

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues February 8, 2011 Meeting**

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the February 8 meeting are summarized below.

**1. Transition to the MOVES Model: Update**

- Recent work by COG DTP staff has indicated that depending on which mobile budgets are actually in force and the first analysis year for future conformity determinations, the region could have difficulty demonstrating conformity in the near future.
- If the proposed rule restructuring amendments go final, the first year of any conformity analysis will have to be within 5 years of the action. The 2012 CLRP could therefore involve analysis years of 2017, 2020, 2030, and 2040.
- Estimates show that the region could have an issue with meeting the PM budget contained in the submitted PM SIP for 2017 time frame.
- Currently, EPA is not under obligation to take action on the submitted PM SIP because the region is operating under the Clean Data Determination. Options to remedy the potential conformity issue for PM would be to update the budgets in the PM SIP using MOVES, seek an extension of the grace period, or pursue redesignation with or without pulling the PM SIP back from EPA.
- If the 2012 process starts before March, it will be possible to go another year using MOBILE6.

**2. Discussions with EPA re PM2.5 Redesignation**

- Based on a recent staff call, it would be acceptable to EPA for the region to submit a PM redesignation request and maintenance plan and simultaneously request that the submitted PM SIP be withdrawn. Inventories will be needed to prepare a maintenance plan. Years to address would include 2002 (NAA year), 2007 (attainment year), 2017 or 2020 (interim year), 2024 or 2025 (out year).

**3. Conformity: Update**

- TAC heard a report on the conformity process and schedule for CY 2011. There are 2 scopes, one is to address the need to prepare a revised determination caused by an amendment to the 2010 CLRP (to modify the HOT lanes project in VA), and the other is the traditional scope for the 2011 CLRP.
- For the 2010 amendment, the analysis will be redone using all of the same inputs and models as last year. For the 2011 CLRP, there are several important changes. The first year of the analysis will be 2016. There is a new area system with more traffic analysis zones, Round 2.3 of the Travel Demand Model, Cooperative Forecast Round 8a to account for recent updates from Baltimore region. Also, the analysis will no longer evaluate how regional emissions compare to the 1-hour ozone budget because that has been officially superseded by the approved 8-hour ozone SIP RFP budget for 2008.
- The Conformity Subcommittee subsequently held a conference call and reached agreement on a draft MWAQC comment letter on the proposed conformity scope.

**4. Near-Road Air Monitoring for the Intercounty Connector**

- The Maryland State Highway Administration provided a briefing on near-road air monitoring that is being performed as a result of a settlement associated with litigation concerning the Intercounty Connector. Under the settlement agreement, Maryland agreed to retrofit 70 school buses in Maryland and to conduct near road air monitoring for PM2.5.
- The air monitoring site consists of EBAM and SuperSAAS monitors located about 500 feet from the edge of the road. The site is east of the Capitol Beltway and south of Hwy 214. They have collected 21 months of data. The monitor is defined as site-specific data collection. The plaintiffs had argued that regional air quality monitors are not adequate to assess roadside concentrations.
- Based on a review of the data from the SHA monitors, there have been no significant correlations with traffic or weather, and the data appears to track closely with the other PM monitors in the region.
- SHA has met with MDE and there was agreement that this monitoring site is not suitable for regional air quality monitoring needs. MDE is working on an official trial roadside monitoring site in Baltimore.
- COG will seek access to the data through a Freedom of Information Act request from SHA on behalf of members.

**5. Proposed FY 2012 MWAQC Work Program and Budget**

- TAC members unanimously recommended the proposed FY 2012 MWAQC Work Program and Budget for action by MWAQC.

Upcoming Events

ACPAC, February 28; TAC March 8; ACPAC, March 14; TPB; March 16; CEEPC, March 23