switch to natural gas, propane, etc. They have had some problems working with the Hearth Product people because the standards are so low there is no point in trying to do the Stage I

curtailment program. Ron added that pellet stoves are not affected by the curtailments because they have a higher than 35 to 1 air to fuel ratio. Lisa and Bill will be going out and contacting the media to let them know about this new rule which the Board adopted at the last meeting and also about the curtailments, burn bans and enforcement.

4. Monitoring Site Update – Ron Edgar:

All of the contracts are in place for the monitoring sites. The platforms have been put up and the TEOM equipment has been ordered and should be shipped the first of October. The equipment will be installed and the state contract will provide the data loggers and telemetry equipment. Ron is hoping to have this equipment up and going and to get some good data from these new sites for the winter.

5. Other Items of Interest:

Bill stated that he recommended an individual to the Board and he will be taking a resolution to the Board on this in October.

John Hjaltalin moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting and Chet Jahns seconded it. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR