

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues February 9, 2010 Conference Call

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the February 9 conference call are summarized below.

1. NO₂ NAAQS

On January 22, 2010, EPA finalized a proposal to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). EPA selected the upper end of the proposed range of 100 parts per billion for the 1-hour standard. The rule also requires establishment of new roadside monitoring requirements. Attainment designations will likely be unclassifiable until the region is able to install and operate a new network of monitors which is not expected to occur until 2016/2017. New mobile budgets will not be required until after a nonattainment designation.

2. Comments on Proposed New Ozone Standard

EPA recently held public hearings on its proposed new ozone NAAQS. Comments heard included criticism of the scientific basis for the proposal as well as support for a tighter new standard to protect public health. The public comment period ends on March 22, 2010.

3. Proposed New National Measures to Meet Tighter Air Quality Standards

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) is urging EPA to adopt new national regulations based on successful local and regional strategies adopted in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast to reduce emissions from a larger region across multiple sectors. The main focus is on electric power plants, vehicle emission standards, and new fuel standards. In addition to these top priorities, other national initiatives include controlling large industrial/commercial boilers, consumer and commercial products, cement kilns, distributed generation units, and other small industrial sources such as asphalt plants, glass manufacturing, auto repair and refinishing, and solvent cleaning operations.

4. MOVES Transition Team and Conformity

EPA has released its final version of MOVES2010 (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator model). Over the next 2 years, the regional process to estimate mobile emissions and handle transportation conformity must transition away from the use of MOBILE6.2 to MOVES2010. There will be a 2-year grace period for transportation conformity. The next round of State Implementation Plans (SIPS) must use emission inventory estimates using MOVES2010. There is an interagency workgroup meeting monthly to develop the process, approach, and data inputs that will be needed to ensure a successful transition.

5. 2009-2012 Climate Action Workplan

The Climate Energy Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) adopted a 2010-2012 Climate and Energy Action Workplan on January 27.

6. TAC Stakeholder Appointments for 2010

The TAC Chair and the MWAQC Executive Committee have approved four stakeholder members for 2010, including Walt Seedlock, Jon Kinsman, Ana Prados, and Andrew Gayne.