

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

Steering Committee and Stakeholder Meeting

**Wednesday, December 10, 2003, 2:00 p.m.
Large Conference 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

- Tracy Harper, Texas Railroad Commission
- Susan DeCell, Texas Railroad Commission
- Shelpa Ravandi, Longview MPO
- Kathy Bell, TCEQ-Tyler
- Rick McKnight, East Texas Council of Governments

3) Discussion and approval of ETCCC Steering Committee meeting minutes of October 8, 2003.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the October 8, 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 (NOx). 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.

5) ETCCC Program Plan Update

Rick McKnight stated that the DOE Regional Support Office has officially approved the ETCCC Program Plan. The plan has been submitted to National Clean Cities Staff in Washington D.C. for approval. ETCCC has received comments regarding the plan from DOE and has begun addressing these comments in the Program Plan. Discussion followed on how to address the comments given by DOE. The plan will be resubmitted to DOE by the end of December.

6) Discussion concerning information received about the number of flex-fuel E85 capable vehicles in East Texas from TXDOT's vehicle registration database

A public information request was made to TXDOT regarding the number of vehicles registered in East Texas that are capable of running on E85. A total of 7,729 flex fuel vehicles capable of running on E85 are registered in ETCCC counties. Gregg and Smith Counties have the most flex fuel vehicles registered in them.

7) Discussion and approval of East Texas Clean Cities joining the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC)

NEVC is the nation's primary advocate dedicated to the use of 85 percent ethanol as a form of alternative transportation fuel. Financial assistance for the NEVC comes from advocates of clean, renewable, domestic energy. Rick McKnight stated a three membership to NEVC costs \$100 for Clean Cities Coalitions. All members in attendance were in favor of ETCCC joining NEVC to promote the use of E85 in East Texas.

8) Other Business

The next meeting of the ETCCC Steering Committee will be on Wednesday, February 11, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. at the ETCOG Offices in Kilgore, Texas.

9) Wrap-up and Adjourn

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