

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues June 10, 2008

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the June 10 meeting are summarized below.

Ozone Season Summary

- There have been 2 code orange days, on June 5 and 6. One monitor exceeded on each day. There have been 10 code yellow days). PM concentrations on June 6 and 7 were close to 35 ug/m³.

Virginia Opacity Standard

- The TAC approved for recommendation to MWAQC a draft comment letter to the Virginia State Air Board requesting regulatory action to lower the opacity standard in Virginia from 20% to 10%.

Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

- The CCSC is in the process of completing a draft report. The COG Board is scheduled to receive the draft report in July and will be a topic of discussion during the July COG Board retreat. There will be a 60-day public comment period.

EPA PM NSR Rule

- EPA published a final rule on PM_{2.5} NSR Implementation on May 16. The effective date of the regulation is July 15, 2008. The significant emission rate for PM direct is 10 tpy. The significant emission rates for NO_x, SO₂, and VOC is 40 tpy. The major source threshold in nonattainment areas is 100 tpy. EPA adopted a transitional policy for condensibles, and must take action by January 1, 2011. During the transitional period condensibles do not need to be included in NSR permits. Test methods are being validated to support an Agency position on condensibles. It is possible that EPA will complete the rulemaking in early 2010.

PM Implementation Workgroup

- The PM_{2.5} Implementation Workgroup held its second meeting on took place on May 21, 2008. The next meeting will be held in July. Before the next meeting, DEQ staff will develop a straw-proposal for Virginia's PM implementation guidance. Interested persons may access more information, including meeting agendas and summaries, at the following FTP site:
<ftp://ftp.deq.state.va.us/pub/air/pm25workgroup/>

Mirant Fly Ash Disposal

- Maryland has filed suit against Mirant for fly ash disposal issues in Charles County. The disposal site handles fly ash from the Morgantown power plant. Leachate from the ash landfill may be contaminating a local swamp.

Other Business

- The Virginia state air agency asked that the next TAC agenda include an item on a PM_{2.5} redesignation request.

State and Local Air Agency Update

- In Virginia, the next Air Board meeting will be held on June 24/25 to handle the Wise County power plant proposal. The PM infrastructure SIP was just completed and will be sent to EPA. The regional haze SIP is being prepared. There will be a possible regulatory update to Virginia's I/M rule.
- Maryland is working to develop a distributed generation rule. The RGGI rule is being modified to account for voluntary renewables. Maryland's opacity rule is being revised to clarify the requirements for continuous opacity monitors. PM SIPs were completed and submitted for Baltimore and Washington County. A regional haze SIP will be prepared this summer. The final climate report will be available in July.

Upcoming Events

- AQPAC. June 16.
- TPB. June 18.
- CCSC. June 25.