

Air Quality Health Monitoring Task Force (AQHMTF) Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 19, 2026

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

AQHMTF Meeting Attendees – February 2026		
Name	Organization	Title
Analisa Garcia	NCTCOG	Air Quality Planner
Anna Baker	City of Fort Worth	Environmental Services Planner, Planning & Data Analytics
Barry Lachman	Dallas City Environmental Commission District/Lachman Community Development and Consulting	
Chris Klaus	NCTCOG	Senior Program Manager
Cindy Mendez	City of Grand Prairie	Director of Public Health and Environmental Quality
Daniela Tower	NCTCOG	Air Quality Planner
Ebrahim Eslami	H-GAC	Principal Planner - Air Quality
Freddie Ortiz	City of Dallas	Environmental Coordinator III
Hannah Thesing	NCTCOG	Air Quality Planner
Hassan Shah	City of Fort Worth	Senior Environmental Specialist
Jenny Narvaez	NCTCOG	Program Manager
Jeremy Johnson	Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)	Research Associate IV
Julian Kuykendall	Children's Health	
Kai Zhang	UNT Health	Professor, College of Public Health
Kevin Overton		
Leslie Allsopp	UNT Health	Assistant Professor
Maritza Figy	City of Dallas	Environmental Coordinator
Michelle McKenzie	Hood County Clean Air Coalition	Air Quality Program Manager
Olivia Osborne	City of Plano	Sustainability Supervisor
Sidney Garza	Texas Department of State Health Services	Public Health Educator
Sujata Gautam	City of McKinney	Sustainability Manager
Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG	Director of Environment & Development
Tatjana Walker	Marilyn Brachman Hoffman Foundation	Executive Director
Vivek Thimmavajjhala	NCTCOG	Senior Transportation System Modeler
Werner Rodriguez	City of Grand Prairie	Public Health Manager
Yunyao Li	UTA	Assistant Professor

Item 1: Rider 7 Updates

- Presentation was given by Daniela Tower (NCTCOG) on the progress of NCTCOG's Rider 7 Ozone and PM_{2.5} projects.
 - 6 nonregulatory PM_{2.5} monitors and weather stations have been installed in Dallas, Ellis, and Tarrant Counties.
 - 5 nonregulatory ozone monitors, and four NO₂ reference monitors, as well as weather stations were installed in Hood and Somervell Counties.
 - Data collection began in March (Ozone) and June (PM_{2.5}) 2025, respectively.
 - The final reports analyzing collected data were approved by the TCEQ on December 30, 2025.
 - Future plans for both Rider 7 projects include the continuation of monitoring activities, the installation of additional monitors for PM_{2.5}, and the creation/update of conceptual models.
 - To review results, please refer to the meeting presentation.
- For questions or to request additional information, please contact Daniela Tower, NCTCOG (dtower@nctcog.org).

Item 2: Air Quality News

- Analisa Garcia (NCTCOG) gave a quick summary of air quality news along with additional background information. The meeting was then opened for group discussion on insights or considerations members may have regarding their air quality efforts.
- Articles:
 - [E.P.A. to Stop Considering Lives Saved by Limiting Air Pollution - The New York Times](#)
 - [Experts warn TCEQ is not equipped to enforce regulations on rapidly emerging AI data centers | KERA News](#)
 - [EPA revokes a key legal underpinning in fighting climate change | AP News](#)
- Members noted that while EPA developments are being noted, their own air quality efforts will continue as planned.
- Proposed data center locations in the City of Grand Prairie, Hood County, and the City of Fort Worth (article below shared during meeting) were mentioned.
 - <https://fortworthreport.org/2026/02/11/10b-data-center-hits-wall-after-fort-worth-leaders-cite-resources-land-usage-concerns/>
- A few members noted data centers being planned and built in the region becoming a more notable topic of conversation. The level of interest and engagement from the public varies depending on location.
- In Hood County, 5 data centers with 4 natural gas plants are proposed to be realized. Two Rider 7 Ozone monitors are placed near where data centers are proposed to be built.

Item 3: AQHMTF Announcements

- The AQHMTF Resource Page is now live.
 - Access here: [Air Quality Health Monitoring Resources](#)
 - To recommend an additional air quality resource to be added, please reach out to Analisa at agarcia@nctcog.org.
- Grant opportunity: NASA Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES)
 - ROSES-2025 closes August 31, 2026. ROSES-2026 is anticipated to open July 2026.
 - For more information:
 - https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/viewrepositorydocument/cmdocumentid=1096126/solicitationId=%7B9E3216E9-ADB7-B72A-A1D7-12EC8050DC3F%7D/viewSolicitationDocument=1/A.10%20INNOVATE_Amend41.pdf
- 2024 PM_{2.5} Standard
 - The EPA deadline to designate areas in violation of the 2025 PM_{2.5} standard passed on February 7, 2026, with no designations made. No official EPA updates have been provided at this time.

Member Announcements:

- North Central Texas Asthma Summit
 - June 2, 2026, from 9AM-3PM at NCTCOG Campus (616 Six Flags Dr, Arlington, TX 76011)
 - Sign up link: [North Central Texas Asthma Summit Tickets, Tuesday, Jun 2 from 9 am to 3 pm | Eventbrite](#)
 - For any questions, please contact Leslie Allsopp (Leslie.Allsopp@unthsc.edu)
- City of Grand Prairie
 - Mayors 5K and Health Fair – April 4, 2026
 - Address: Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St, Grand Prairie, TX 75050
 - Health Fair begins at 8AM; Walk/Run begins at 9AM
 - For more information: [Mayor's 5K and Health Fair - City of Grand Prairie](#)
 - Earth Day in the Prairie – April 18, 2026 @ 1-5 PM
 - Address: 2960 Epic Place, Grand Prairie, TX 75052
 - For more information: [Earth Day at EpicCentral - City of Grand Prairie](#)
- City of Dallas 2023 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report is now published, available here: <https://www.dallasclimateaction.com/>

Next meeting:

May 21, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

NCTCOG Campus

In-person meeting (with virtual option)

More information to follow