

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues July 9, 2007**

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

PM<sub>2.5</sub> Redesignation Request

- Monitoring data for 2003-2005 and 2004-2006 show that the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Design Value is below the 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup> NAAQS (1997). The region can submit a redesignation request and a maintenance plan instead of an attainment SIP. A special meeting of the TAC will be held to consider the pros and cons of both options and to reach a decision on which option to pursue.

PM Precursors Significance Determinations

- Significance findings for PM precursors for SIP planning and transportation conformity were discussed. In addition to direct PM and the precursor NO<sub>x</sub>, other potential precursors to control include SO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia, and VOCs.
- For SIP Planning, PM direct, NO<sub>x</sub>, and SO<sub>2</sub> will be considered significant.
- For mobile-source conformity, only PM direct and NO<sub>x</sub> are will be considered significant. Mobile source emission budgets will need to be established.
- Per EPA requirements, base year emission inventories will be developed for PM direct and all precursors.
- SIP documentation for the significance determinations is being developed.

Proposals for New Ozone NAAQS

- EPA is proposing to take action on the NAAQS for ozone. EPA is seeking comment on possible new 8-hour standards, ranging from 70-75 ppb, to as low as 60 ppb, or retention of the current standard at 85 ppb. EPA will issue the final standards by March 12, 2008.
- Designations would be effective in 2010 and SIPS will be due in 2013.

COG Climate Change Initiative

- The COG Climate Change Steering Committee and the greenhouse gas emission workgroup met in June.
- TPB staff presented analyses of future emissions from motor vehicles, including the potential reductions from CAL LEV II and CAFE standards.
- The CCSC heard a report on Congressional and other federal initiatives to address climate change. Members expressed interest in advocating certain positions such as the need for federal actions on CAFE standards.
- The greenhouse gas emission workgroup reviewed information on methods being used by local member governments to develop greenhouse gas inventories.

Ozone Season Summary

- There have been five ozone exceedance days, on May 26, 30, and 31; and on June 18 and 19.
- The peak 8-hour ozone concentration was 100 ppb at Southern Maryland on June 18.
- The maximum 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration was 44 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on June 19.

State and Local Air Agency Update

- Maryland is working to finalize the OTC VOC rules. MDE staff are also working on a variety of climate change initiatives including Maryland's Climate Change Commission and an implementing regulation for RGGI.
- The District is working on CAIR allocations, the OTC Phase II rules, and on regional haze.
- Virginia is working on CAIR regulatory issues, power plant permitting, and the OTC Phase II rules.

Upcoming Events

- TAC Conference Call. July 16.
- Emission Inventory Subcommittee. July 16
- AQPAC. July 16.
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory Workgroup. July 19.
- MWAQC. July 25.