

SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Board of Directors Meeting  
June 3, 2021 at 3:00 PM  
Southwest Clean Air Agency  
11815 NE 99th St. Suite 1294  
Vancouver, Washington

This meeting will be held by video conference using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81677716119>

Meeting ID: 816 7771 6119

Or call in by phone (669) 900-9128

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- III. Board of Directors Minutes  
Board of Directors Minutes – May Meeting
- IV. Changes to the Agenda  
SWCAA Chair Bob Hamlin
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approval of Vouchers
  - B. Financial Report
  - C. Monthly Activity Report
- V. Info Items & Public Comment  
Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map Presentation - DOH
- VII. Public Hearing  
None
- VIII. Unfinished Business/New Business

**A. Cancellation of July and December 2021 Board of Directors Meetings**

**Summary** - The Board is not required to meet every month. As a result, the July and December Board meetings have historically been canceled. The Washington Clean Air Act requires that the Board meet at least 10 times per year. Six meetings have

been held through the June Board meeting. The remaining four meetings this year would be held in August, September, October, and November. Vouchers needing payment in July and December may be signed electronically.

**Recommendation** - Cancel the July and December Board of Directors meetings.

IX. Control Officer Report

**A. EPA Rescinds Clean Air Act Benefit-Cost Rule (May 13, 2021)** – EPA issued an interim final rule to rescind a procedural rule promulgated by the previous Administration, “Increasing Consistency in Considering Benefits and Costs in the Clean Air Act Rulemaking Process” (the “Benefit-Cost Rule”). Published on December 23, 2020, the Benefit-Cost Rule required EPA to prepare a benefit-cost analysis (BCA) for CAA rules with economic impacts over \$100 million or that disproportionately affect an industry, group, or area, or those that are novel or relevant for other policy reasons. The agency found that: 1) the rule imposed broad restrictions and requirements without explaining why they were needed; 2) the rule was not necessary because EPA already prepares a BCA for Clean Air Act rules that require such an analysis; 3) specific practices codified in the rule limited EPA’s ability to rely on the best available science; 4) the rule’s presentational requirements invited net benefit calculations in regulatory preambles that are “misleading and inconsistent with economic best practices”; the rule did not reconcile its BCA consideration requirement with the substantive mandates of the Clean Air Act; and 6) existing and ongoing administrative processes already provide for ample consistency and transparency. For further information: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-14/pdf/2021-10216.pdf>

**B. EPA Proposes Rule to Phase Down HFCs (May 3, 2021)** - EPA has released a proposed rule that would phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020. HFCs are greenhouse gases (GHGs) used as refrigerants, propellants, solvents, and in semiconductors and gas insulators. The AIM Act, which did not receive a vote as a stand-alone bill and was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, provides EPA new authorities to address HFCs and directs the agency to reduce production of these GHGs in the U.S. by 85% over the next 15 years, using an allowance allocation and trading program. EPA’s proposal, which was signed April 30, 2021 by Administrator Michael Regan, would set the HFC production and consumption baseline levels from which reductions will be made, establish an initial methodology for allocating HFC allowances for 2022 and 2023, and create a compliance and enforcement system. The EPA intends to use the approach established through this rulemaking to issue allowances for 2022 by October 1, 2021 and plans to revisit the approach for subsequent years in a later rulemaking. It enables a process intended to yield a 10 percent reduction by 2024, 40 percent reduction by 2029, 70 percent reduction by 2034, and 85 percent reduction by 2036. EPA estimates that the total GHG emissions reduced by the proposed program from 2022 to 2050 be nearly equal to three years of U.S. power sector GHG emissions. A global HFC phasedown is modeled to avoid up to 0.5 °C of global warming by 2100. EPA estimates that the present value of the cumulative benefits of this action is \$283.9 billion from 2022 through 2050, and that the proposal will yield cumulative compliance savings for industry. EPA will accept comments on this proposal for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register and hold a public hearing on

June 2, 2021. For further information: <https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/proposed-rule-phasedown-hydrofluorocarbons-establishing-allowance-allocation>

**C. Harvard Researchers Publish Another “Big Data” Causality Study, Say Results Support Argument for Establishing “Warm-Season” Ozone Standard (May 6, 2021) –**

Researchers at Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health published another study showing substantial mortality in an elderly cohort at levels below the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The researchers, who have collaborated on other recent studies using “big data” – the national Medicare cohort during 2000-2016 – used the same cohort but a different approach to demonstrate causality: A decile binning approach (with the lowest decile bin serving as the baseline) with simultaneous emulation of causal dose-response (D-R) relations between chronic exposures to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), ozone (O3) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and all-cause mortality. The researchers conclude that their study “provided more robust evidence of the causal relations between air pollution exposures and mortality” and that “the emulated causal D-R relations provided significant implications for reviewing the [NAAQS], as they inferred the number of potential early deaths prevented if air pollutants were reduced to specific levels; for example, lowering each air pollutant concentration from the 70th to 60th percentiles would prevent 65,935 early deaths per year.” They further conclude, “currently the NAAQS lack regulation for long-term O3, and clearly the daily standard has not reduced the warm-season average to concentrations with no mortality association. Our results support the argument for establishing a warm-season O3 standard.” The study, “Emulating causal dose-response relations between air pollutants and mortality in the Medicare population,” is published in Environmental Health. For further information:

<https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12940-021-00742-x.pdf>

**D. UN Calls for Steep, Urgent Methane Cuts (May 6, 2021) -** A new report issued by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) advocates a pathway for global anthropogenic methane emissions to be reduced by up to 180 million tons per year by 2030 – a 45 percent reduction. Methane is a GHG that contributes significantly to climate change, persisting in the atmosphere for roughly a decade after it is emitted. The UNEP assessment says the reductions called for would avoid nearly 0.3°C of global warming by the 2040s, which “would also, each year, prevent 255,000 premature deaths, 775,000 asthma-related hospital visits, 73 billion hours of lost labor from extreme heat, and 26 million tons of crop losses globally”. The assessment identifies available emission reduction approaches that would reduce methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030, mainly in the fossil fuel sector. UNEP’s assessment says that half of these approaches have “negative costs” for those implementing them. For further information:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-methane-assessment-benefits-and-costs-mitigating-methane-emissions>

- X. Board Policy Discussion Issues  
As Necessary
- XI. Issues for Upcoming Meetings  
A. SWCAA 400 Rules - August
- XII. Adjourn

Notes:

- (1) Served by C-TRAN Routes: 7, 72 and 76.
- (2) Accommodation of the needs for disabled persons can be made upon request. For more information, please call (360) 574-3058 extension 110.