

**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
East Texas Clean Cities Coalition (ETCCC)**

Steering Committee and Stakeholder Meeting

**Wednesday, August 13, 2003, 2:00 p.m.
Green Room
East Texas Council of Governments
3800 Stone Road
Kilgore, Texas**

MINUTES OF MEETING

1) Call to Order: Clean Cities Coordinator Rick McKnight, ETCOG

Mr. McKnight called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

2) Welcome and Introduction

Attendees introduced themselves and stated the organization they represent.

Attendees

- Norman Schenk, Tyler Transit
- Tracy Harper, Texas Railroad Commission
- Dietrich Johnson, City of Longview
- Jimmy Skeen, American Electric Power
- Rick McKnight, East Texas Council of Governments

3) Discussion and approval of ETCCC Steering Committee meeting minutes of June 11, 2003.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the June 11, 2003 ETCCC Steering Committee and Stakeholders meeting. A second was made and the minutes passed without any dissent.

4) Update on Alternative Fuel and Air Quality Activities, Legislation, and Funding Opportunities

An update was given by Rick McKnight regarding relevant alternative fuel and air quality activities, legislation and current funding opportunities. A list of new resources and publications from the Alternative Fuels Data Center was distributed as well as copies of the Seattle Regional Office (SRO) of the U.S. Department of Energy funding opportunity newsletter.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has announced the availability of grants for projects in the state's air quality non-attainment and near non-

attainment areas. The goal of these grants is the reduction of emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x). Eligible applicants include individuals, governmental agencies, non-profit entities, or private companies that own and operate on-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles or non-road diesel equipment, including marine vessels and locomotives, primarily in the non-attainment and near non-attainment areas of the state.

Eligible projects include new purchases and leases of cleaner non-road equipment, repowers and retrofits of on-road heavy-duty vehicles and non-road equipment, purchases of qualifying fuel, and infrastructure for refueling or electrification. The grant can pay the incremental costs of a project, up to a maximum cost-effectiveness of \$13,000 per ton of NO_x emissions reduced. These grants will be awarded under the current guidelines and standards for the program. Applications under the current Request for Proposals (RFP) will be accepted through September 17, 2003.

5) ETCCC Program Plan Update

Rick McKnight stated that the DOE Regional Support Office had officially approved the ETCCC Program Plan submitted in February. The plan has been submitted to National Clean Cities Staff in Washington D.C. for approval. Once approved in Washington D.C. the Coalition will be officially designated a Clean Cities Coalition. During a phone conversation, ETCCC received comments regarding the plan from DOE. Discussion followed on how to address the comments given by DOE. ETCCC anticipates being approved for official designation in the Fall of 2003.

6) Discussion and planning for an Advancing the Alternative Fuel Choice Event and Official Designation Ceremony in the Fall of 2003

ETCCC plans on holding an Advancing the Alternative Fuel Choice Event in October or November of 2003. The event will likely take place in Tyler and be held at either the Rose Center or Harvey Hall. The purpose of these events is to offer one-stop shopping for fleet managers by bringing together vehicle manufacturers, dealers, fuel providers, and equipment suppliers to answer questions and showcase products. The Clean Cities Program has developed planning documents, information packets, and a PowerPoint presentation to help coordinators organize their events.

7) Other Business

The next meeting of the ETCCC Steering Committee will be on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. at the ETCOG Offices in Kilgore, Texas.

8) Wrap-up and Adjourn

There being no further items or suggestions, the meeting was adjourned.