MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee 1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues December 9, 2005

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the December 9 TAC meeting are summarized below.

SIP Planning

 A revised SIP planning schedule was provided. The draft SIP is expected to be delivered to MWAQC in July 2006. Public hearings would then be held in July/August 2006. The SIP would then be approved in September 2006 for submittal to the IAQC. The SIP is due in June 2007. After the SIP is submitted, EPA will have 60 days to complete the adequacy determination for the mobile budgets for use in conformity.

PM2.5 Conformity

• A draft MWAQC comment letter on the recent PM2.5 conformity determination was approved with the following key points. The results are based on comparing the estimated emissions to the interim 2002 Emissions Test. The difference created by this fact is temporary given that new budgets are being developed as part of the SIP process. Commitments to emission reduction measures should be maintained.

Emission Inventory Update

- The TAC was briefed on new EPA requirements for emissions inventories.
- The region must submit the 2002 base year inventory for the SIP, including an annual inventory for ozone, by June 2006. The annual inventory must include all pollutants.
- The region must also prepare a Reasonable Further Progress inventory for 2008.

Control Scenarios for Attainment Modeling

- The TAC reviewed a draft control strategy template for use in handling future case attainment modeling runs. Four control strategy scenarios for future case model runs are being considered. Results are expected in January/February.
- The TAC was briefed on timeline for model rule development. There is a special meeting of the OTC Commissioners in February. Final model rules are expected in June 2006. After the model rules are developed, the states will develop regulations.
- Regulations must be in place by May 2009 to be creditable.

Subcommittee Structure

- The TAC was briefed on proposed changes to the TAC subcommittee structure.
- The Forecasting Subcommittee would become part of the Attainment Modeling Subcommittee. The subcommittee leads would be rotated on an annual basis similar to the rotation for the TAC Chair.
- Comments on the proposal should be sent to the TAC chair. The proposal will be discussed again in January.

Stakeholder Nomination Process

 Stakeholder nominations are needed for 2006. Applications are due to Joan Rohlfs by January 6, 2006.

State and Local Air Agency Report

- Bill Skrabak reported that with regard to the situation at the Potomac River Power Plant, Mirant has begun testing TRONA injections to control SO₂ emissions. The City of Alexandria made a land use decision that the operation at the site is a nonconforming use. Mirant has filed suit, and Alexandria expects to present arguments in court in January.
- Doris McLeod reported that the Air Pollution Control Board has recently approved the proposed CAIR rules. The CAMR proposal was delayed pending additional analysis.
- Tad Aburn reported that the Maryland Clean Power Rule will be released in early January with the rule being formally adopted in the spring/summer of 2006.