

## **Policy Summary - MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (September 10, 2013)**

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the September 10 meeting of the MWAQC-TAC are summarized below.

### **2013 Ozone Season Summary**

Staff briefed the committee on the current ozone season data. There have been only four exceedances (code orange) of the 2008 ozone standard thus far in this season. The most current ozone design value (parameter to evaluate attainment status of an area) based on the data for the period 2010-2012 is 87 ppb, which is above the current ozone standard (75 ppb) published in 2008 as well as the previous 1997 standard (84 ppb). The region has to attain the current standard by December 31, 2015. There has not been any exceedance for the current fine particle standard (35 ug/m<sup>3</sup>). Both annual and daily design values for fine particles are below the annual standard and the daily standard respectively.

### **Base Year for 2008 Ozone Standard SIP**

The Washington region is currently designated as a “Marginal” ozone nonattainment area. As part of the requirements for the marginal nonattainment area, the region needs to submit a comprehensive base year emissions inventory to EPA by July 2014. Also, the region would need to submit a Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) plan in case it does not meet the current ozone standard by December 2015 and as a result gets reclassified as (or bumped-up to) a “Moderate” ozone nonattainment area. As part of an agreement in the fine particle maintenance plan, states decided to develop a RFP plan in anticipation of the reclassification. As part of the RFP plan, the region needs to develop a comprehensive base year emission inventory. Therefore, a base year needs to be selected for the above two purposes. The committee discussed in details the various aspects of selecting different milestone years for the base year. Specific milestone years 2007, 2008, and 2011 were looked at from the perspective of the availability of emissions inventories, additional work needed to supplement these inventories, and the potential to meet 15% emissions reduction (between base year and six years from the base year) to meet the RFP requirements. The committee decided to explore the milestone years 2011 and 2017 further for the base year and the 15% RFP milestone year respectively.

### **Maryland Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan**

MDE staff presented a detailed greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan for Maryland, which was published recently. The plan aims to achieve 25% reduction by 2020 from multiple sectors while creating jobs. Top ten strategies and programs have been identified to provide majority of the emission reduction to meet the above goal. These are Maryland renewable energy portfolio standard, EmPOWER Maryland (Act to lower electricity consumption), Zero Waste (minimize solid waste), Maryland Clean Cars, Regional greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), Building Codes (sets minimum energy efficiency requirements), public transportation initiatives, Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards, managing forests to capture carbon, and planting forests in Maryland.