

**USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force
Summary Notes
August 30-31, 2006
Harrisburg Hilton Hotel
Harrisburg, PA**

AAQTF Members in Attendance:

- Viney Aneja
- Janet Ashman
- Robert Avant
- Gary Baise
- Garth Boyd
- Nan Bunker
- Sally Shaver (EPA)
- Roger Isom
- Steven Kirkhorn
- Calvin Parnell
- Robert Jackman
- Marc Pitchford
- Kevin Rogers
- Dave Roper
- Robert Flocchini
- Rita Sharma
- Annette Sharp
- Merlyn Carlson (USDA, Acting Chair)
- Bryan Shaw
- Douglas Shelmidine
- Phillip Wakelyn

USDA Staff in Attendance:

- Al Riebau (USFS)
- Marc Ribaud (ERS)
- Diane Gelburd, DFO (NRCS)
- Ron Heavner (NRCS)
- Ray Knighton (CSREES)
- Greg Johnson (NRCS)
- Craig Derickson (NRCS)
- Rose Updegraff (NRCS)
- Susan O'Neill (NRCS)
- John Brenner (NRCS)
- Elvis Graves (NRCS)
- Roel Vining (NRCS)
- Myra Brown (NRCS)
- Robert Wright (ARS)
- Greg Zwicke (NRCS)

EPA Staff in Attendance:

- Jon Scholl
- Kerry Drake

Call to Order: Diane Gelburd, USDA-NRCS, Designated Federal Official called the meeting to order at approximately 8:05 AM.

Opening Remarks: Merlyn Carlson, Deputy Under Secretary, USDA provided the following comments and staff updates.

Chief Bruce Knight has been appointed to the position of Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs in the Department. The new NRCS Chief is Arlen Lancaster.

Meg Walsh left the NRCS and has accepted a position with the USDA Global Change Program Office.

Sheryl Kunickis has taken a temporary assignment as Acting Director of the NRCS Central National Technology Support Center in Fort Worth Texas.

It was noted that the Ag Air Quality Workshop held in June (2006) in Potomac, MD was a success. Dr's. Aneja and Knighton led this effort.

Mr. Carlson indicated that the USDA is following through on recommendations from recent actions and meetings of the AAQTF at the Departmental level.

He [Mr. Carlson] noted the increasing amount of emphasis on air quality in the USDA, including NRCS program support (EQIP, CSP, etc.), as well as the good working relationship at present between the NRCS air quality team and the EPA. He also noted a 30% increase in air quality research funds at the ARS, and 10% more in CSREES.

He announced that the next Task Force (TF) meeting, which will be the first for the new Task Force (to be appointed soon), will be at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, Nov. 28-30, 2006.

Presentation from Craig Derickson, State Conservationist, PA:

Mr Derickson thanked the PA State NRCS staff who helped with the meeting preparations. He noted that Pennsylvania is a leading agricultural state and that air quality issues (as was noted during the previous days tour) are becoming increasingly important.

Words from Chad Weaver, State Director for Sen Rick Santorum:

Senator Santorum serves on the Agriculture Committee, and he is looking forward to working on the 2007 Farm Bill. Their office expressed an interest in working with the AAQTF on agricultural air quality issues.

Mr. Avant asked Mr. Weaver about the direction in the new Farm Bill. Mr. Weaver noted five regional meetings were held across PA, including one in Harrisburg. At each meeting there was considerable public interest and concern expressed at these meetings. They will endeavor to incorporate these concerns into new language in the next Farm Bill.

Mr. Baise asked what the concerns were that were expressed at the regional meetings. Mr. Weaver said that PA feels that they have been left out of some farm programs because they are a dairy and specialty crops state. They also expressed great support for conservation.

Dr. Gelburd reviewed the March AAQTF minutes:

Dr. Parnell noted that a few things weren't included in the minutes that should have been. He said that there were three letters that were put forward to the Secretary and these were not included in the minutes. Extramural Research; VOCs and Scaling Method; and the Buckeye Egg settlement case. He [Dr. Parnell] noted the relevance, especially of the Buckeye case, because of the PA poultry situation, as shown on the tour yesterday. There is a need to find these letters and that they go forward, and this be noted in the minutes. Mr. Avant supported this, and said that these types of letters should be included in the future as attachments to TF minutes. Dr. Shaw made a formal motion regarding these recommendations—that the AAQTF go on record supporting these three letters and their distribution to the Secretary. Seconded by Dr. Flocchini. Mr. Avant stated that electronic copies of these should exist somewhere, and Dr. Gelburd noted these recommendations should be on the TF website. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Avant recommended that discussion of the minutes be tabled until tomorrow when copies of the documents could be provided. Dr. Shaw's motion then passed unanimously.

Presentation by Mr. Tom Fidler, Deputy Secretary of Waste, Air and Radiation Management, PA Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Fidler discussed AQ issues in PA, and related efforts with CREP, nutrient management, and a nutrient trading program in PA. The latter one is focused on water quality. The PA Clean Vehicles Program was mentioned, as was the Clean Air mercury rule--PA has their own program which followed up after EPA's action. PA has done a lot over the years on AQ issues, including Ozone, PM2.5, Regional Haze, Clean Vehicles, Mercury, Regulation (or lack thereof) of agricultural sources, and agriculture in general.

He stressed that PA does NOT regulate agriculture with respect to air quality. The PA DEP is aware of and interested in the new CAFO Consent Agreement with EPA. He also mentioned implications of the proposed new 8 hour standard for ozone. Thirty seven (37) counties out of sixty three (63) in PA are in nonattainment. SIPs must be developed for these by 2007. This represents 3.89 million people in PA. They have found that in recent hot temperature episodes that ozone levels were less than anticipated. Other surrounding states have noted this, too. He mentioned that Lancaster County has a redesignation request and maintenance plan has been completed. A hearing on these issues was held on Aug. 8.

He further discussed implementation of the PM2.5 standard. Designations of attainment were not made until April 5, 2005. Ammonium nitrates and sulfates are increasingly being examined in their analyses. Achievement and maintenance are both necessary in these plans. The DEP has looked at cultivation, harvesting, open burning, and drying operations as these operations can cause PM2.5 precursor emissions of NH3, sulfur oxides, etc.

PA started with the Clean Vehicles program in 1998. They have postponed the recommendation of adopting the CA low emission vehicle II requirements until March 2008. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) is now considering the Final Rulemaking in September 2006, as well as nonroad vehicle standards. He mentioned that new diesel regulations from EPA came out in May 2004, and agricultural equipment is included. Farm equipment standards will become effective with the 2011-2013 model years. Sulfur will be reduced to 500 ppm in 2007 and 15 ppm in 2010. He also noted biodiesel research and development work at Penn State University, including an examination of blends of up to B20 and beyond for all farm equipment on campus facilities.

Agriculture is considered to include contributions to ozone, PM, public health, reduced visibility, odors. The PA Air Pollution Control Act limits DEP's authority to regulate emissions from agricultural operations. They have defined agricultural commodities to include commercial production, etc. There is significant uncertainty in both the source and amounts of agricultural emissions. He closed by mentioning PA's Agricultural Communities and Rural Environment (ACRE) law that helps protect PA agriculture from unauthorized municipal regulation. There are several locations and issues around the state in which ACRE is now being implemented and/or challenged.

Patty Lawrence from NRCS Strategic Planning gave an overview of the new 2005-2010 NRCS Strategic Plan:

Ms. Lawrence noted that NRCS leadership is endeavoring to make this new strategic plan very workable and forward-looking. The Plan engaged leadership at all levels of the agency, including throughout field levels. Three guiding principles were developed: service, partnership and technical excellence. Beyond that, the new strategic plan encompasses five business lines and

fifteen core practices and services, along with three overarching strategies, three foundation goals, and three venture goals. Clean Air is the first Venture Goal and is prominent in the Strategic Plan, and it targets both regulated and non-regulated emissions, carbon sequestration, etc.

Mr. Avant mentioned that there is a lot going on below the surface with NRCS relative to the AAQTF, with the important parts being the Clean Air and Energy Venture goals. He mentioned carbon sequestration as an opportunity. He also stated that the Strategic Plan should do more to note the threats to agriculture, including all of the regulation (real and possible), and that the AAQTF should be a part of the implementation of the plan.

Dr. Pitchford mentioned that there are regional issues that were not noted in the plan, and so the word “regional” should be included. He also noted that NRCS should take the lead in USDA for leading some AQ programs. Dr. Kirkhorn also noted the increasing pressure that is being exerted for more energy crop production, and asked whether NRCS will be at the table on those discussions. Mr. Clark noted that NRCS is engaged in this.

