

**Advisory Council Minutes  
February 27, 2014  
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency**

Members Present:

Mark Roberge, (Chemistry)  
Doug Pottratz, Member at Large  
Chester Jahn, Jr. Agriculture  
Raymond, Byrne, Public Health  
Hal Ophus, Business Community

Staff Present:

Matt Holmquist, Compliance Administrator  
Mark Rowe, Air Quality Technician  
Debbie Riley, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

**1. Approval of the Revised January 23, 2014 minutes**

Doug Pottratz made a motion to approve the Revised January 23, 2014 minutes and Raymond Byrne seconded it. Minutes approved.

**2. Review of Burn Ban Procedures and Discussion of Proposed Rule Changes – Mark and Matt**

Mark gave an overview of the regulation for the use of solid fuel heating devices and the proposed rule changes. Matt briefly discussed burn ban exemptions. Wood heating is the largest contributor to fine particle (smoke) pollution in our community during the heating season. Smoke from wood burning can cause unhealthy air quality, especially during periods of air stagnation. Temporarily banning the use of solid fuel heating devices is sometimes necessary to reduce smoke emissions; to maintain levels of air quality that protect human health and safety including the health and safety of the most sensitive members of the population; prevent exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>); and comply with requirements of the Washington Clean Air Act. When fine particles of smoke are on the rise and stagnant weather conditions prevail, Spokane Clean Air can restrict the use of wood burning devices and outdoor burning. This strategy is to keep fine particles from exceeding the federal, health-based air quality standards. State law prohibits excessive chimney smoke and smoke is measured as opacity percentages. Smoke so thick you can't see an object through it is considered 100% opacity. Except for brief periods during start-up and refueling, smoke is in violation when it obscures objects viewed through it by more than 20%. The criteria

for a Stage 1 burn band is based on meteorological and the air quality forecast based on the last 24 hours of data that is updated hourly. When air pollution levels are rising or are already high due to poor dispersion, the use of wood burning devices are restricted to EPA-certified devices. EPA Certified means that a solid fuel burning device meets emission performance standards when tested by an accredited independent laboratory and labeled according to procedures specified by the EPA. Spokane Clean Air has rules that provide for an exemption when a dwelling's other source of heat is inadequate. Ecology has a website that has a list of certified and non-certified devices. The restrictions are typically for the Smoke Control Zone, but can be extended countywide if conditions dictate. When air pollution has risen to a level threatening public health and dispersion is poor and is not expected to improve in the next 24 hours a Stage 2 burn ban is put into effect. All outdoor burning is banned countywide under Stage 1 and 2. If an air pollution episode is declared by the state, the ban can extend throughout Eastern Washington. The Smoke Control Zone represents the more concentrated residential and commercial areas of the county; areas where air pollution levels are highest due to the density of homes and businesses and air flow patterns. When air quality and meteorological conditions improve, burn bans will be cancelled or downgraded from a Stage 2 to a Stage 1. Spokane Clean Air terminates a burn ban when there is a significant change in the meteorological pattern that will improve the smoke dispersion and cause the 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  average to be below the 24-hour EPA  $PM_{2.5}$  standard within 6 to 12 hours and remain below the 24-hour EPA  $PM_{2.5}$  standard for the next 48 to 72 hours. The agency does not call off a burn ban when ventilation is expected to remain poor even if the 24-hour  $PM_{2.5}$  average is below the 24-hour EPA standard.

During its 2008 session, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 6753 to revise RCW 70.94.773 in response to EPA's adoption in September 2006 of a stricter limit on ambient fine particulate matter  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The current federal 24-hour standard for  $PM_{2.5}$  is  $35 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$ , which is reduced from  $65 \text{ mg m}^{-3}$ . The Spokane Clean Air Agency proposed a revision to Regulation I to bring it up to date with the Washington State law. There was some discussion between the Advisory Council and staff.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.**

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2014, in Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's office located at 3104 E. Augusta Ave.

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

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WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR