



**Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization Meeting**

**AGENDA NOTE HANDOUT**

**Item #11: FOR YOUR INFORMATION – NEW ITEM**

**PLANNING INPUT, HRTPO, AND HRAQC**

**From:** "McLeod,Doris" <Doris.McLeod@deq.virginia.gov>  
**To:** "Dwight FARMER" <dfarmer@hrpdcva.gov>  
**Date:** 5/29/2009 2:03:09 PM  
**Subject:** Planning input, HRTPO, and HRAQC

Dwight,

Thanks for sharing the public input the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization has been receiving about the proposed Surry County coal-fired power plant. As you may know, VDEQ has received an air permit application for the construction of two coal-fired utility boilers in Surry County. As required by VDEQ air regulations, the proposal has been the subject of several public briefings. Additional public participation events will be held as the draft permit recommendations and draft analyses are developed.

I'd like to clarify the relationship between the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and VDEQ. The HRTPO does not develop attainment plans for air pollution. As the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the area, a representative of the HRTPO does sit on the Hampton Roads Air Quality Committee (HRAQC). The HRAQC is the lead planning organization, and is the forum for cooperative air quality planning decision making, in Hampton Roads and has its origin in the requirements of Section 174 of the Clean Air Act. (<http://www.epa.gov/air/caa/title1.html#id>) Membership to the HRAQC is appointed by the Governor. The HRAQC consists of local elected officials from each jurisdiction within the area designated as not attaining an air pollution standard as well as members of VDOT, VDRPT, the MPO, and VDEQ. Often representatives of other organizations are invited to participate as non-voting members as well, if those organizations are interested in air quality issues or have a large influence on the local society. For instance, in the Hampton Roads area, VDEQ has always reached out to the military installations and to the Virginia Port Authority to ensure good communications and to gather their valuable input.

A succinct way of expressing the role of the HRAQC is that the HRAQC is an advisory body to VDEQ as VDEQ goes about putting together plans for the area to improve air quality. Locality representatives and MPO staff often can provide good suggestions for what best fits the needs of an area and can also provide excellent information on local requirements that impact air quality. VDEQ staff tries to keep the HRAQC membership informed of new developments and requirements for air pollution control and also tries to answer questions and concerns. More defined roles for the HRAQC can be found in 9 VAC 5 Chapter 151 at the following link: <http://www.deq.state.va.us/air/regulations/air151.html>. This Virginia regulation deals with transportation conformity, but it also expands upon the role of the HRAQC and the relationship of the HRAQC to other organizations, beginning in 9 VAC 5-151-70.

In regards to any future air quality improvement plans for Hampton Roads, please be assured that future year assessments of air quality will always contain estimates of emissions from major proposed facilities within the Commonwealth's borders so that the assessment would be a "worst case" evaluation. Such estimates would definitely be

included for the proposed Surry County power plant, if the power plant was still considered to be a viable proposal at the time of the modeling endeavor. These "worst case" evaluations also include conservative growth estimates for the population, industrial, and transportation sectors. Often VDOT, VPA, and the HRTPO assist our staff in developing these growth estimates for our plans and assessments.

When more information is finalized and available for the Surry County power plant proposal, this information will be made available to the general public at VDEQ's website, [www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov). The website will also note times and locations for future public participation events concerning this project.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 804-698-4197 if you have any other questions and concerns about the planning process or the air permitting process for the proposed Surry County power plant.

Doris McLeod  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Dwight FARMER [<mailto:dfarmer@hrpdcva.gov>]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 9:59 AM  
To: McLeod,Doris  
Cc: Camelia RAVANBAKHT  
Subject: Fwd: Don't make our Hampton Roads air quality any worse!

Doris,  
Attached is a sample email regarding the proposed coal fired plant in Surry. I have received at least 50 and they all say exactly the same thing. You may recall hearing public comments from a representative from the Sierra Club during the MPO Board meeting last week before you spoke.

This email is addressed to the MPO. Please let me know if they have mistakenly assumed the MPO has some authority to take action. The following is an excerpt from the letters:

"The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will have one year to develop a plan to reduce ozone levels. That plan must reflect the proposed ODEC Surry coal plant and its potential to make our air quality even worse and thus all the more difficult and costly for our community to reach attainment for ozone with the EPA."

Is this correct? If not, I think we need to consider a way to better inform these folks as to the process and which public bodies are tasked with dealing with the Surry coal plant.

Thanks  
Dwight

**CC:** "Camelia RAVANBAKHT" <cravanbakht@hrpdcva.gov>, "Ponticello, James (VDOT)" <Jim.Ponticello@VDOT.Virginia.gov>, "Ballou, Thomas" <Thomas.Ballou@deq.virginia.gov>, "Dowd, Michael" <Michael.Dowd@deq.virginia.gov>, "Workman, Jane" <Jane.Workman@deq.virginia.gov>, "Kyle, James" <James.Kyle@deq.virginia.gov>, "Thompson, Tamera" <Tamera.Thompson@deq.virginia.gov>