

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues March 10, 2009 Meeting

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

Status of SIP Commitments

- States reviewed the status of commitments to implement certain regulatory programs included in the ozone and fine particle SIPs. Maryland has completed its CAIR regulation and the OTC VOC rules. Maryland did pass an emergency regulation to provide a temporary exemption from the industrial adhesives and sealants rule for rubber roofing products. Maryland is also revising its RACT rules for consistency and is working to adopt a non-EGU CAIR rule. The District is in the process of adopting its CAIR and OTC VOC rules. Virginia has adopted its CAIR rule, but will not be able to adopt certain OTC VOC rules (Consumer Products Phase II, Portable Fuel Containers Phase II, and Industrial Adhesives and Sealants) before the May 1, 2009 start of the ozone season.

Local Government Voluntary Initiatives Annual Reporting

- Staff have collected annual reports of progress in implementing local voluntary commitments, including energy efficiency, green power purchases, and tree canopy programs. Overall, the region is on track in meeting its commitments in the voluntary bundle. One outstanding item is for states to retire NO_x allowances commensurate with the emission reduction credits for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Air Quality Monitoring in Fairfax County

- The proposed Fairfax County budget includes elimination of funding for the Fairfax County operated air quality monitors. A public hearing on the proposal will be held on March 30, 31, and April 1. The monitors are used to track concentrations of ozone and fine particles.

Court Remand of 2006 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS

- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia remanded the 2006 annual fine particle standard back to EPA. The court found that EPA did not adequately explain why the standard of 15 ug/m³ is sufficiently protective of public health with an adequate margin of safety.

Exceptional Events Submission

- Virginia DEQ has submitted an exceptional events package to EPA asserting that several days of high pollution levels recorded at monitors throughout Virginia were impacted by large forest fires in North Carolina and the Great Dismal Swamp. If approved, the action will affect Design Value concentration calculations in Loudoun County.

Diesel Funding

- The recent stimulus package contains significant new grant funding for diesel emission reduction projects. EPA will issue the request for applications in March. Proposals will be due in April. Awards will be made in May. Projects must be completed by September 2010.

Upcoming Meetings:

Intergovernmental Green Building Group March 12
Clean Cities Stimulus Funding Briefing March 12
AQPAC March 16
MWAQC March 25
CCSC March 27