

Advisory Council Minutes
June 24, 2010
Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

Members Present:

Ray Kelleher, Business Community
Chester Johns, Jr., Agriculture
Doug Pottratz, Citizen
Mark Roberge, Chemistry
Bernard Leber (Bud), Industry
Jana McDonald, Air Pollution Control

Staff Present:

Bill Dameworth, Director
Ron Edgar, Chief of Technical Services
Chuck Studer, Air Quality Engineer
Debbie Riley, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

1. Approval of the May 27, 2010 Minutes

Doug Pottratz moved to approve the April 22, 2010 minutes and Chet Johns seconded it. Minutes approved.

2. Rail Yard Study Update – Chuck Studer

Bill Dameworth requested Chuck Studer to obtain risk studies from the California Air Resources Board (ARB) for rail yards that matched rail yards in Spokane County, after he had attended an ARB presentation. Bill was very concerned about the impacts on public health from rail yards in Spokane. Diesel exhaust has been linked to many major chronic and/or terminal ailments. These include cancer, emphysema, auto-immune disorders, and asthma, stroke, heart and lung conditions. SRCAA performed an emissions inventory for the BNSF rail yard in Spokane and submitted it along with other information to ARB and asked ARB to match the information with one of the rail yards that they studied. ARB determined that Stockton's Union Pacific (UP) rail yard closely matched Spokane's BNSF rail yard in many areas. Jana asked if the studies had looked at industrial areas and effects on people that worked outside on a daily basis. The company Jana works for has a yard directly south and adjacent to BSNF and they have hundreds of employees working outside on a daily basis. Chuck replied that the study was done primarily on residential areas not industrial areas. Based on the four studies, there is a strong indication that the BNSF rail yard poses a significant air quality risk to the areas within two miles of the BNSF rail yard, especially the Hillyard area. Mark suggested we may want to consider public opinion and how the report is actually written. See Chuck's presentation attached. There was some discussion between the Board and staff. Bill has asked the Advisory Council to look at the material on Spokane Clean Air's website and give comments and ideas, at the next council meeting.

Ray Kelleher moved to adjourn the Advisory Council meeting and Bud Leber seconded it. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be scheduled for August 26, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. - Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency office located at 3104 E. Augusta Avenue.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

WILLIAM DAMEWORTH, DIRECTOR