Mr. Larry Clark, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, NRCS Update

Mr. Clark discussed progress over the past 2 years, including the formation of the Air Quality and Atmospheric Change (AQAC) team, establishment of forty five state air quality contacts, a greater emphasis on AQ in programs, as well as increasing emphasis on AQ in the Department and improving working relationships with regulatory agencies.

Work on AQ tools is progressing, including the Simple NRCS AQAC Planning (SNAP) tool, animal operations tool, various emissions calculators, and COMET-VR as examples. With regard to training, a 2 to 3 day course in 2007 on Agricultural Air Quality Basics will be offered in 2007, primarily targeting the NRCS State AQ Contacts. Mr. Clark noted that CEAP should deliver some watershed-based estimates of carbon sequestration, wind erosion, pesticide drift, and nitrogen volatilization. There also is examination of the Conservation Practice Physical Effects matrix to better determine AQ integration in the agency’s implementation of practices.

CSP funding and priorities included over \$4 million on AQ contracts in 2005. A new CSP enhancement for certain users to test the COMET-VR tool for carbon estimation on their farm has so far resulted in more than \$450,000 this year directly going to producers. Total EQIP expenditures were \$444 million in 2005, and \$31 million were air quality-related. He also mentioned Conservation Innovation Grants under EQIP: there were seven (7) funded in 2006 that were AQ-related projects for over \$3 million investment.

Mr. Jason Burnett, Senior Policy Advisor to the Assistant Administrator in Air and Radiation of EPA gave a presentation about NAAQS on PM and Ozone:

Mr. Burnett reviewed the PM NAAQS schedule, including public hearings (3) in March, and the final rule to be made by September 27, 2006. Related rulemakings including air monitoring regulations. He presented an overview of the December 20, 2005 PM NAAQS proposal. It is proposed that the PM fine standard will be lowered to 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for 24 hr standard and 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ remaining for the annual. They [EPA] now will likely set secondary standards equal to the primary standards. A more complicated standard for PM coarse was discussed, based in part on the lack of evidence for coarse particle effects in rural areas. He noted the proposed PM coarse agricultural and mining exemption.

EPA is currently performing a Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) on the PM NAAQS proposal. EPA wants to provide national estimates of the costs and benefits of fully attaining current and proposed daily and annual PM fine NAAQS. A case in point is the situation in California where the AQ issue is severe. The good news is that new estimates of costs of attainment are likely lower than estimated in 1997. Mr. Burnett presented a series of maps for baseline nonattainment, which examined incremental maps to attain possible 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and 14 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ standard for PM_{2.5}. There was a notable incremental change to achieve new standards in a few counties, mostly in CA and a few other areas in the West. He also discussed the ozone review. PM is different and premature mortality is the predominant issue associated with PM, but for ozone the greatest impacts are respiratory impacts. They [EPA] also are looking at vegetation and ecosystem effects in possible secondary standards for ozone.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch.

Dr. Gelburd called meeting to back to order at approximately 1:50 pm.

Forest Service Update – Al Riebau

- Update on CSREES research database – 45 documents updated
 - Burning
 - Climate change
- Critical Loads National Map
 - Informs where more research is needed
- Wildland Fire Weather Needs Assessment
 - WGA asked NOAA for this
 - Assessment of needs for fire prediction from weather conditions
 - Assessment for fire and fuels management
 - Need for much more and better surface observation data
 - Need better smoke modeling tools, especially for small fires
 - Need better emissions data

Public Comment – (2 speakers)

- Paul Martin – Western United Dairymen
 - Provided updates on dairy VOC & PM₁₀ emissions developments in CA
 - Update on dairy emissions conference (handout provided to the TF)
- Hala Chaoui - Penn State University (graduate student)
 - Question raised about GHG from silage
 - Will organic farming be a goal for NRCS to address GHG(?)
 - Larry Clark (NRCS) provided a response – no goal currently, but it may be a part of the overall AQ strategy.

EPA Ag Strategy – Jon Scholl

- Expressed thanks to current TF for their work
- Update on Ag Strategy – released May 8 (2006)
 - Outline of agency's plan for relationship with ag
 - Want to work cooperatively and innovatively

- Look at Ag as a producer of solutions
- Four points in strategy – outlined
- Cross-media Ag team
 - Departure from agency’s status quo, but recognize need for this in ag
 - Accomplishments
 - Team has regular communications between media teams
 - Developed matrix of regulations that affect agriculture
 - Will be on EPA’s website soon
 - Established good relationship with Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)
 - Most successful cross-media approaches currently are at the state level
 - Discussions with USDA
 - Use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS), etc.
 - CAFO rule proposal opens door for cross-media approach
 - Developed draft recommendations for opportunities for better cross-media regulation of ag
- Other issues
 - Midwest Scaling Method
 - Good preliminary discussions – hosted meeting on May 24
 - Enforcement and Air sections agreed to develop a common protocol
 - Want representatives from industry to help
 - Consent Agreement
 - Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) approved all agreements last week
 - Study is getting closer to beginning (Dec/Jan)
 - 2568 total agreements, 6267 farms
 - 1856 – swine
 - 468 – dairy
 - 204 – egg
 - 40 – broilers
 - CAFO rule
 - Comment period closed
 - 2-3 (approximately) months before final rule
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System(NPDES)/Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act FIFRA – close to finalization (maybe Oct)
 - If apply pesticides according to label instructions, no permit needed
 - New Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances OPPTS lead has been selected– Jim Gulliford
 - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
 - Poultry petition
 - Directives from Congress on agency’s position
 - Update at next meeting

Roger Isom – expressed frustration; disappointed that EPA didn’t ask for help from AAQTF on development of their Ag strategy; outreach to Ag community (producers) has never been there and thinks EPA should get more Ag input.

State Regulatory Perspective – Amy Royden-Bloom

- STAPPA/ALAPCO is changing name to National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA)
- Air pollution control is primary responsibility of state & local agencies
- Collect 99% of data in EPA's AIRS database
- Handle 90% of enforcement cases
- Discussed SIPs & development
- Discussed ozone & PM2.5 effects on people & plants
- Discussed climate change effects on ag
- List of Ag air emission sources
- List of AFO air emissions % of total U.S. emissions – see presentation
- Discussed concerns with Safe Harbor agreement & Ag emissions
- Highlighted opportunities for collaboration
 - Identify BMPs
 - Control technologies
 - Win-wins
 - CH4 energy source
 - Reduce odor/nuisance complaints
 - Avoid need for regulation if emissions below permitting thresholds
 - Lower emissions = lower impact of pollution on agriculture

Mr. Avant expressed concerns about CERCLA/EPCRA & STAPPA/ALAPCO's statement that AAQTF shouldn't be involved and that environmental & regulatory groups tried to get at Ag sources via the back door on ammonia.

Mr. Isom asked if STAAPA/ALAPCO looked at incentive programs instead of command-and-control approaches? He provide examples of successful incentives such as – Carl Moyer program in CA, EQIP, work with utilities to replace farmer's engines, new housing developments can mitigate emissions through fees that are used to minimize other emissions.

Environmental Credit Trading – Scott Subler

- Discussed Environmental Credit Corp (ECC) and how they participate in credit trading
 - Funded by world's largest private capital carbon trading firm
- Discussed Chicago Stock Exchange (CCX)
 - Requirements for inclusion on the CCX
 - CCX emissions baseline would be 4th largest market in the world behind Germany, Canada, and Australia
- Size of market depends on regulation
 - Could be \$15-30 billion by 2012
 - U.S. carbon credit market is real; this program will stimulate that market
 - Think this approach fits the 2007 Farm Bill Theme Paper for Conservation and the Environment

Emerging Issues Committee Report – Roger Isom

- Emerging Issues committee was asked at the last meeting to revisit the Ag burning policy (from 1999)

- The 1999 version made it to the Federal Register (farther than any other AAQTF recommendation), but stopped there
- **Recommendations:**
 - **USDA Secretary should request the EPA Administrator to make the Ag burning policy an interim EPA policy**
 - **Since the Exceptional Events Rule (EER) does not cover Ag burning, an additional Ag burning rulemaking should be done within 12 months of final promulgation of the EER**
 - **USDA Secretary should begin work on the Ag component of the EER immediately**
 - **Blue Ribbon Panel should be seated to develop the Ag burning rulemaking supplement to the EER**
- Motion made (by Dr. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Wakelyn) – accept report by Emerging Issues committee
 - **Motion passed (unanimously)**

Annette Sharp – noted that the committee evaluated the 100 page Ag burning policy developed in 1999.

