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*** AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION ***
for City of Philadelphia Department of Public
Health Air Pollution Control

* * *

Transcribed
By: Bruce Mukwanja
Job No.: 47732

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Good afternoon,
2 everybody. I'd like to call the -- this
3 meeting of the Air Pollution Control Board to
4 order. I'd like to announce a few reminders
5 before the meeting begins. This is a public
6 meeting and it's being recorded and will be
7 posted online per city ordinance. Your
8 participation in this meeting constitutes
9 consent thereto.

10 All microphones are automatically muted
11 for participants with the exception of the
12 board members and the panelists. If you have
13 any questions, please wait until the presenter
14 finishes the presentation. And after that,
15 we'll have time for Q and A. Okay. With
16 that, I want to open it up to the first item
17 that we have on our agenda, which is the
18 selection and approval of our Air Pollution
19 Control Board chairperson. Our prior
20 chairperson did resign, so I believe we have a
21 quorum and we can move forward with the
22 nomination and selection of our chairperson.
23 Do I have any nominations for chairperson?

24 MR. MINOTT: I nominate Terry.

25 MR. SOULE: No, no. It's already been

1 done. It's complete.

2 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Hello. Do we have --

3 MR. SOULE: Hey all.

4 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Hi there. Do we have
5 a nomination, all joking aside, from, from,
6 from Joe? Do we have --

7 MR. MINOTT: Yeah.

8 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- do we have a name?
9 Hi. Oh, hi.

10 MR. SELLASSIE: Hello.

11 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Hi there.

12 MR. SOULE: Hey, all.

13 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Hi there. We're,
14 we're --

15 MR. SELLASSIE: Hi there.

16 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- we're going on our
17 first order of business here, which is the
18 selection of our new chairperson. And so
19 since this is a public meeting, we're going to
20 go ahead and do that. Do I have a nomination
21 for the chairperson?

22 MR. FRANK: I nominate Joseph Minott.

23 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Second. Anybody
24 second?

25 MR. SOULE: I second, second.

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Wonderful. Can we
2 please have the members of the Air Pollution
3 Control Board vote, take a vote? All in
4 favor?

5 (Chorus of ayes.)

6 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. The ayes have
7 it. We have a new chairperson of our board,
8 that's Joe Minott. And I will say that,
9 before we turn it over to Joe for a few words,
10 that moving forward, I will be representing
11 the Department of Public Health on the board
12 as the representative as the deputy health
13 commissioner. Okay. So, Joe?

14 MR. MINOTT: Well, I had about a three-
15 hour speech about how lucky you were to have
16 me as the -- as the new chair, but my wife
17 talked me out of making that speech. So I
18 will make it short and swift. I've always
19 liked serving on the board of, of the Air
20 Pollution Control Board. I think it is an
21 amazing organization. I have a great deal of
22 respect for Air Management Services. And I, I
23 will take this job, this position very, very
24 seriously and do what -- do what I can.

25 There's a couple of things that are

1 important to me that, that we, we will discuss
2 at some point. One is, anyone who serves on
3 the board is automatically, under the
4 Pennsylvania Environmental Rights Amendment, a
5 trustee of, of the environment. We should --
6 I will send to Kass, you know, a copy of that,
7 just so we could keep that -- keep that in
8 mind.

9 And as someone that used to be with the
10 Clean Air Council, where we did a lot of
11 litigation, we did a lot of litigation around
12 the Environmental Rights Amendment over
13 permits and things like -- things like that.
14 So it, it behooves us when we take public
15 policy positions to keep that -- to keep that,
16 you know, in -- you know, in, in mind. Let's
17 see. I think that's really all I have to say.
18 I'm really very excited to, to, to be back on
19 the Air Pollution Control Board. I see some,
20 some old, old faces. Arthur, that's you.

21 MR. FRANK: I'm getting older all the
22 time.

23 MR. MINOTT: And some new faces and I
24 think -- I think it's, it's just -- it's just
25 great. So thank you for, for electing me,

1 and, and I will do the best that I can.

2 MR. SELASSIE: Yeah. I think the only
3 person you don't know is Dr. Mariel. She's
4 new. After you left, she came. Say hi to
5 everybody. Yeah.

6 MS. FEATHERSTONE: Hi, everybody. I
7 think I met most of you the last meeting that
8 we had. Nice meeting everybody again. I'm
9 Mariel Featherstone and excited to get to know
10 you more and work with everybody.

11 MR. FRANK: And I'm sorry I missed the
12 last meeting. I was out of the country. But
13 glad to be back and have all four meetings for
14 next year scheduled or three, whatever has
15 been scheduled. Anyway, nice to meet you, Dr.
16 Featherstone.

17 MR. MINOTT: Very nice to meet you. Yes.

18 MR. SOULE: Likewise.

19 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Great.

20 MR. SELASSIE: So --

21 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: The minutes -- the
22 next --

23 MR. SELASSIE: Yeah.

24 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: The next item of
25 business on the agenda --

1 MR. SELLASSIE: No. Introduce, introduce
2 -- later. The board members introduce
3 themselves. John, it is your duty now. Just
4 tell -- ask board members to introduce
5 themselves.

6 MR. MINOTT: So we're moving forward --
7 we'd like to move forward with the minutes as
8 they have been sent to us by Air Management
9 Services. I can't vote on them because I was
10 not a member at, at the time. But for the
11 rest of the board members, you should have had
12 a chance to look them over. And if -- unless
13 people have an additions or, or changes, I
14 think we should move forward and, and, and
15 vote in favor of, of adopting them.

16 MR. FRANK: I think Kass also asked if
17 you would have each board member introduce
18 themselves.

19 MR. SELLASSIE: Right, right.

20 MR. MINOTT: It shows how, how badly I, I
21 hear. So let's forget that whole speech that
22 I just gave and --

23 MR. FRANK: Well, we could do that, too,
24 but let's do that after introduction.

25 MR. MINOTT: I agree -- I agree.

1 MR. SELASSIE: Okay. You can start,
2 Chairperson.

3 MR. MINOTT: I'll start. I'm Joe Minott,
4 and I'm the, the new chair of the Air
5 Pollution Control Board.

6 MR. SOULE: I'm Terry Soule, board
7 member.

8 MR. FRANK: Arthur Frank, also a board
9 member. I'm an occupational and environmental
10 physician by training and a professor at
11 Drexel University.

12 MS. FEATHERSTONE: Hi. My name is Mariel
13 Featherstone. I'm also a board member.

14 MR. FRANK: And your background, Mariel?

15 MS. FEATHERSTONE: Yes. So I work with
16 - work at the University of Pennsylvania in
17 the Masters Public Health program while I
18 lecture on climate change and environmental
19 injustices. I also am a member of the -- of
20 the Environmental Justice Advisory Commission
21 for the city. And so I am just very excited
22 and happy to work with you all.

23 MR. MINOTT: Great. That's fantastic.

24 MR. SOULE: Great.

25 MR. MINOTT: Thanks.

1 MR. FRANK: Great. You're on mute --
2 you're on mute.

3 MR. SOULE: You're on mute.

4 MR. MINOTT: You're on mute.

5 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah. Hi. Dr. Carol
6 Ann Gross-Davis. I'm an epidemiologist at the
7 EPA here and region three. I'm also an
8 affiliate professor with Drexel University and
9 an adjunct at Jefferson University, teaching
10 things from public health to global air
11 pollution. However, I am here as a citizen
12 representative, because I live in the city of
13 Philadelphia. So I'm here as a regular
14 citizen to be on the board.

15 MR. MINOTT: Great, great. That's
16 fantastic.

17 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Hi there. I'm Dr.
18 Palak Raval-Nelson, deputy health commissioner
19 for the Philadelphia Department of Public
20 Health. Air Management Services is one of the
21 seven programmatic divisions in my portfolio.
22 And I am here with delegated authority to be
23 the representative for the health department
24 and the commissioner's office.

25 MR. MINOTT: Great, great.

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: And I was also
2 Arthur's student.

3 MR. FRANK: Yeah.

4 MR. MINOTT: You admit that publicly?

5 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: That was odd.

6 MR. FRANK: I know.

7 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: That was odd.

8 MR. FRANK: Everybody make --

9 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes.

10 MR. FRANK: Yeah.

11 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Colleague and student.

12 MR. FRANK: Yeah. Everybody ought to be
13 forgiven for their past mistakes. What can I
14 say?

15 MR. SELASSIE: Okay.

16 MR. MINOTT: Okay. I think that's it.

17 MR. SELASSIE: Joe, about the minutes --
18 last minutes for --

19 MR. FRANK: I make a motion to approve
20 the minutes.

21 MR. SOULE: Second. I second.

22 MR. MINOTT: Second. Say aye if you
23 support the minutes as they are.

24 (Chorus of ayes.)

25 MR. MINOTT: Okay. Then they are

1 adopted.

2 MR. SELASSIE: Thank you.

3 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: We'll go into the
4 program updates and presentation, Kass. Dr.
5 Sellassie will provide that now.

6 MR. SELASSIE: All right. Good
7 afternoon. May I note the new board chair,
8 the board members, and the guests. My name is
9 Kass Sellassie. I'm Air Management director.
10 I would like to report to the board the third
11 quarter report, all about air quality, SIP,
12 state implementation plan, national ambient
13 air quality, EPA, PA, and city updates, and
14 MS, and others for the next 10, 15 minutes.

15 So thank you for coming and -- okay.
16 These -- as I mentioned, the agenda -- these
17 are the agenda already we done. So I will
18 have 20 minutes and next I'll present about
19 the new regulation, which is mobile source.
20 After five, six years discussion with EPA and
21 PDEP, they gave -- they gave us a few
22 delegation. I'll explain at the end at
23 question and answer by board members and
24 participants.

25 And next meeting will be on January 30th,

1 2025, which will be Thursday, the same time
2 Thursday. So summary, air quality, as I said,
3 NAAQS, state implementation, EPA, PA, city
4 update, MS update, laboratory outreach and
5 regulatory. So the first very important one
6 is air quality from July 1st to September 3rd,
7 third quarter of calendar year. We have --
8 the one we need to see is we have only five
9 unhealthy days. Keep in mind this is the
10 ozone time, very high ozone time, July,
11 August, and September.

12 So we have five unhealthy. It is not
13 only ozone. When we say unhealthy air quality
14 includes PM2.5 and all criteria air
15 pollutants. So the current, 2024 ozone a
16 little bit tricky, but we have three years
17 design values average 2023 means 2021, 2022,
18 and 2023 is 70 parts per billion. What it
19 means in Philadelphia, your attainment because
20 the attainment is anything less than 71 part
21 per billion.

22 So from 71 to 81 is marginal. From 81 to
23 93 is serious -- no, sorry, moderate. And
24 from 93 to 105 serious, above that is extreme.
25 So we are -- is keep -- we are in an

1 attainment in this case. But still if we take
2 the 2023, some reason it increased to 72 part
3 per billion. But maybe in the next year it
4 will go more than 70 when we add '22, '23, and
5 '24 design value. The PM2.5. The three years
6 design value is 9.3. In the past we had only
7 8 -- around 8. But this year, the 2023 is
8 very high. If you see the 2023 it is 11.7.

9 MR. MINOTT: Well --

10 MR. SELLASSIE: So the reason -- the
11 reason for that is because of exceptional
12 event that EPA should, must remove, but still
13 they didn't remove. Because that's by law, it
14 says anything exceptional event like volcano
15 or forest fire similar to that one, EPA should
16 remove those tests. So that's why it make --
17 it, it makes very high value. We have -- but
18 still they are working for those exhibition.
19 So the National Ambient Air Quality Standard,
20 here the PM2.5.

21 So the big issue is any, any facility
22 apply May 6, 2024, after. So they have to do
23 PSD, prevention of significant deterioration
24 permits. You know, that is -- actually that's
25 for title five. But the good thing is not for

1 existing, but the new permits any title or
2 major sources. So that is a huge one, include
3 air model and modeling all those analysis. So
4 any new facilitator major source they have to
5 submit PSD permit.

6 July 8 or ozone attainment area. It is
7 very tricky. So now they told -- EPA told us
8 we are in serious, which is from moderate, but
9 the one I show is we were in almost
10 attainment. And up to last year we were in
11 marginal. But now they said -- because
12 moderate, if you see the ozone standard is all
13 this included. New Jersey -- Pennsylvania,
14 New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Philadelphia,
15 Wilmington, Atlantic City, PA, New Jersey,
16 Maryland, Delaware, any, any monitor in this
17 area -- one monitor shows high value that
18 we'll take -- we all take that value.

19 So that is -- still I don't understand,
20 but that's how it is determined. So that's
21 why now from even attainment to reach in
22 Philadelphia, they consider us serious, from
23 moderate to serious. As I said, the serious
24 is from 93 part per billion to 105. So we are
25 not even close to that. The maximum I, I show

1 is 75 -- 72. Not 75, 72. So I don't know.

2 Anyway, this is what happened.

3 So the PM2.5 EPA published is for the
4 '23, design values 9.3. That's the one I
5 showed you. MS has also 9.3. SIP, state
6 implementation plan. So we submitted the 2008
7 ozone National Ambient Quality Standard,
8 NAAQS. So it is approved. Now we are working
9 for the 2020 -- 2015, sorry, the 2015 ozone
10 standard. So we are on -- in the process.
11 Within two months we will submit to PADEP and
12 PADEP will submit to EPA. So we have every
13 month meeting with EPA and PADEP.

14 So the last meeting was last week we had.
15 We discussed a lot about that. So every month
16 we will have a meeting. So the EPA updates
17 another one is air toxin screen. This is good
18 for the one we have, the AMR 6, Air Management
19 Regulation 6 which is air toxic. So we are
20 looking the background. This is useful for
21 the background, but this is an estimated one.
22 But it gives us idea where or which location
23 has the highest toxic.

24 So the 2020 shows not that high, but
25 around 30, which is shipyard area South, South

1 Philadelphia, which is around 30. But the
2 other they are, like, 25 in a million -- 25 in
3 a million. So the risk, that is the risk. So
4 now, I discuss with EPA. They are working --
5 and maybe Dr. Carol she knows. They are
6 working on refined one. That's what they told
7 us last time once they have done this one. So
8 we can take this one as a background
9 concentration.

10 So it will be good for risk assessment.
11 Community environmental justice mapping. So
12 they have the mapping based on -- based on the
13 environments indicators. The environment
14 indicators or criteria pollutants and, and
15 toxics. All those kind of stuff they have.
16 And also with the economic stuff like the
17 people who are colored or low income, all
18 those kind of stuff. Even by age and by
19 everything.

20 So they have all that kind of stuff. And
21 anybody can see in the, the website. August
22 EPA release long awaited -- yeah. This is a
23 very good one. The formaldehyde we have high
24 value somewhere in Northeast Philadelphia. Is
25 that northeast? Yeah.

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Northwest.

2 MR. SELASSIE: Northwest. Sorry.

3 Northwest Philadelphia. So we do some
4 research why it is high from where it comes,
5 all those kind of stuff. So now it is even
6 good. Before we have 0.009 on the risk
7 assessment. The sheets we have -- sorry.
8 What was it? So it was 0.009 we have for non
9 risk. But now they reduce to 007. (coughs)
10 sorry. It is good, because this risk we
11 multiplied -- we divided by the concentration,
12 the maximum ground level concentration. The
13 same with this one. We multiply -- because
14 this is unit risk.

15 There is no long calculation to get how
16 much it will go into each organ. But this is
17 the unit risk is calculated everything. So
18 once we have this one multiplied by the
19 maximum ground level concentration. So it is
20 better than the previous one. PADEP updates.
21 So the PA, it is up to them. They got, like,
22 13.9 million from the government. So it is
23 good at least -- they call it IRA, Inflation
24 Reduction Act. So they might help us or it
25 helps environmental.

1 City updates. You heard about the six
2 acts. That is the new downtown area, the new.
3 So the -- it is published now. The four
4 reports include, community impact assessment
5 and economic impact analysis, design
6 consulting, and traffic and transportation.
7 So they are looking -- including parking
8 analysis. So they are working on that one.
9 Other updates, August 20th the Delaware Valley
10 Regional Planning Commission, so they said it
11 declined the highway -- freeway, highway.

12 What that means, it increase unpredicted
13 delays. So they are working now how to change
14 that one, like decreasing congestion, help
15 enhance good movement, increase access to jobs
16 for region residents. I don't know how they
17 do it, maybe telework or something kind of
18 stuff. Potentially reduce vehicle mile
19 travel. So they don't want people driving
20 cars or something. So they want to reduce
21 that one.

22 So MS updates is grants, we got a lot and
23 we are planning 75 clarity sensors to install
24 in the city, which is good. We have a pilot
25 program, three measuring like NOx and PM2.5.

1 So it is good and it is real time and it is
2 perfect because we have -- we -- the company
3 gave us three for, for the pilot program. So
4 it looks very good. We co-located at EPA
5 sites. So it looks good. MS has installed a
6 lot of air monitors, as you know, more than
7 any state or any city including the mobile
8 band monitor.

9 So we have a lot of stuff. So MS
10 laboratory chemistry, this is, you know, still
11 not changed. The village green downtown we
12 have pumps and nuts from DC. We are working
13 with DC. We take samples and analyze in our
14 lab, toxic monitors, fuel oil sample. We take
15 fuel oil because now change -- ban heavy fuel
16 oil from Philadelphia and reduce the sulfur
17 content in fuel. Number 2 from 2500 to 1500.
18 So coating and paint analysis we do our
19 laboratory.

20 MS lab engineer, the same criteria, gas
21 monitoring. We are doing all those kind of
22 the engineers particularly matters, community
23 air monitoring quality assurance,
24 photochemical assessment monitor, and
25 automation of ambient air monitor make it

1 everything easy. So this is the last one I
2 have. So regular -- that is the other agenda.
3 But I would like if the chairman allow me to
4 continue. It will not take more than five or
5 --

6 MR. MINOTT: Continue.

7 MR. SELASSIE: -- three minutes. Okay.
8 So regulatory service, this is a new on.
9 That's what I said. After five, six years
10 again discussion with EPA, PADEP, lawyers and
11 -- or lawyers also involved. Pat work a lot
12 on this one especially and Dennis too. So
13 even the higher one from long, once -- they
14 send me, like, this nine -- oh sorry, sorry,
15 sorry. I thought this is a -- sorry. Let me
16 finish the regulatory service first.

17 From July 1st, '24, we have 159 permits,
18 101 air, and 58 asbestos. MS service 171
19 citizen complaints, 77 involved air pollution,
20 20 involved asbestos. MS also performed 336
21 license, 74 air, 142 noise inspection, and 20
22 asbestos inspection. In addition, MS observed
23 18 vehicles idling. So we issue summon, the
24 citation out of 18. 18 is at different
25 location -- 18 location. MS issue 120 FC NOV,

1 120. 114 is air, the 6 is asbestos noise
2 violation.

3 So we resolved a lot. I believe we had
4 one person working resolve 147 NOV, collected
5 408,000. So this is a mobile source -- sorry.
6 This is a mobile source. As I said, we
7 discuss with EPA, PADEP and we -- they send us
8 this delegation, but we will continue. The
9 other issue I had was just control, like
10 safety buses, you know, we switch to hybrid or
11 something. So we have to do -- and the
12 trucks. So they didn't allow me that for now.
13 So these are the one I learned, enforcement of
14 existing city idling.

15 We have a regulation but it is not
16 approved or registered at the federal
17 registration. So now based on this EPA
18 approval or delegation, so we will register on
19 the federal effort. So this is good. So we
20 - idling, restriction of our self service and
21 use for some categories of non road equipment
22 like the construction one. Any construction
23 equipment, airport, or bridge, all those kind
24 of -- we are just checking but we are not
25 authorized.

1 We cannot issue citation anything. But
2 now once it is approved, maybe we'll prepare
3 for the next board review and discussion maybe
4 approval soon, because I don't think so --
5 that's good for the public. So it will -- it
6 will pass. So the non road equipment, we have
7 to do all construction kind of stuff requiring
8 the highest tier level emission standard for
9 non road. So now EPA has tier 4. Most of the
10 time tier 3 they have. So now 10 years pass,
11 they are preparing tier 5. But EPA didn't do
12 anything tier 4.

13 So that's why I try to involve and do
14 something for those equipment construction. A
15 lot of -- per year there are many construction
16 stuff, so more than 800. So we have to reduce
17 that. That means reduce ozone and PM2.5 and
18 sulfur dioxide and steering policies that
19 limit emission at the port for such as --
20 activities such as truck idling. It is not
21 only truck idling. We are also working on the
22 -- on the -- what is cargo, CH cargo handling
23 equipment at the port and also ground service
24 equipment at the airport.

25 So GSA and CHER also another focus, we

1 will do. So it is allowed now for us. And
2 this is community zone fee. This one I asked,
3 because I believe New York are working on this
4 one but not detailed. New York is all cars
5 entering to New York and exit from New York.
6 But my plan here was, like, trucks, like,
7 built before 2007, old one, so those kind of
8 stuff. Either they have to put some control,
9 emission control or buy new cars after 2007
10 manufacture.

11 So that is my plan. Limiting parking by
12 increase of cost. We have to work this with
13 parking authority and others. It is not easy
14 I think. Placing limit of building new
15 parking structures. Requiring city license
16 contractor to use electric version of
17 equipment that's good to switch especially
18 license who have contractors for the city to
19 use electric car.

20 Development of city policy hospitable to
21 clean energy transportation. That's good.
22 Updating and replacing city fleet with zero
23 emission vehicle and promulgating build ports
24 to help build charging infrastructure. That's
25 very important. So these are the one. This

1 is just starting, but the detail for the next
2 January 30th meeting we'll provide you all the
3 details. Thank you for listening. I am done,
4 so --

5 MR. FRANK: Are you open, open for
6 questions?

7 MR. MINOTT: Yeah, exactly. Let, let
8 board members ask questions because there was
9 so much -- Kass gave us so much information.
10 I think now is the time to be asking the
11 question. So go ahead.

12 MR. FRANK: Yeah. I was just actually on
13 that last slide, Kass, where I was just
14 curious about one thing. It said one of the
15 possibilities of cutting down would be to
16 build no new parking structures. Would that
17 also apply to apparently the requirements that
18 if people build new apartment buildings they
19 have to build in some parking associated with
20 that? Would that affect or have to be meshed
21 with those kinds of conditions of putting in
22 parking places if you build a new apartment
23 building?

24 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah. That's a good
25 question, Dr. Frank. So tomorrow 10 o'clock

1 we have a meeting about this with PADEP.

2 MR. FRANK: Oh, okay.

3 MR. SELASSIE: And also every month -- I
4 think last week we had a meeting with EPA. So
5 yeah. So every month I will involve and the
6 EPA guy asked me if we, we put the agenda for
7 this mobile source. So we'll discuss with EPA
8 and tomorrow also. So all the details the
9 next meeting I will assure you I'll bring.
10 But I have the question, so I'll ask that kind
11 of question. Thank you so much.

12 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: And if I can also --

13 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Kass.

14 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- interject. One of
15 the things that we've been doing with Kass and
16 the AMS team as well as our EJ coordinator,
17 Auroral Trainor, for instance, with the, the
18 junkyards that were combusting and setting
19 fires. We did a lot of preventative work and
20 received the licenses and inspections, you
21 know, trying to catch it upstream and being
22 preventative. Licenses and inspection issues
23 licenses to those establishments.

24 So by working with them and getting that
25 list we've been putting out -- Auroral and

1 Kass have been training the provider groups
2 that, that own these or operate these
3 facilities, so that we can teach them and
4 train them how to properly store their items,
5 so that they don't co-locate them to things
6 that are going to combust based on the outdoor
7 temperature and everything.

8 So that's been something that we've been
9 engaged in. And so similarly, as we move
10 forward and Kass and the team with his
11 leadership have the meetings with EPA and DEP,
12 we will then have those subset of meetings
13 with the internal city departments to figure
14 out how we can move forward with encouraging
15 amendments to the building code or at least
16 encouraging and increasing the knowledge, so
17 we can move forward with some of the, the
18 aspects effects of regulatory that -- you
19 know, we can coerce people into doing the
20 right thing if we can regulate it and send
21 them violations.

22 So that's kind of the framework that
23 we'll be utilizing.

24 MR. MINOTT: I, I think it's, it's, it's
25 amazing. I, I think the suggestions are

1 great. The, the all sort of person that
2 worked in sort of -- the, the politics of it
3 seems that some of -- some of the things that
4 are being offered would be pretty easy to
5 implement. I think others are going to
6 require a little bit more pushing and shoving
7 and, and, and effort. But I am totally on
8 board with all of them. I'm really excited
9 about doing something with the -- with the,
10 you know, transportation. So I am -- I am at
11 your disposal for that.

12 MR. SELASSIE: Thank you.

13 MR. SOULE: Hey, Kass, I think you had
14 mentioned that the EPA is using several
15 monitors in the surrounding areas on the ozone
16 standard, that's causing us from going from
17 moderate to, to serious.

18 MR. SELASSIE: Serious.

19 MR. SOULE: And I'm curious, we do get --
20 we do know what monitor -- what I guess the
21 results of each of the monitors that's being
22 - that's involved, right? And the other
23 thing is, have we determined any implications
24 to the permitting process for the city of
25 Philadelphia? Is this going to affect

1 business or permitting of some of the
2 businesses for the city of Philadelphia?

3 MR. SELASSIE: Permitting for what city
4 of Philadelphia?

5 MR. SOULE: If the ozone standard by, by
6 going from moderate to serious --

7 MR. SELASSIE: Oh, yeah.

8 MR. SOULE: -- in an area, is that going
9 to have any implications to the permitting
10 process for businesses in Philadelphia?

11 MR. SELASSIE: Yeah. The -- excellent
12 question. That's my worry and you know why.
13 Look, as I said, asking about the monitor the
14 most -- the worst we have neighbor is the
15 Bucks County, Bristol monitor. I have no
16 idea. Always show the highest one even
17 hundred something sometimes. So that's why.
18 The serious is from 93 to 105 part per
19 billion. Even we are not close. We are 70.
20 Yeah. I argue -- I don't know. Dr. Carol is
21 here.

22 I argue a lot with EPA every meeting.
23 Why you affect the facility war in
24 Philadelphia? They comply with the ozone
25 standard, but because of bugs or because of

1 somewhere Maryland or Delaware or New Jersey
2 or Pier or Atlantic City, which is they call
3 it the core statistical area. So why you took
4 those? Because we are good. We are doing
5 great. So they say no, that's what it is.
6 Whenever Maryland one -- not all monitor, one
7 monitor shows the maximum, they take that one.

8 I think that's why they said serious plus
9 the exceptional event, you know, the forest
10 fire. That is also another issue affect, but
11 they have to remove that one. So yes, it
12 affected the Philadelphia, but I don't know.
13 Maybe, Dr. Carol, if you know that she will
14 explain why, why EPA is taking this kind of --
15 I don't -- I don't believe that one, but I
16 argue every time, the answer is no. That is
17 how it is.

18 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Well, I, I have, I
19 guess, two comments. I had another question
20 on that to begin with. But one, that's
21 because ozone is a regional air pollutant.

22 MR. MINOTT: Yeah.

23 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: So that's how it's
24 regulated. Right. So, you know, that's -- so
25 that's, that's kind of the science of it. And

1 that's why -- that's what the regulations say.
2 So EPA wouldn't really have the ability to
3 kind of change the way the regulation. So for
4 that attainment, right, that's what that goes
5 for. But I was going to ask the other
6 question, because this is to attain the 2008
7 ozone standard, which is 75, right?

8 The current standard is 70. So I'm
9 curious, could the city of Philadelphia ask
10 for their own kind of state implementation
11 plan to try to meet 70, right? Because we're
12 close to 70 --

13 MR. MINOTT: You're right.

14 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: -- but we're really
15 trying to attain a standard, you know, that's,
16 like, 15 years old.

17 MR. MINOTT: You're right.

18 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: So I'm just throwing --
19 I don't know. I'm not a regulatory person at
20 EPA, but that's a question I just have as a
21 citizen because we know the, the health
22 impacts of ozone are, are real, right? And
23 especially we've had them, you know, for a
24 long time. And so I'm just throwing it out
25 there as an option, Kass, because I think that

1 would help generally really get those numbers.

2 You know, we're close, right? Why not --

3 MR. SELASSIE: Very close.

4 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: -- try to see if we can
5 get down to 70? So that just is a question.

6 I don't know if that's even possible.

7 MR. SELASSIE: Yeah. I'll, I'll keep
8 asking that. But the one you said ozone,
9 there is -- we call it ozone -- what -- ozone
10 trans regional transportation.

11 MR. MINOTT: Yeah.

12 MR. SELASSIE: Transport.

13 MR. MINOTT: Yeah.

14 MR. SELASSIE: Which is -- it depends on
15 if you are downwind side or upwind side. So
16 they have to figure out. They didn't include
17 -- many years, they're still arguing how to
18 include. Because the upwind location, they
19 have to reduce more. They have to -- but they
20 didn't decide Philadelphia is upwind
21 direction. We might be downwind direction.
22 Because I know the Bristol and Bucks is high
23 because we are -- this area is downwind
24 direction coming from up.

25 So that is another issue. Unless they

1 don't include the ozone transport -- the ozone
2 regional transport, the stuff which, which one
3 is upwind and which one is downwind. I don't
4 think so. We -- I have to consider all
5 statistical area, core statistical area. But
6 I will ask the EPA. We will have every
7 quarterly meeting. So the next quarter
8 meeting I will answer you.

9 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah. I mean I was
10 just curious, like, you know, why can't we try
11 to go stricter --

12 MR. SELASSIE: Yes.

13 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: -- from -- based on the
14 health impacts for local residents like
15 California does? So just throwing that out
16 there as, as, as an option. And then I had
17 another question or comment on your mobile
18 source ideas and, and I would really push to
19 see what you can do with trucks that are older
20 than 2007. I personally tried for three years
21 straight to get EPA to make a unit, a risk --
22 a cancer risk unit estimate for diesel PM,
23 which is a known human carcinogen. And we've
24 known that for a long time.

25 And so the -- we don't have the ability

1 right now to actually give you a number,
2 except we know it's a carcinogen. EPA's
3 perspective is, again this is my private
4 opinion, is because they've already regulated.
5 New diesel engines have reduced pollution by
6 over 99 percent. It's the old diesel engines
7 that last 100 years are the ones that are
8 really causing the problem. So I, I --

9 MR. SELASSIE: True.

10 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: -- would really think
11 that has the biggest input if you're able to
12 get something like that to try to give some
13 incentive to reduce these trucks in these
14 communities that are just getting pounded by
15 kind of this -- that diesel pollution. So
16 that's just something I wanted to support.

17 MR. MINOTT: Someone has --

18 MR. SELASSIE: Okay. Thank you.

19 MR. MINOTT: -- his hand up. Whose,
20 whose hand is up?

21 MR. SELASSIE: Is this the public?

22 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: No. It's Carol Ann.

23 MR. SELASSIE: Oh, it's Carol.

24 MR. MINOTT: Oh, okay.

25 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: And then I think we do

1 have a question in the chat or a comment in
2 the chat.

3 MR. MINOTT: Okay.

4 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: It says, "Who can see
5 this transcript?" Menelik, do you see --

6 MR. SELASSIE: I don't see anybody.

7 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Menelik, would you
8 mind --

9 MR. MENELIK: (indiscernible).

10 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Oh.

11 MR. MENELIK: (indiscernible).

12 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay. Are there any
13 other -- are there any other items in the
14 chat?

15 MR. MINOTT: Just to follow up a little
16 bit what, what carol was saying is, I think
17 it'd be great if, if the city sort of
18 continues to lower its, its emissions of, of,
19 of ozone and what have you. But it's always
20 going to be considered part of the -- of, of
21 the air quality region. So even if
22 Philadelphia comes down to zero, which
23 obviously is impossible, they're still going
24 to have to meet whatever the, the, you know,
25 the whole region meets. It's not fair, but

1 it's just the way it's always been.

2 MR. SELLASSIE: Yeah, yeah. True. It is
3 true. Yeah. I agree. But they have to find
4 out who are upwind direction and who are
5 downwind direction. Because if, if, if you
6 are not upwind direction or we can't affect
7 other states, so the others should reduce by a
8 lot. That is their responsibility, not
9 Philadelphia responsibility or whoever is
10 downwind direction. So they should find out,
11 you know, who, who are --

12 MR. MINOTT: If the problem is with Bucks
13 County, why, why can't we sue Bucks County,
14 like, like the 126 petition or something like
15 that?

16 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Joe, I was going to say
17 I'm curious, as I did this years ago when I
18 was doing water quality work to help the water
19 department. And EPA and the water department
20 went upstream outside in the suburbs and, and,
21 you know, put some pressure on those
22 wastewater treatment plants to stop putting
23 stuff in the -- in the --

24 MR. MINOTT: Yeah.

25 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: -- (indiscernible).

1 And I'm curious if it's a -- you know, is it
2 some conversations -- because if, if Bucks
3 County is getting up at, like, 100, that's,
4 that's really high.

5 MR. SELLASSIE: Very high -- very high.

6 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: I think --

7 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: That's really high.

8 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: I think that's one of
9 - I think that's one of the things that we
10 can also facilitate. So Bucks County --

11 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yeah.

12 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: -- works with one of
13 the other divisions that, that is in my
14 portfolio, environmental health services. So,
15 you know, foodborne illness does it -- just
16 like the air, it crosses boundaries depending
17 on where you get food. So we work with them a
18 lot and maybe, Kass, what we can do is
19 facilitate the conversation with yourself and
20 the, the, the air quality director at -- I
21 think you got an air quality director at Bucks
22 County.

23 And we can have those conversations, just
24 like we did with formaldehyde to figure out
25 what, what is the source and then figure out

1 next steps to help them come into compliance
2 in a friendly way.

3 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yes. Because I, I
4 think it tells a story that --

5 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah.

6 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- if you think
7 Philadelphia has a serious ozone issue, right?
8 And the way we're measuring, it's not. You
9 know, I think we're --

10 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah.

11 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- still hoping to get
12 to meet the 2015 --

13 MR. SELLIASSIE: Yeah.

14 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- standard. But I
15 think it -- from, from the outside, it can
16 tell a story that perhaps that's really not
17 the story. There's other things we, you know,
18 we are -- you know, want to focus more on.
19 But I think that's a great opportunity just to
20 have those conversations.

21 MR. MINOTT: Yeah. And also --

22 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: It'll better -- it'll
23 better the entire region, right?

24 MR. MINOTT: Yeah.

25 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah.

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- if we figure out
2 what the cause is.

3 MR. MINOTT: Exactly.

4 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Then mitigate the
5 cause. Then it may end up --

6 MR. FRANK: Yeah.

7 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: -- bettering the
8 entire region.

9 MR. FRANK: Absolutely. And, and I think
10 you could offer the assistance of the members
11 of this board to work with you and with them
12 because, you know, they're probably unhappy
13 about it too, but may not have the resources,
14 not the kind of resources sitting around the
15 board table that we could assist them. So --

16 MR. MINOTT: And it's --

17 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah.

18 MR. MINOTT: I mean, ozone is a transport
19 pollution, so it also may not be Bucks
20 County's fault at all. It maybe something
21 that's coming into, into Bucks County and, and
22 raising it to that -- to that level. But I
23 think it is important to help them find out
24 what the source of, of, of it is. Because I
25 think it does -- it will hurt Philadelphia if,

1 if it's not solved.

2 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Yeah.

3 MR. SELASSIE: Yeah. I remember the
4 Maryland director when we had a meeting, this
5 director's meeting. So he is always -- he was
6 always arguing, you know, "Don't involve us
7 with Pennsylvania." Yeah. He is angry. He's
8 always, you know, argue with EPA. So not only
9 him, a lot, the West Virginia director, the
10 Virginia, all those, they, they don't like
11 this kind of stuff, you know, but I don't know
12 what they're going to do.

13 But it is good to get, you know, who are
14 in the downwind direction and who are in the
15 upwind direction. Let the upwind direction
16 work more.

17 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yeah.

18 MR. SELASSIE: While also all facilities
19 are doing this. If they do, they reduce --
20 the, the Bucks County might be reduced, you
21 know, if they do more work or something else.
22 So I think they will do -- EPA is doing
23 something in the future. Hey, Dr. Richard.

24 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Do we have any other
25 - we're at the question portion. Do we have

1 any other folks with any questions?

2 MR. MINOTT: Two quick -- two quick
3 things and I really mean them to be short.
4 But one is, I noticed that, in what Kass gave
5 us, that the EPA is going to phase out the use
6 of PERC in dry cleaning and others. And I
7 want to congratulate Kass for being ahead of
8 everyone else when we -- when we pass the --

9 MR. SELASSIE: Yeah.

10 MR. MINOTT: -- (indiscernible) in
11 Philadelphia. And so we -- you know, I'm
12 very, very proud of, of, of -- I'm very proud
13 of that. And then I had something brilliant
14 to say after that, but I can't remember what
15 it is, so I'm going to let it go.

16 MR. SELASSIE: Okay.

17 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Sounds good.

18 MR. SELASSIE: Good.

19 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Do we -- any questions
20 in the chat or from the public?

21 MR. SELASSIE: No. Okay.

22 MR. MENELIK: (indiscernible).

23 MR. SELASSIE: Okay.

24 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Okay.

25 MR. SELASSIE: So we do --

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Well, so our next
2 meeting will be January 30th, 2025. We'll
3 give -- we'll give another two or three
4 minutes for questions and then we'll see if
5 there's a motion for adjournment, if we don't
6 have any other items.

7 MR. SELLASSIE: Okay.

8 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: What's that?

9 MR. SELLASSIE: Richard Pepino, he just
10 joined us.

11 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yeah. Dr. Pepino, do
12 you want to introduce yourself since you just
13 joined us? Yeah. You're muted.

14 MR. SELLASSIE: Muted.

15 MR. MINOTT: Come on, Pepino, get with
16 it.

17 MR. PEPINO: Oh, my God. Hi. I have,
18 like, a 20-hour talk to give right now, but
19 I'll pass and say I'm proud to be here. I'm
20 sorry I'm late and --

21 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: It's okay.

22 MR. PEPINO: It happens. A Halloween
23 parade got between.

24 MR. SELLASSIE: Oh, it's today -- it's
25 today.

1 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yeah. That's the
2 other reason I'm, I'm -- if we don't have
3 anything in the interest of time for both
4 Halloween and Diwali is also today --

5 MR. FRANK: Yeah. Happy, happy Diwali.

6 MR. MINOTT: -- which happens once --
7 thank you.

8 MR. FRANK: Happy Diwali, Palak.

9 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: It happens once every
10 100 years, so --

11 MR. MINOTT: Really?

12 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Yeah.

13 MR. MINOTT: Oh, my gosh.

14 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Bizarre. If we have
15 nothing else and no other questions or
16 comments, well, is there a motion for
17 adjournment?

18 MR. MINOTT: Just before we get there --
19 before we get there, I just -- as someone that
20 has missed three years of being on the Air
21 Pollution Control Board, I would love to have
22 lunch with some of you that are on the board
23 and, you know, to, to bring me up to date and
24 what have you. And other than that --

25 MR. FRANK: Motion to adjourn.

1 MR. MINOTT: Then second.

2 MR. SOULE: I second.

3 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: All right. All in
4 favor?

5 (Chorus of ayes.)

6 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: All right.

7 MR. FRANK: On with your feet.

8 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: (indiscernible) I am.

9 MR. FRANK: Palak, enjoy, enjoy the two
10 holidays.

11 MR. MINOTT: Palak, have a good time.

12 MR. SOULE: Take care, guys.

13 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Thank you.

14 MR. SOULE: Thanks a lot.

15 MS. GROSS-DAVIS: Bye.

16 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Bye-bye.

17 MR. FRANK: Good to see everybody.

18 MR. SOULE: Good seeing you.

19 MS. RAVAL-NELSON: Bye-bye.

20 MR. MINOTT: Bye.

21 (The meeting was adjourned.)

22

23

24

25

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2

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17

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19



Bruce Mukwanja

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