

RRAC Meeting Summary

The Reactivity Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) met on March 25, 2009. Dongmin Luo (ARB – Research Division) facilitated the meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to update the committee on the recent Scientific Advisory Committee (RSAC) meeting and other activities related to reactivity research, and to solicit the RRAC's comments for the purpose of helping the ARB develop reactivity-based VOC control strategies. Participants at the meeting (by webcast and in person) included ARB staff and representatives from U.S. EPA, air districts, universities, and coatings industry.

Bill Carter recapitulated the morning's RSAC review of his SAPRC-07 mechanism. This was followed by updates on reactivity-related programs. Stan Tong updated for US EPA activities, Naveen Berry for SCAQMD, Carla Takemoto (ARB - Stationary Source Division) updated on ARB's consumer products program, and Jim Nyarady (ARB - Stationary Source Division) updated on ARB's architectural coatings program. Jim Nyarady also updated on the Paint and Architectural Coatings Environmental Study (PACES) underway at UC Riverside.

Bill Carter (UC Riverside) discussed research on SAPRC-07 and provided updates on maximum incremental reactivity (MIR) values for individual compounds and hydrocarbon bins, consumer products, aromatics, architectural coatings, secondary organic aerosol, and a new VOC surrogate study at the University of Texas. The public is invited to submit candidate chemicals to ARB for review by Bill Carter as part of his architectural coatings research project. Dr. Carter also discussed a revised method to derive hydrocarbon bin reactivities based on estimating compositions for each bin. Because this method performed well for predicting MIRs of analyzed solvents, it should be appropriate for use for regulatory reactivity scale updates.

Ralph Propper (ARB – Research Division) gave a presentation on the ARB's VOC exemption procedure, advising industry representatives on how to expedite approval of VOC exemptions for candidate VOCs. Ralph Propper also gave a presentation on proposed regulatory amendments to MIR values, and stated that the ARB intends to hold a hearing later in 2009 to adopt in regulation the SAPRC-07 mechanism and associated MIR values. The first step will be the public distribution of a staff report, which is expected in September. The public hearing is expected in November.