

Minutes

Meeting: NSW Air Pollution Expert Advisory Committee
Time: 4.30pm to 6.45pm, Tuesday 19 June 2012
Venue: 73 Miller Street, North Sydney, NSW Ministry of Health
Chair: Prof Guy Marks

ATTENDANCE

Present

Core members: Prof Guy Marks (Chair), Prof Bruce Armstrong, Dr Mark Hibberd
 NSW Health: Dr Kerry Chant (Chief Health Officer), Dr Jeremy McAnulty, Prof Wayne Smith,
 Prof Bin Jalaludin, Dr Vicky Sheppard, Philippe Porigneaux, Dr Craig Dalton,
 Dr Tony Merritt, Peta Pippas
 Guests: Grahame Clarke - NSW Environmental Protection Authority (agenda item 4)
 Christine Cowie - Woolcock Institute (agenda item 5)

Apologies

Core members: Prof Alison Jones
 NSW Health: Prof David Durrheim

AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome

Discussion

Members noted attendance and apologies for the meeting.
 No conflicts of interest were declared.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Minutes from previous meetings

Discussion

Minutes for the 16 February 2012 meeting were tabled for members' consideration.
 Members noted that the minutes from the 15 September 2011 EAC were delayed.
 Members noted that all endorsed minutes will be placed onto the NSW Ministry of Health website.
 The 16 February 2012 minutes will be circulated to members out of session for final review before endorsement.

Actions

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
16 February 2012 minutes to be circulated out of session to EAC for final comment/ endorsement	Environmental Health Branch	ASAP
Pending endorsement, 16 February 2012 minutes will be placed up on the NSW Ministry of Health website	Environmental Health Branch	ASAP

AGENDA ITEM 3: Actions arising from previous minutes

Actions arising from previous minutes will be discussed after full consideration of 16 February minutes.

Actions

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
Committee action log to be developed and circulated to members out of session for information	Environmental Health Branch	ASAP

AGENDA ITEM 4: *Current out-of-session items*

Review of industry-funded air quality monitoring network in the Newcastle Port Precinct

Mr Grahame Clarke, Manager, Hunter Region, Environmental Protection Authority presented this item to the EAC.

The EAC supports monitoring of air quality whenever there is a sizeable populations located near sources such as industry or traffic.

The monitoring data demonstrates that the Lower Hunter has good air quality and there was no information submitted to the EAC to indicate a health rationale for the proposal.

However the EAC considers there are potential benefits in rationalising current industry monitors in the region with the establishment of systematic, well designed and publicly available air quality monitoring systems that is distributed across community (industrial areas and residential areas) to assess public health.

Actions

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
The CHO to write to EPA advising of EAC’s consideration of the proposal	Environmental Health Branch	ASAP

AGENDA ITEM 5: Tunnel studies and exhaust emissions

- M5 East Cancer Incident report
- Lane Cove Tunnel studies
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classification of diesel engine exhaust

Christine Cowie from the Woolcook Institute and co-investigator of the Lane Cove tunnel studies attended this agenda item

EAC notes there is some degree of uncertainty from the studies that needs to be investigated further. However, based on the information currently available, no specific intervention is indicated. The EAC does not consider another health study would be helpful.

Discussion between the NSW Ministry of Health with EPA, OEH and RTA is scheduled to discuss the reports. At these meetings the NSW Ministry of Health will discuss whether enhanced monitoring in the area is possible. In particular to consider:

- Monitoring of fine particulate matter and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the stacks, fallout from the stacks and in the surrounding community
- Investigation into other potential sources of pollution.

Actions

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
Prof Smith to provide comments on M5 East Cancer Incident report back to the authors.	Prof Smith	ASAP
NSW Ministry of Health to meet with EPA, OEH and RTA to discuss tunnel studies	Dr Chant Prof Smith Dr McAnulty	ASAP

AGENDA ITEM 6: Special Additional Pollution Measures (SAPM) study

Discussion

Members noted that the Special Additional Pollution Measures (SAPM) study will be extended until 31 September 2012.

Members noted that the proposed 12 month service (including pump replacement) of the OSIRIS instruments should not be undertaken until after the end of the project extension. The reasons for this are

- 1) servicing at this time would cause loss of several weeks of data during an important period;
- 2) servicing would undermine the value of the planned September inter-comparison at Camberwell and make it difficult to apply corrections to the data based on results from the inter-comparison;
- 3) the OSIRIS pumps are usually reliable for more than 12 months, and two of the pumps have already been replaced in October 2011 (Camberwell) and February 2012 (Muswellbrook).

Actions items

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
EHB to notify OEH of the extension and advise that the instruments will not be removed for the 12 month service.	Environment Health Branch	ASAP

AGENDA ITEM 7: Special Additional Pollution Measures (SAPM) – additional speciation

EAC agreed that the objectives of the speciation analysis of the SAPM filters are identical to the Upper Hunter Particle Characterisation Study (UHPCS). However the EAC consider that the UHPCS to be more sophisticated and would better address the concerns and questions of the community regarding the composition of particles in the air. As such members considered there would be no benefit in undertaking analysis of the raw speciation data from the SAPM filters.

Actions items

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
The CHO to write to interested community groups advising of these outcomes and providing details about the UHPCS.	Environmental Health Branch	ASAP
EHB to circulate link on website which provides details on the SAPM study (SAPM Report 1 is currently available)	Environmental Health Branch	ASAP

AGENDA ITEM 8: Role and function of the NSW Air pollution Expert Advisory

EAC to discuss strategic direction and map out a work plan for the committee with particular consideration for the following questions:

- What is the value of monitoring networks in helping understand health?
- What are the high priorities for air pollution and public health?

Members also commented on the need to complement with the objectives of the National Plan for Clean Air.

EAC considered increasing the meeting schedule to six times a year.

Actions

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
The EAC to hold a one-off meeting which will focus solely on the strategic direction of the committee	Environmental Health Branch to organise	Before end of year
The Ministry of Health to circulate forward dates for the next three to four meetings to assist with scheduling. The next meeting to be scheduled for two months time (mid August 2012)	Office of the Chief Health Officer	1 month

AGENDA ITEM 9: *Update of recent out of session items*
Health input into Ashton coal mine proposal

The EAC continues to support the NSW Ministry of Health’s position that the proposal has potential adverse dust and noise emissions, and that approval for the Ashton SEOC project be delayed until air quality measurements demonstrate that PM₁₀ exceedances and night noise issues in the Camberwell area are addressed.

The EAC noted that Prof Smith will be undertaking a critical appraisal of the proponent’s recent submission on the health effects of exposure to suspended particulate matter to the PAC. This appraisal will be circulated to the committee for review.

Actions

Item	Responsibility	Timeframe
Prof Smith to circulate the critical appraisal of the proponent’s recent submission on the health effects of exposure to suspended particulate matter for the EAC to review.	Prof. Smith	1 month

AGENDA ITEM 11: Next meeting and close

Conclusions

EAC noted that in light of discussion under agenda item 8, next meeting will be scheduled for two months time (pending member’s availability).

MEETING CLOSED