Mr. Avant noted that the Ag burning policy generated public hearings in 2000, but no action since; this effort was seen as an opportunity to push the Ag burning policy through as part of the Exceptional Events Rule (EER) related to agriculture.

Al Riebau indicated that forest prescribed burning is not exempt under the EER, because fire returns to natural systems at normal intervals. This creates an opportunity to bring prescribed fire into smoke management plans.

Policy Committee Report – Gary Baise

- Policy committee was asked at the last meeting to recommend policy for environmental credit trading
- Commended Jeff Schmidt and Cynthia Cory for their work on the committee
- CA is moving toward climate registry and cap-and-trade of GHGs
- In the 1960s, Ag was the major source of CO₂, but Ag is now a net sink of 300 million tons CO₂ equivalents per year
- Existing conservation programs could provide assistance for GHG reductions
- Senator Brownback endorses a program to pay farmers to sequester carbon
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Environmental credit trading should be looked at in the upcoming Farm Bill**
 - **USDA should continue to encourage and foster market opportunities to trade carbon**
- Motion made (by Dr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Avant) – accept report by Policy committee
 - Amendment (by Dr. Wakelyn, seconded by Mr. Rogers) – suggest adding “or other appropriate vehicle” to not limit environmental credit trading advancement effort to Farm Bill
 - Viewed as a friendly amendment by Dr. Boyd, so added to Dr. Boyd’s motion

- Motion made (by Dr. Parnell, seconded by Mr. Shelmidine) – postpone vote on Dr. Boyd’s motion until after Research committee report
 - Motion passed
- Full amended motion passed after lengthy discussion during the Research committee report (see below).

Research Committee Report – Bob Avant

- Discussed activities and recommendations
- Research committee was asked to address carbon sequestration/modeling
 - How does COMET-VR work with respect to soil carbon
 - Also looked at:
 - Methane
 - Forestry
 - IPCC good practice guidelines
 - Nitrogen use efficiency
 - N₂O emissions
 - Noted that, in the past, the AAQTF worked on air quality issues, not global warming
 - Issue needs to be addressed, but committee acknowledges AAQTF was created to address air quality threats, as well as GHG opportunities
 - Don’t want to lose air quality concerns because of GHG
 - AAQTF has history of forming smaller working groups to address big issues and GHGs fits that process
- **Recommendations:**
 - **New Chief should convene a group to look at GHGs and climate change**
 - **Suggested to convene in Spring 2007, report to AAQTF in Fall 2007**
 - **Timely with respect to new Farm Bill schedule**
 - **List of recommendations with activity report (see committee report)**
 - **Other list of recommendations (see committee report)**
- Motion made (by Mr. Avant, seconded by Dr. Wakelyn) – accept activity report recommendations by Research committee
 - Motion passed
- Motion made (by Dr. Flocchini, seconded by Dr. Wakelyn) – accept additional Research committee recommendations (other than activity report)
 - Amendment made (by Dr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Avant) – add 17th item regarding reviewing the collateral effects of carbon sequestration on other air quality issues
 - Amendment made (by Mr. Avant) – add Mr. Baise’s recommendation from policy committee (remove references to “in the 2007 Farm Bill” as 18th item)
 - Motion made (as amended) passes after lengthy discussion (see below), one (Parnell) opposed

(Day One Wrap-Up

Dr. Shaw reiterated the previously suggested changes to the last page of minutes of last meeting; **USDA staff will incorporate them.**

Mr. Carlson noted that USDA has bi-monthly meetings with EPA, and these ideas need to go forward for discussion; we also need to listen to the markets, and a market for environmental items is developing.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 PM.

AAQTF Notes 8/31/2006 (AM) (Day Two)

PA AQ Issues and Ag – Dennis Wolff, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture

Dennis Wolff profiled Pennsylvania agricultural air quality issues. The coexistence of agriculture and urbanization is a big issue in the state as urbanization expands into rural communities. Farmers are protected by “Right To Farm” and nutrient management laws at the state level, but local ordinances are being passed that violate these state level laws. These local ordinances are costly and time consuming for farmers to fight. With ACRE (discussed previously by Tom Fidler), farmers can challenge a township’s ordinance if they feel it violates the right to farm law and the case goes before the Attorney General (currently 4-5 cases). Pennsylvania formed an Ag AQ Task Force in 12/2004.

