

Questions re. Base Year Emissions Inventory Submittal Requirements &  
EPA's Partial Response  
(2015 Ozone NAAQS)

EPA designated the Washington region on August 3, 2018 as a marginal nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. The final implementation rule published on December 6, 2018 for the 2015 ozone NAAQS requires the submission of comprehensive base year emissions inventories for point, nonpoint (area), on-road, and nonroad sources. We have the following questions concerning the base year emissions inventory requirements.

1. Milestone year for base year – The final implementation rule provides two options for selecting the milestone year for the base year. The first option is the most recent calendar year for which a complete triennial inventory is required to be submitted to EPA. The second option is the calendar year of the nonattainment designation. The Washington region was designated as a nonattainment area in 2018.

For the Washington DC-MD-VA nonattainment region, the year 2017 seems a more appropriate option. The District, Maryland, and Virginia are currently working with EPA to submit emissions inventories for the year 2017 as part of the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) effort. The final NEI 2017 data and information is expected to be published by EPA by September 15, 2019 for point, on-road/nonroad, and event sources and by February 28, 2020 for non-point sources. The region plans to use these inventories for the base year submittal. However, if the above schedule is delayed for any reason, then the region will use the draft data available by these dates. Regarding the year 2018, no prior data and information exists, and it will take significant time to develop them. Therefore, the Washington DC-MD-VA nonattainment region wishes to opt for 2017 as the milestone year for the base year. Do you agree with our selection of the base year option?

*EPA Response – None yet*

*Question – Does everybody agree that we should keep working on 2017?*

2. Time period of emissions data & pollutants - The final implementation rule requires the base year emissions inventory to be submitted for an average day's emissions for a typical ozone season work weekday for VOC and NOx. Since annual emissions are used for developing ozone season day emissions for a few source categories (e.g., a few point and area sources), we understand that those annual emissions would also need to be included in the inventory. Though CO emissions are not required as part of the base year emissions inventory submittal, we would like to include them for use at a later date when the Washington DC-MD-VA nonattainment region opts to submit a redesignation request and a maintenance plan for the 2015 ozone NAAQS. In a nutshell, the region plans to submit ozone season day emissions inventories for VOC, NOx, and CO along with

annual emissions for these pollutants for those sources where annual emissions are used to develop ozone season day emissions. Please let us know if the above time period of emissions and the list of pollutants suffices the base year emissions inventory requirements.

*EPA Response – Ozone season day emissions are required for VOC and NOx. CO is not required for submittal for the base year emission inventory, attainment plan, or redesignation request & maintenance plan. Where annual emissions are used as a starting point for temporal allocation to/estimation of ozone season day emissions, the annual data must be in the supporting technical support to allow EPA review of the ozone season day emissions estimation methodologies.*

*MWAQC-TAC Decision (April 9) –*

*Pollutants: Include CO emissions in addition to VOC and NOx emissions. EPA in the past always required CO emissions for the base year emissions inventory, attainment plan, or redesignation request & maintenance plan.*

*Time Period:*

- i. Point & non-point sources – Ozone season day. In addition, annual emissions also required for those sources where annual emissions are used as a starting point for temporal allocation to/estimation of ozone season day emissions.*
- ii. On-road, and nonroad sources - Ozone season day*

3. Vehicle Registration Data (VIN) - The VIN data is the basis for a few inputs for the on-road emissions model. The District, Maryland, and Virginia are planning to submit the 2017 VIN data for the on-road model inputs for the NEI 2017 submittal. However, it is important to note that the District, Maryland and Virginia used different approaches for developing their inputs to their 2017 VIN data. The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) recently conducted a regionally consistent decoding of the 2016 VIN data for the District, Maryland and Virginia for the region's transportation conformity analysis. Since it takes significant time and resources to process the raw VIN data and develop it in a consistent on-road model ready format, would it be possible to use the already developed TPB regionally consistent 2016 VIN data (extrapolated to 2017) to meet the deadline for the base year emissions inventory submittal? Also, if the 2016 VIN data is used for the 2017 emissions inventory, would EPA require that the base year inventory for on-road emissions be recalculated and resubmitted using 2017 VIN data in the future when the region develops a redesignation request/maintenance plan or an attainment SIP (if the region is redesignated as a moderate nonattainment area)?

*EPA Response – None yet*

4. Due to the complexities of developing the inputs for the 2017 NEI and the potential for EPA to move back various dates for 2017 NEI data availability, VDEQ, MDE, DOEE, and MWAQC staff do not expect to have a draft base year inventory ready for

preliminary review by EPA until January or February 2020. Is this timeframe acceptable to EPA? Also, how long does EPA expect would be needed for the preliminary review? The state agencies and MWAQC staff request that any comments EPA develops during the preliminary review be supplied in writing (email is acceptable) to facilitate response and edits.

*EPA Response – EPA staff inquired whether the Washington region should consider extending the pre-hearing document submittal schedule to include the final non-point NEI 2017 emissions inventories to account for the delay in the publication of the final version of the NEI 2017 non-point source emissions. [Question #4 above mentions January/February 2020 as the submittal date for the pre-hearing version of the base year document. The NEI 2017 final point and draft non-point source emissions inventories will be ready on November 1, 2019. The NEI final non-point source emissions inventories will be ready on April 30, 2020. Emissions inventories and/or input data submitted as part of the NEI 2017 effort will be used for the base year submittal.]*

*MWAQC-TAC Decision (April 9) – Virginia ok with draft non-point source emission for the pre-hearing version of the document. District and Maryland needed to consult with their emissions Inventory staff before conforming the use of draft non-point emissions.*

*Emissions Inventory Sub-Committee – Needs to decide on the use of the draft non-point source emissions for the pre-hearing version of the document. MWAQC staff recommends the use of draft data to stay on the schedule (See Base Year schedule).*

5. Other pertinent information and requirements – Please let us know about any other information or requirements that are not mentioned above.