

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues April 14 Meeting**

**Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the April 14 meeting are summarized below.**

Status of Ozone and PM SIPs

- EPA recently sent the PM SIPs submitted in April 2008 back to the states. States contact EPA to alert them that the states did not want the SIPs returned. The PM SIPs are being resent to EPA.

EPA Review of Ozone NAAQS

- EPA announced that it will review the recently promulgated 8-hour ozone NAAQS. Within 180 days, EPA will notify the court of its plan of action. All current SIP planning efforts are focused on the 75 ppb NAAQS. EPA's action could affect this planning process.

EPA Endangerment and Cause/Contribute Finding for Greenhouse Gases

- EPA may intend to propose that emissions of greenhouse gases pose a risk to public health and welfare (Clean Air Act endangerment finding) and that emissions from mobile sources cause and contribute to climate change (cause or contribute finding). The endangerment finding would be the first step if EPA decides to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. Once the endangerment finding is finalized, EPA may also take action on the California waiver request (CAL LEV II).

Benefits of Energy Efficiency Programs in the National Capital Region

- COG staff collected energy efficiency savings data from local governments in the region as well as utility plans to meet the EmPower Maryland goals. NO<sub>x</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction benefits were estimated using a new emission benefit calculator developed by a COG consultant under a grant from the Department of Energy. Staff are working to collect additional energy efficiency savings data from other jurisdictions in the region. State emission inventory specialists will consider a straw proposal to include the benefits of energy efficiency programs in SIP baselines.

Ozone Season Forecasting

- The first forecast call will be held on April 30. Officials forecasts will begin May 1. Ozone forecasting will be made using the new 2008 ozone standard with code orange levels beginning at 76 ppb. PM forecasting will be based on the 2006 24-hour standard with code orange levels beginning at 35.5 ug/m<sup>3</sup>. Individuals can sign up for the regional air alert system on the Clean Air Partners website.

Diesel Funding

- The recent stimulus package contains significant new grant funding for diesel emission reduction projects. EPA issued request for applications in March. Proposals are due April 28. COG is bundling a variety of local projects. Awards will be made in May. Projects must be completed by September 2010.

Upcoming Meetings:

Energy Advisory Committee April 16

AQPAC April 20

TPB April 15

Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board April 24

MWAQC May 27