

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues September 14, 2010 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the September 14 meeting are summarized below.

1. Ozone Season Summary

As of September 21, there have been 33 ozone exceedance days, including three code red days. The pollution episode in early July involved stagnant conditions, extremely high temperatures, and recirculation of pollution. The highest levels were on July 7 at the McMillan monitor (8-hour ozone at 100 ppb), with a total of 13 monitors exceeding that day. A weeklong episode occurred from August 28th to September 3rd and included one code red day, August 30th. This episode involved a longstanding high pressure system that eliminated clouds and allowed for recirculation of pollution.

2. EPA Transport Rule

EPA has proposed a rulemaking (the Transport Rule) to resolve issues with the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) that was remanded by the courts to EPA for reconsideration. The rule will set state level budgets and will limit interstate trading of allowances. TAC prepared a draft comment letter for action by MWAQC in September.

3. MOVES Schedule

The MOVES Task Force has mostly completed the inputs required to run the model. The task force is currently working to decide the key issue of emissions development methodology using the MOVES model recently released by EPA. In the next few months, the task force is expected to complete a preliminary analysis on conformity runs using MOVES and the activity data from the new CLRP and TIP, which will give the group a better understanding of whether there may be issues with demonstrating conformity once the grace period ends in March 2012. If issues related to demonstrating conformity after the grace period are identified, it will be important to determine the best course of action to resolve in a timely manner.

4. OTC Model Rule Development

On September 16, the OTC will be holding stakeholder meetings to discuss new proposed model rules under development. The model rules focus on stationary generators, high electricity demand days, lightering controls, nonroad idling regulations, and low solvent degreasers.

5. Climate and Energy Progress Reporting

Staff convened meetings of the Energy Managers in the region to develop a proposal for an annual data request to area utilities for data needed to help the region track progress in meeting its energy and climate goals. COG staff worked with representatives from area utilities to formalize the request. Utilities are in the process of developing the data response for 2009 and intend to provide the reports in the first quarter of each year moving forward. Staff have also developed a new outline for the format of the progress report presentation due to CEEPC in the second quarter of 2011.

6. COG Energy Outreach Campaign

COG has launched a new energy outreach campaign. The campaign includes: a website - with energy saving tips and access to a platform that allows people who sign up to monitor their energy use online in connection with their utility accounts; a reward program offered by sponsors based on how much energy participants save; and a friendly competition between individuals and communities for the most energy savings. Three communities have been selected to participate in the pilot phase from October 2010 to March 2011: Brookland, DC, Greenbelt, MD and the Cascades neighborhood in Loudoun County, VA. The goal is to recruit at least 50 participants in each community. Free energy conservation kits will be available for the first 50 participants that sign up and claim a kit in each neighborhood. The website is www.wecansaveenergy.org.

7. Smart Growth and Adaptation to Climate Change

In the coming months, COG will get technical assistance from EPA and consultants to work on smart growth and adaptation to climate change in the Washington region. The project includes: conducting a risk assessment study to evaluate the potential impacts of climate on the region, and providing recommendations to better adapt to climate change at the local and regional level. A strong focus will be to identify synergies between the smart growth principles, and regional capacity to adapt to climate change. This project was selected by EPA in August as part as their Smart Growth Implementation Program.

Upcoming Events

CEEPC September 22, MWAQC September 22, ICLEI Annual Meeting September 24-26, EPA Portfolio Manager Training September 29.