Ozone Effects on Crops & the Penn State University Learning Center – Dennis Decoteau, Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Dennis Decoteau provided a presentation of the Penn State University Learning Center which offers classes for all levels (kindergarten thru retirees). They are currently doing open top chamber experiments to evaluate the impact of pollution on crops and also operate an air quality monitoring system. Many plants suffer damage from elevated ozone concentrations, which then decreases plant vigor and yield. 1970 data from EPA indicate that winter wheat, soybeans and cotton have big yield decreases while sorghum and corn experience little yield impact. Discussions regarding the age of that data and that the graph should be updated since many plant/seed producers are now producing crop varieties resistant to environmental damage.

CSREES & Ag AQ Workshop Update – Ray Knighton, USDA-CSREES

Dr. Ray Knighton summarized the results from the Ag AQ Workshop.

- 300 papers, 80 papers submitted for special issues
 - 4 special issues: journal of environmental quality, environmental pollution, atmospheric environment, journal of atmospheric chemistry
- Products of workshop (assessment reports) - Drafts by the end of the year
 - 1. Updated Ag emission inventory – discussion and some concern on the numbers being misused.
 - 2. Best practices – NRCS AQ team is assisting with this
- There was a press release that was discouraging and damning to animal Ag in particular “increasingly we see evidence that Ag emits PM, NOx, etc. - the workshop will attempt to estimate the emissions with other sources”. This was discussed at length.

- - **Action – circulate the press release mentioned (Dr. Boyd has copy) to the task force.**
 - Note: The press release (OP-ED piece by the workshop co-chairs) was not vetted by USDA and Ray Knighton indicated that he only saw the document after the fact.

Summary of NRI/CSREES proposals and budgets

- NRI - 65 proposals received. October review is planned. Awards should be made around November-December 2006. \$5 million total.
- 2007 RFA is in the works (next week or 2).
 - Strongly focused on an integrated component. Strongly focusing on getting practices out in the field
- CSREES budget issues - Still in conference, but encouraged that NRI won't be cut.
- Five (5) research grants are reviewing AQ issues – special research grants have been criticized. Congress has mandated that special research grants can be no longer than three years. All the current AQ special grants have been going on for more than 3 years. In talking with some states they are planning on submitting new projects
- Ag in the classroom
 - \$1 million by CSREES, \$25 million total in total US expenditures
 - **Need a curriculum on AQ - collaborate with Education and Outreach Committee**

PM Monitoring and Measurement Research – Gail Bingham, Utah State University (Space Dynamics Lab)

Dr. Gail Bingham from the Space Dynamics Laboratory (Logan, Utah) described research he is doing to estimate particulate matter fluxes from animal facilities using a LIDAR system, mini-vol samplers, and an optical particle counter. With the LIDAR they are able to examine and track the particulate plume, as well as to obtain estimates of PMcoarse and PM2.5. A discussion followed with Task Force members regarding sampler bias. In particular, Mr. Avant questioned the mass median diameter of the plumes they were capturing with the LIDAR from the Cache Valley, UT dairy farms, and whether they had compared these to Federal Reference Method (FRM) measurements. They (Dr. Bingham and his two student associates—Corey Moore and Chris Marchant) responded that FRM samplers were not used in these studies, but particulate distribution comparisons were made using Airmetrics Mini-Vol's, but that future campaigns would use FRM samplers.

Poultry Emissions Study – Robert Burns, Iowa State University

Dr. Robert Burns (Iowa State University, and presently on sabbatical with the USDA-NRCS) discussed the research project he is conducting in conjunction with the University of Iowa and University of Kentucky to measure NH₃ and other pollutants being measured in the NAEMS (“EPA Consent Agreement”) project. Two Tyson broiler houses in western KY are being monitored twice a week for one year. The research will measure TSP, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} with Tapered-Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM's), generating fan curves for every fan, and doing a total nitrogen balance for the sites. Emission factors will not be published until the completion of the EPA consent agreement, however the NH₃ data must be released as part of a consent decree with the Sierra Club. VOC emissions data will also be published soon.

Discussion was had regarding the eco-cal diet being fed to the birds and the TEOM measurements.

Public Speakers (1)

Michael Formica – National Pork Producers Council – Environmental Policy Council

- Supportive of the Ag consent agreement
- Commented on STAPPA/ALAPCO presentation – He was shocked at the comment that with 1000's of animals they must be emitting something!
- Concerned that EPA is going to remove Ag exemption on coarse particle rule. Hoped this task force is addressing this issue.

Annette Sharp recommended that he send his comments about the STAPPA/ALAPCO presentation directly and in writing to Ms. Royden-Bloom.

Mr. Avant seconded Annette's recommendation and noted that in Amarillo, TX the task force developed and sent a recommendation to the EPA Administrator that they don't promulgate on PM coarse until data are available. **Dr. Gelburd was asked to make that letter available.**

Addressed minutes from last meeting which were tabled in the previous day's discussion.

Discussion regarding the VOC scaling factor and Buckeye Egg.

Dr. Shaw – Moved that the proposal for the (3) recommendations be added to the minutes with dates (attached to the recommendations) be approved.

Amend motion: reference the attachments in the minutes – Dr, Gelburd was asked to compose the language. Motion accepted.

Motion passed – minutes adopted with revisions as discussed above.

The 3 recommendations are:

1. Concerns over EPA's Basis for Determinations of Thresholds for Requiring Title V and PSD Permits

http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/AAQTF/Documents/Washington_Feb_2006/Committee%20Recommendations/Buckeye%20Egg.pdf

2. USEPA/USDA Cooperative Research in Air Quality

http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/AAQTF/Documents/Washington_Feb_2006/Committee%20Recommendations/VOC%20Scaling%20Factor.pdf

3. Scaling Method for VOC's

http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/AAQTF/Documents/Washington_Feb_2006/Committee%20Recommendations/Extramural%20Research.pdf

Thursday August 31, 2006

Day Two (Afternoon Session)

1:00 PM The afternoon session of the AAQTF was called to order by Diane Gelburd, DFO.

USDA-ARS Update—Bob Wright, USDA-ARS

Dr. Bob Wright informed the TF that Dr. Charles Walthall, new National Program Leader, Air Quality, will attend the November meeting of the AAQTF. Dr. Wright will continue to provide support to Dr. Walthall and the TF.

- ARS has a new laboratory at Marshfield, Wisconsin, the Institute for Environmentally Integrated Dairy Management. USDA-ARS, U of Wisconsin, NRCS, and the National Farm Medicine Center are partners at Marshfield. The Institute will address environmental issues associated with dairy production including control of emissions.
- US Agriculture and Forestry Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Annually EPA puts out an inventory of greenhouse gases. USDA supplements that with an agriculture and forestry inventory. The inventory report includes chapters with estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from livestock, cropland, forestry, and energy use. The Agriculture and Forestry Greenhouse Gas Inventory was prepared through a cooperative effort by EPA, USDA and the Natural Resources Ecology Lab at Colorado State University.
- GRACEnet – Greenhouse Gas Reduction through Agricultural Carbon Enhancement Network. ARS has established a network of 30 locations around the country to measure and predict soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions across a range of management practices and systems.

Education and Outreach Committee: Annette Sharp

Greg Zwicke of the NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change Technology Development Team provided a demonstration of the online AQ brochure/web site. The committee did not ask for approval but welcomed comments on the functionality of this product.

EPA Update—Sally Shaver, EPA

Ms. Shaver indicated that she was providing (handouts) a comprehensive list of EPA air related rules that includes (among others) the Exceptional Events Rule, March 2007, Ozone NAAQS implementation, and engines and fuels spring 2007. The proposed rule schedule also includes revisions to PSD, NSR, and Title V. There is a reconsideration currently of the fugitive emissions rule, this will only apply to 26 specific source categories of major sources. The SIP timeline and due dates was also included in the handouts.

Ms. Shaver informed the group that her final handout dealt with the national clean diesel campaign. This program has over \$1Million in grants. There is a meeting scheduled for Sept. 20 in California. She requested that someone from the AAQTF should attend and represent the group (AAQTF).

This was the final presentation for the Harrisburg meeting.

Larry Clark, representing Merlyn Carlson, thanked Craig Derickson and the PA Staff for their efforts to make the meeting a success. He also thanked the TF members for their service since this is the end of the term of the current task force.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.

DRAFT