

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues February 17, 2009 Meeting**

**Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the February 17 meeting are summarized below.**

Area Designations for the 2006 PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24-hour NAAQS

- Maryland Department of the Environment's review of 2008 air quality monitoring data indicates that the Baltimore region has attained the 2006 daily fine particle standard. If EPA agrees, this could resolve the issues related to EPA's proposal to include Montgomery and Prince George's counties in the Baltimore nonattainment area.

Designations for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS

- The states have recently received guidance from EPA regarding the designation process for the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. Recommendations from the states are due to EPA by March 2009. EPA must make final designations by March 2010. States are in the process of deciding on area recommendations and will present draft recommendations to MWAQC in February.

Initiatives to Reduce Emissions from Motor Vehicles

- Several northeastern and mid-Atlantic states, including Maryland, have agreed to develop a new low carbon fuel standard. The proposed program will be developed in 2009.

Initiatives to Reduce Emissions from Distributed Electricity Generation

- Maryland has proposed a rule addressing emissions from distributed electricity generation units. Owners must limit operation of their equipment to less than 10 hours during the ozone season or become permitted and meet performance standards for the units.

Revised AQI for Fine Particles

- EPA has proposed a revised Air Quality Index (AQI) for fine particles to correspond to the new lower 2006 NAAQS. Under the revised AQI, code orange would begin at 35.5 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and would represent an exceedance.

Local Government Voluntary Initiatives Annual Reporting

- Staff are collecting annual reports of progress in implementing local voluntary commitments, including energy efficiency, green power purchases, and tree canopy programs.

Virginia Opacity Rule

- The Virginia Air Pollution Control Board is not scheduled to take action on the MWAQC request to lower the opacity standard until April 2009. The MWAQC chair has sent a letter to Governor Kaine requesting action on the petition.

Upcoming Meetings

Energy Advisory Committee February 19

AQPAC February 23

MWAQC February 25

CCSC February 25