



# KNOX COUNTY TENNESSEE

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### KNOX COUNTY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD MEETING

The Knox County Air Pollution Control Board (Board) met in regular session on Wednesday July 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room (#210) located at the City of Knoxville Public Works Complex at 3131 Morris Ave, Knoxville, TN 37919. Those members present were Ms. Cindy Pionke, Dr. Tara Sturdivant, Dr. Linda Reeves, Mr. Mike Conger, Mr. Chris Sharp, and Mr. Chris Howley.

Also present were Mr. Brian Rivera, Division Director of Air Quality Management and other Air Quality team members.

Ms. Cindy Pionke, Board Chair, presided.

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The following proceedings were had and entered of record to wit:

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#### In re: Roll Call and Board Members Introduction

Ms. Cindy Pionke called roll, and it was determined that a quorum was present. Ms. Pionke then recognized the new Board member, Mr. Chris Howley, representing the City of Knoxville. Mr. Chris Howley and the other Board members then introduced themselves to each other.

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#### In re: Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 15, 2020

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2020 meeting. Dr. Tara Sturdivant so moved, and Mr. Mike Conger seconded the motion, and upon vote the motion carried.

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#### In re: Amendments to the Agenda

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. There were none.

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In re: Citizen's Comments and Requests

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board. There were none. However, Mr. Brian Rivera advised the Board that he had been contacted by a citizen who may in the future address the Board on their desire to see an anti-idling program in Knox County. Mr. Rivera and the Board briefly discussed the history of such proposals in Knox County.

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In re: Director's Update

Mr. Brian Rivera, Division Director of Air Quality Management, presented the Director's Update.

Mr. Brian Rivera briefed the Board members on COVID-19 pandemic's effect on Air Quality's operations since March. Air Quality team members were working from home from mid-March to the beginning of May, except for a few team members to conduct complaint investigations and keep our air monitoring network operational. Air Quality has restarted conducting facility inspections since May but is still behind. During this time, Air Quality team members have been mobilized by the Knox County Health Department to help with testing sites that were setup, conduct contact tracing activities and do entry screening. It was expected that the staff will continue to be called upon to assist as time goes on.

Mr. Brian Rivera reported that EPA have not decided to relax any of the grant requirements due to COVID-19. Therefore, Air Quality has prioritized these activities to be completed.

Mr. Brian Rivera explained to the Board that EPA had released guidance on using enforcement discretion due to COVID-19 such as granting more time to get testing done at facilities, turning in electronic reports, etc. Air Quality has implemented this guidance for the facilities in Knox County. EPA recently published this enforcement discretion will end on August 31, 2020.

Mr. Brian Rivera let the Board know that the Certificate of Exemption for the Knox County Department of Air Quality Management went before the Tennessee Air Pollution Control Board on June 10, 2020 and was unanimously approved. The Certificate of Exemption is the document which allows Air Quality to administer the air program in Knox County and exempt the sources located in Knox County from State oversight.

Mr. Brian Rivera also told the Board that at that same July meeting the State's rulemaking for allowing the public noticing of construction applications and draft permits online instead of in the newspaper was approved. Air Quality wants to propose adopting this rulemaking at the October 2020 local Board meeting, along with the removal of the public notice fee currently being billed to constructing sources. This fee was to recoup the cost of publication.

Mr. Brian Rivera mentioned to the Board that EPA has published proposed actions to retain the current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> (daily and annual) and ozone. There was some debate as to lowering the PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual standard from 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 8-10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> but was not proposed due to the uncertainty of the studies. They are currently in public comment period and EPA plans on finalizing them something before the end of 2020.

Mr. Brian Rivera introduced to the Board Ms. Amber Talgo, Knox County Air Quality's Air Monitoring Program Manager, for an update on air monitoring operations. Ms. Talgo stated that ambient air levels in Knox County had not been affected as much as those of Memphis and Nashville by the arrival of dust from the Sahara Desert in June 2020. Ms. Talgo, Mr. Brian Rivera and the Board also discussed other aspects and trends in the air quality readings, and also the information on EPA's AIRNOW website.

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked Mr. Brian Rivera to brief the Board on the odor complaints and Air Quality's response regarding the company Liquid Environmental Solutions. Mr. Rivera provided some background and details to the facility's operation, the collecting of used cooking oil and grease from restaurants, then putting the material through a de-watering process. The odors emitted from the operation has caused frequent complaints from the community. Air Quality has had the facility implement several control strategies regarding the odors. The situation is being addressed by the facility and Air Quality will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the controls. Mr. Rivera and the Board members discussed some of the aspects of this situation and similar ones.

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In re: Enforcement Update

Mr. Brian Rivera presented the Enforcement Update Report to the Board, as detailed in the copies of the report included in their folders. The report listed 47 Warnings or Notices of Violation (NOV) for open burning, one NOV for an asbestos demolition project, 4 NOV's for gasoline dispensing facilities, 2 NOV's for installing equipment without permits, and one NOV for operating equipment without using the proper emissions controls. The report also included 3 NOV's with Administrative Orders involving the failure to submit required reports. Mr. Rivera provided details on several of the items listed and answered questions from the Board.

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In re: Other Business

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was any other business or questions involving the Board. There was none.

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In re: Adjournment

Ms. Cindy Pionke asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Dr. Tara Sturdivant so moved and Dr. Linda Reeves seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.