

**Advisory Council Minutes
May 22, 2014
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency**

Members Present:

Jana McDonald, Air Pollution Control
Hal Ophus, Business Community
Raymond, Byrne, Public Health
Bud Leber, Industry
Adriane Borgias, Environmental
Kevin Miller, Fire Protection

Staff Present:

William Dameworth, Director
Matt Holmquist, Compliance Administrator
Debbie Riley, Administrative Assistant

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

Approval of the April 24, 2014 Minutes

1. Raymond Byrne made a motion to approve the April 24, 2014 minutes and Bud Leber seconded it. Minutes approved.

2. **Exceptional Events Update – Mark Rowe**

Mark gave an update on Exceptional Events Rule (EER). Exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events for which the normal planning and regulatory process established by the Clean Air Act are not appropriate, they affect air quality but are not reasonably controllable or preventable. The exceptional event can be caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or natural events such as wildfires, high winds and volcanic eruptions like Mt. St. Helens in May of 1980. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines an exceptional event through a process established in the EER. This rule establishes the procedures and criteria that will be used to identify, evaluate, interpret and use monitored air quality data for comparison to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard where air quality agencies request special treatment because the data has been affected by an exceptional event. EPA will not consider an air agency's request for exclusion of data under the EER unless it has regulatory significance. Some examples of regulatory determinations or actions that might be affected are violating the NAAQS and nonattainment designation. The EPA uses seven "criteria pollutants" as indicators of air quality and has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects on human health may occur, these threshold concentrations are called

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The seven air pollutants are fine particulate matter, large particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, lead and ozone. The levels of criteria pollutants are measured by air monitors located throughout the state. When an area of a state does not meet the air quality standard for a criteria pollutant for a period of time, it may be subject to the formal process where the EPA designates it as a nonattainment area. When an area violates federal air quality standards, the federal EPA can make one of three designations for the area based on a state's recommendation: attainment (meeting a standard), nonattainment (failing to meet a standard and unclassifiable (not enough information to designate). For areas that are designated nonattainment states need to submit a plan called a State Implement Plan (SIP) which outlines the specific strategies it will use to get areas back into attainment. There are also specific deadlines that states must meet to submit their plans to achieve compliance. A nonattainment designation can have both environmental and economic consequences for communities in and around the area. The EER provisions identify the following elements that air agencies must address when requesting that the EPA exclude event-related concentrations from regulatory determinations: The event affected the air quality; the event was not reasonably controllable or preventable; the event was caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or was a natural event; there exists a clear causal relationship between the specific event and the monitored concentration; the event is associated with a measured concentration in excess of normal historical fluctuations including the background; and there would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event. Mark summarized the EER and timeline. There was some discussion between staff and the Advisory Council members.

3. Update on Director Review Committee – Jana McDonald

Jana gave a brief update on the Director Review Committee. At the last Board meeting Bill proposed to the Board that a Review Committee be formed to review the applications after they come through the county and rank them and present them to the Board with findings. Several people from the Advisory Council committee were asked to participate along with a couple of staff members. There will be a meeting at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 22, 2014, to establish ground rules and criteria. The job closes May 30th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

The next Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2014, in Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency's office located at 3104 E. Augusta Ave.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR