

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Final May 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC or Committee) members present via Teams or in-person.

Rob Altenburg ☒	Joseph Guzek ☐	Richard Shaffer ☒	John Tissue ☒
Scott Brown ☒	Christine Heath ☒	John Shimshock ☒	Maryjoy Ulatowski ☒
Kimberly Coy ☒	Charles McPhedran ☒	John Slade ☒	Shaun Vozar ☒
Joseph Duckett ☒	Michael Nines ☒	Kevin Stewart ☒	John Walliser ☒

Call To Order & Administrative Items

Chair John Tissue called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

One correction was suggested to fix the spelling of Shaun Vozar's name. John Tissue requested a motion to approve the 2/5/26 meeting minutes with the one correction. Joe Duckett made a motion to approve. Kevin Stewart seconded. Hearing no opposition, John Tissue approved the minutes with the correction.

Public Comment Period

Thomas Bailey, a concerned PA Citizen from Penn Hills, signed up in advance of the meeting to provide comment. The commentor could not attend the meeting at the time of the public comment period, but a copy of their written comment was sent to the AQTAC members during the meeting.

Presentation

Draft Proposed Regulation to Rescind 25 Pa. Code Chapter 126 Subchapter E - Pennsylvania Heavy-Duty Diesel (HDD) Program

Presented by Catherine Menke, DEP

Discussion

Joe Duckett asked why the HDD program was suspended in 2021. Brian Trowbridge (DEP) commented that there were some conflicts between the rule as incorporated in Pennsylvania and the interpretations of the California rule that lead to confusion in the industry.

Charles McPhedran asked if the adoption of the program, before it was suspended, yielded emission reductions in PA. Brian Trowbridge responded that in the early days of adoption, the Bureau of Air Quality (BAQ) did observe emissions reductions. Mr. McPhedran suggested that the program should continue suspension for now rather than rescind the program. Kevin Stewart agreed with continued suspension. The program could be amended in the future if needed. Additional discussion occurred regarding the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Federal HDD program, and rescinding versus continuing suspension of the program.

Kevin Stewart commented that when giving future presentations, BAQ should consider including data on the effects of the program. For example, if BAQ believes the program had positive impact on emissions, it would be helpful for AQTAC to see the data compared with data before the program's implementation.

Presentation

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Draft Proposed Regulation 25 Pa. Code Chapters 121 and 127: Administrative Amendments to General Provisions and Permitting Notification Requirements (Update)
Presented by Luke Zeisloft, DEP

Discussion

Christie Heath asked about the inter-pollutant trading piece of the rule proposal and what is necessitating that change. Jesse Walker (DEP) explained that there is a legal precedent under federal law that struck down inter-pollutant trading for precursor emissions for ozone. The amendment is to be consistent with that legal precedent. Kevin Stewart asked for clarification about the application process. Sean Wenrich (DEP) explained the reapplication process if the applicant is denied. Jesse Walker added that applicants can also engage with the Department before the submittal deadline for any pre-submittal questions or concerns.

John Tissue commented on the definition change of responsible official and indicated the language in the compliance review form is different. Sean Wenrich said BAQ will make changes to the forms as well for the new definition. Additional discussion occurred regarding the proposed changes to emissions inventory requirements, the proposed definition of "commence operations" and the timing of plan approvals and permit applications.

Presentation

Annual Monitoring Network Plan
Presented by Bryan Oshinski, DEP

Discussion

Joe Duckett asked if BAQ moves monitoring stations, how will BAQ then compare new data to data previously collected to evaluate progress? Bryan Oshinski responded that decision making comes down to time, financials, and staffing. Historical data is important, but the main goal of the monitoring program is to demonstrate that we are currently monitoring for better protection of public health and the environment. Nick Lazor (DEP) commented that when relocating monitors, BAQ tries to keep the future monitoring location close so the sampling can still be considered representative of the same location. But it can be hard in some locations to find sites that meet the requirements for a monitoring station.

Kevin Stewart asked a question about the Laureldale lead monitoring site. Mr. Oshinski explained the slide to clarify. Mr. Stewart asked about the relocation of the Chester monitoring site. Mr. Oshinski explained that the monitoring station is not intended to be source influenced. Mr. Lazor elaborated that depending on the NAAQS pollutant, the site requirements are different. Lead is source oriented, but other pollutants are not.

Presentation

Regulatory Development and State Implementation Plan Update
Presented by Joe Martini, DEP

Discussion

Rob Altenburg asked if the contingency measures must be things already in effect? Joe Martini said those are qualifications to consider for contingency measures.

Christie Heath asked about the ozone bump up SIP. With MD and DE petitioning to leave the ozone non-attainment area designation, what impact will that have on PA's ozone SIP? Mr. Martini explained that as part of the petition by MD and DE, they had to demonstrate that they are not contributing to the greater Philadelphia non-

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attainment area. BAQ's understanding is that EPA has accepted the petition. Additional discussion occurred regarding the ozone non-attainment area, ozone monitoring data, and SIP development.

Old & New Business / Open Discussion

John Tissue opened the meeting for AQTAC business/open discussion.

Old Business

Action items from the previous meeting were discussed. John Tissue asked about the proposed presentation on the history of ozone regulation and data trends in PA. BAQ is working on a presentation for this subject for a future meeting.

Deborah Wehr (Compliance and Enforcement group, DEP) announced that the 2026 updates to the Guidance for the Application of Regional Civil Penalty Assessment Procedures (aka the "penalty policy") has concluded its public comment period with no comments. BAQ intends to finalize the document and have it published in the *PA Bulletin* with a new effective date this summer.

John Tissue discussed the progress of AQTAC's guidance document revision work group. A meeting is being planned to coordinate with BAQ source testing staff to discuss how AQTAC can help with revisions.

John Tissue asked about AQTAC's interest in the Western PA Oil and Gas Study. AQTAC members expressed they are still interested in following that project and would appreciate updates at future meetings.

New Business

Kristina Snurkowski (DEP) covered the proposed process for AQTAC officer elections. The process was discussed by the committee, and a nominating committee (Christie Health and John Walliser) was formed to assist with the officer elections. Officer nominations can be emailed to the AQTAC Liaison (RA-EPAQTAC@pa.gov) by June 25, 2026. The nominating committee will then reach out to nominees to ensure they are willing to be on the ballot.

Adjournment

With no further business before AQTAC, John Tissue requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Duckett made a motion to adjourn. Shaun Vozar seconded. John Tissue, hearing no opposition, adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

The next AQTAC meeting is Thursday, August 6, 2026.

Minutes prepared by Kristina Snurkowski Air Quality Program Specialist (AQPS). For additional information about AQTAC, please contact the AQTAC Liaison (RA-EPAQTAC@pa.gov) or by visiting the AQTAC Web page at: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/public-participation/advisory-committees/air-advisory-committees/air-quality-technical-advisory-committee.html>