

# Status Report on Local-State Dialogue on MWAQC Planning Process

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Presented to  
COG Board of Directors  
July 14, 2004

# Background in Brief...

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- February, 2004 – Governors and Mayor send letter to MWAQC initiating dialogue to reexamine regional air quality planning process for the Washington region.
  - State Environmental and Transportation secretaries directed to find ways to improve the planning process for new air quality standards just adopted by EPA.

# Dialogue since February Letter

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- March 3 – MWAQC agrees to dialogue
- April 5 – Secretaries propose meeting, outline principles and goals and intent to re-certify MWAQC
- April 21 – MWAQC Leadership – State Secretaries meet, states present proposal to make MWAQC advisory body to states
  - COG General Counsel & Env. Director charged to negotiate with state staff and seek proposal that retains MWAQC as local-state decision body consistent with Sec. 174 of Clean Air Act while recognizing state concerns

# Staff Negotiations – May/June

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- Intensive discussions (6 2-hour conference calls) between COG staff and Virginia transportation and air staff on a wide range of issues and options for MWAQC process changes
- Periodic status reports provided by Virginia for Maryland and DC staffs
- Periodic status reports by COG staff to MWAQC Leadership
- Staff agreement on joint proposal for Secretaries/Leadership consideration in mid-June

# MWAQC Proposal

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- State Secretaries Steering Committee established
  - Staffed by state and COG staff
- Voting Parity on MWAQC
- MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee leadership and membership changes
- Funding Equity for Planning Process
  - COG continues to staff process
- Video-teleconferencing
- Transported air pollution and jurisdictional equity analyzed with assistance of COG staff
- Modifications implemented through MWAQC bylaws

# June Meetings

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- June 18<sup>th</sup> - MWAQC Leadership and State Secretaries meet to discuss State/COG staff proposal
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – Governors and Mayor meet and receive report from Secretaries
  - Agree to continue dialogue with MWAQC – complete by October, 2004
  - Agree that concurrence of all 6 Secretaries required for substantial modification to staff proposal
  - State-local discussions planned
- June 25<sup>th</sup> – MWAQC Leadership develops 2 track process
  - COG and state staff continue to develop details of proposal
  - MWAQC process discussion at COG Board retreat

# Next Steps

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- COG Board retreat
- July 28<sup>th</sup> MWAQC meeting
- Continued staff negotiations
- Goal – agreement by October, 2004 that will be incorporated into MWAQC Bylaws revisions