

**AIR RESOURCES COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF ONLINE MEETING #264**  
**04/13/2020**  
**DRAFT2**

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL:**

Chairman Robert Duval, Vice Chair David Collins, Georgia Murray  
Elizabeth Tillotson, Kris Blomback

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

J.Ryan Bielagus, David Cribbie, Mark Lambert

**NHDES – ARD PERSONNEL:**

Director Craig Wright, Cathy Beahm, Gary Milbury,

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Shelley Marshall, Paula Scott, David Conley

**MEMBERS OF  
THE PUBLIC PRESENT:**

John Tuthill, Greg Smith, Joanna Tourangeau, Brett Slensky,  
Charles Wright, Paula Tracey

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Robert Duval read over the Online Meeting procedures outlined in the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, and called meeting #264 of the Air Resources Council (ARC) to order at 9:19 a.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020. Chair Robert Duval announced that a quorum of the ARC was present. All Council Members and other attendees participated via Zoom audio/video or audio-only connections.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of meeting #263 moved by Kris Blomback and seconded by Elizabeth Tillotson. A roll call was done and all in favor.

**Division Activities and Legislative Update:**

Chairman Robert Duval introduced Director Craig Wright of the Air Resources Division (ARD). Director Wright briefly updated members of the ARC regarding issues relative to the ARD, including:

1. **NHDES ARD Protection against Covid-19:**

- Director Craig Wright stated that the Air Resource Department has minimal staffing working in the office, and that the employees have the proper equipment to work from home. Support Staff is alternating days to work in the office to make sure deposits are being made.
- Starting April 14, 2020 health screenings will start at 27 and 29 Hazen drive before employees can enter the building.
- NHDES and DHHS building is now closed to the public, only essential employees can enter after they are safe to do so after health screening.

2. **Extension of Permit Expiration Dates:** In order to address permit application submittal concerns, he said the Division is taking the following actions:

- For non-Title V sources, we are extending the term of the permit to 5 years 6 months (6-month extension) for those that expire from March to June 30 of 2020.

- We are also reducing how far in advance a permit renewal application must be filed, from 90 to 30 days before expiration. This will be for permit renewals that are due to be submitted from March to June 30 of 2020.
- For Title V (major) facilities, the permit term is a federal requirement that cannot be changed.

Council member Murray asked Director Wright how the public is being informed of the 6-month extension, and is there a way that the public can comment. Director Wright explained that the extensions have been granted through the emergency order. At this time there has not been any public outreach; although all regulated sources have been notified by Environmental Services Public Information office.

**Extension of General State Permit for Emergency Generators and Fire Pump Engines:** In light of the current situation with COVID-19, we made the decision to reissue the current General State Permit (GSP) for a period of 3 months. This will allow additional time for the Department and permit holders to prepare for the reestablishment of the new GSP this summer. The expiration date of the permit has been extended to **July 31, 2020**.

3. **CDC - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) APPLETREE Grant:** The Environmental Health Program (EHP) and the DHHS Division of Public Health Services have been awarded a grant by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The grant money will fund a Health Risk Assessor and Principal Investigator within the EHP, who will conduct public health assessment activities of hazardous waste sites and other locations. They will work with DHHS to identify, coordinate and carry out the necessary public health actions to eliminate or minimize human exposures to hazardous substances that are found to be at levels of human health concern.
4. **NH Air Quality:**  
Due to the Covid-19 shelter-in-place orders, the State of New Hampshire is witnessing better air quality. Because of the large amount of business shutdowns, and fewer vehicles on the road, we are witnessing significant improvements in air quality, specifically in the northeast. Air quality results for nitrogen dioxide, as of March 2020, are 30% lower than the previous five years. This shows that people do have an effect on Air Quality.

### **Status of Appeals**

Paula Scott, Appeals Clerk briefly updated members of the current ARD appeals status, including:

#### **Docket No. 20-05 ARC – Town of Merrimack**

On 2/11/20, Temporary Permit No. TP-0256 was issued to Saint-Gobain Performance Plastic Corp. On 3/10/20 the ARC received Notice of Appeal. On 3/13/20, Insufficient Appeal letter was issued. On 3/24/20, ARC received Revised Appeal. On 3/26/20, Receipt of Revised Appeal letter was issued. The Air Council is scheduled to decide whether to accept or deny the appeal today.

Chair Duval explained considerations of standing and jurisdiction relative to the practice of the Council in reviewing appeals. David Collins moved to accept the Appeal, and Lynn Tillotson second the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor. A Hearings Officer will be appointed. David Conley stated the he expects that due to Covid-19, it may be three months before a hearing date is set.

**Rules: None at this time**

**New Business:**

There was no new business to report.

**Public Commentary:**

John Tuthill from Acworth thanked the Air Resources Council for holding an online Air Council meeting to allow public participation.

**Adjourn:**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by David Collins and seconded by Georgia Murray. Meeting #264 of the Air Resources Council was adjourned at 9:45 am April 13, 2020.