

# Fairbanks Air Quality Stakeholders Group Meeting Summary – September 14, 2018

The fourth meeting of the Air Quality Stakeholders Group was held on September 14, 2018, in the Wood Center Ballroom at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

## Meeting Agenda

- 8:00 am Coffee & tea
- 8:15 am Control Measure Straw Polling and Discussion
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:30 am Control Measure Straw Polling and Discussion (continued)
- 11:45 am FNSB Air Quality Conference update
- 12:00 pm Deadline for questions for afternoon session
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Group Discussion of a Draft Control Measure and Attainment Measure package
- 1:45 pm Continue Straw Polling
- 2:30 pm Recap and Next Steps
- 2:45 pm Break
- 3:00 pm Presentation/Q&A: Electrostatic Precipitators [ESP] (Nick Czarnecki & Jeanne Olson)

## Control Measure Straw Polling and Discussion (Brian Rogers & Jana Peirce)

Stakeholders used Instant Insight audience response technology (“clickers”) to vote on whether each of the 14 control measures that were modeled (to assess their combined impact on PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions) should be included in a final package of control and attainment measures that will be voted on at a future meeting. Additional polling questions were on measures and ideas advance by work groups.

Measures that received at least 50% support in the straw poll will be included in the package. For each control measure that passed, a follow up question was asked about when the measure should be implemented: ASAP, by end of 2019, 2021, 2023, or as a contingency measure.

Stakeholders had an opportunity to discuss each question before it was polled. The results are below, starting with those within each category that received the most support.

## Heating Devices

- 97 % Implement a registration program by adding a home heating portion to the property tax bill with a tax credit for completing
- 93 % Require registration of all heating devices [71% ASAP]
- 90 % Request to Congress and State of Alaska to fund \$40 million 2-year wood stove changeout program. Federal funding to go for conversion to alternate fuels while state funds allowed for certified wood devices with catalytic, ESP or other reduction measures, with a priority given to persons with economic hardship. Once funding is achieved, mandatory removal of uncertified Outdoor Hydronic Heaters in one year, uncertified solid fuel devices in North Pole zone of NAA second year, uncertified solid fuel devices in Fairbanks zone of NAA third year.
- 83 % Change the Wood Stove Change Out Program to offer higher incentives for replacing SFBA's in small commercial and multi-family structures
- 83 % Require notice and proof of destruction or surrender or removed, uncertified devices [57% ASAP]

- 79 % Prohibit use and require removal of coal heaters from homes and small commercial sites [34% ASAP; 31% 2019]
- 73 % Create incentives for fuel oil boiler upgrades
- 41 % Not recommended: Reduce FNSB-certified stove from 2.5 to 1.5 g/hr standard for new construction and new changeouts

**NOASH / Stage 1 Waivers**

- 81 % Add an inspection for NOASH [50% ASAP]
- 66 % Add a renewal requirement for Stage 1 Waiver [50% ASAP]
- 66 % Add an inspection requirement for Stage 1 Waiver [50% ASAP]
- 55 % Implement a GVEA emergency tariff to reduce cost of electric heat for NOASH during air quality alerts (assumes a funding source other than GVEA customers) [61% ASAP]
- 40 % Not recommended: To qualify for NOASH renewal, provide proof of 5-star rating by 2025

**Future Reductions**

- 96 % Require permit for installation of SFBA and restrict types of devices allowed (includes new installations in existing structures, at time of property sales and in new construction; restricted device types not limited to pellet stoves – as in the Missoula, MT case) [69% ASAP]
- 81 % Solid Fuel Burning Devices are permitted only as secondary source in new construction; primary must have sufficient capacity to heat the building
- 57 % Ban non-certified hydronic heaters in new construction and when homes are sold [50% ASAP]
- 48 % Not recommended: In new installations, permit catalytic-equipped stoves only

**Wood**

- 100 % Public-private partnership for a regional kiln and distribution system for dry wood, prioritized for non-attainment area use
- 90 % Dry wood for wet wood exchange program
- 37 % Not recommended: Require sale of only dry wood during late summer to end of winter

**Oil**

- 87 % Prohibit sale of #2 fuel oil for heating; switch to ULSD only as a contingency measure [69% ASAP]
- 81 % Add surcharge to price of #2 heating oil with revenue dedicated to air quality controls [70% ASAP]
- 45 % Not recommended: Prohibit use, sale or exchange of used oil for fuel in non-attainment area
- 43 % Not recommended: Prohibit operation and sale of small used oil burners

**Point Sources**

- 90 % State of Alaska should establish Offset Banking Fund to allow Point Sources to place offset dollars to be used to fund PM<sub>2.5</sub> control measures (Federal funding to go for conversion to alternate fuels while state funds allowed for certified wood devices with catalytic, ESP or other reduction measures of comparable nature, with a priority given to persons with economic hardship. Once funding achieved, mandatory removal of uncertified Outdoor Hydronic Heaters in one year, uncertified solid fuel devices in North Pole zone of NAA in second year, and uncertified solid fuel devices in Fairbanks zone of NAA third year.)
- 88 % FNSB and Point Sources should fund a speciation study to determine the level of contribution to the SO<sub>2</sub> problem

**Compliance/Enforcement**

- 83 % Point Sources to sponsor curtailment enforcement teams to supplement borough staff during Stage 1 and Stage 2 alerts

## **Funding**

- 70 % Request Congressional delegation to amend Superfund law to allow federal funding of airshed cleanup efforts

## **Clear the Air Conference Participation (Nick Czarnecki & Jana Peirce)**

Stakeholders were asked to attend the Clear the Air conference on Saturday, September 20 from 2-4 pm if possible. The borough would like a few stakeholders from each work group present to listen to public ideas or concerns and answer questions. Polling was used to gauge attendance. Twelve stakeholders said they planned to attend.

## **Group Discussion of a Draft Control Measure and Attainment Measure package**

- Compliance and meaningful enforcement are lacking
- Report suggestions:
  - Show scale of impact on scale of little, medium, and big
  - Avoid use of abbreviations for greater accessibility
  - Preface why this is important (Preface/intro)
  - Address state vs borough ownership of measures and think about in terms of making measures enforceable
  - Highlight human-side of measures and cost of nonattainment: hospital and other medical costs, child with collapsed lung event, cost of asthma medicine, etc.
  - Mission: Group of Fairbanksans to improve community and find best local approach
- Recognize residents don't appreciate filling out forms every time (either for health care or compliance with curtailment program)
- Frustration with "moving bar" of regulations
- We tax alcohol, marijuana, other things that create tax problems; why not tax firewood?
- Need proposal to FNSB to promote research at UAF, Borough + DEC. Should solicit grants to speedily get data on SO<sub>2</sub> speciation

## **Presentation/Q&A: Electrostatic Precipitators [ESP] (Nick Czarnecki & Jeanne Olson)**

Jeanne Olson of Citizens for Clean Air gave a detailed presentation on her Citizen Science Project to calibrate and test an electrostatic precipitator (ESP) on a wood stove and a pellet stove in North Pole. Nick Czarnecki, borough's air quality program manager, gave a presentation on Retrofit Control Devices from a regulatory perspective. Both presentations are available on the Stakeholders Group web page (<http://fnsb.us/transportation/Pages/stakeholders.aspx>).

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.