

FINE PARTICLES MAINTENANCE PLAN UPDATE

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Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
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Agenda Item 5



Background

- EPA set standards for fine particles (PM2.5) in 1997 at
 - 15.0 ug/m³ (annual primary & secondary) – changed primary standard to 12.0 ug/m³ (2012); retained secondary standard at 15.0 ug/m³
 - 65 ug/m³ (24 hour average pr. & sec.) – changed both to 35 ug/m³ (2006)
- EPA designated the Washington, DC-MD-VA region as “nonattainment” for the annual PM2.5 standard in April 2005.
- Data for the Washington region started showing compliance with the standard in 2005.
- Washington region submitted a request to redesignate the region to attainment and a demonstration to maintain the compliance with standard in 2013 (PM2.5 Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan).
- The above maintenance plan contained motor vehicle emissions budgets (also called “mobile budgets”) for PM2.5 and NOx developed using EPA’s MOVES2010a model.



Background

- States committed in the plan to submit an updated maintenance plan with revised mobile budgets using EPA's latest model.
- Subsequently, Washington region developed an updated plan with revised mobile budgets using EPA's MOVES2014 model.
- MWAQC approved the updated plan for public comments on May 25, 2016.
- State Transportation and Environment agencies met on July 21, 2016 to discuss language concerning mobile budgets.
- MWAQC was scheduled for the final approval on July 27, 2016, but the process got postponed due to a proposed change in the language concerning mobile budgets in the plan.
- MWAQC decided to allow time for the change to be finalized and set September 28, 2016 as the date for the approval of the plan for public comments as the changed plan was required to go through the public comment process again.
- While the change in the language was being finalized, EPA revoked the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard on August 24, 2016, which becomes effective on October 24, 2016.

Implications of Revocation of 1997 PM2.5 Annual Primary Standard

- Second maintenance plan no longer required
 - The Washington region has an approved maintenance plan for the 1997 PM2.5 primary annual standard. The region will not be required to submit a second maintenance plan now that the standard has been revoked. However, it will be required to implement the approved plan and the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program.
- Revision in approved maintenance plan allowed only if the revision meets the requirements of the CAA section 110(l) and, if applicable, CAA section 193.
 - The Section 110(l) would not allow revision of the plan if it interferes with any applicable requirement concerning attainment and reasonable further progress. The Section 193 prevents modification of any control measure, which was in place before November 15, 1990 unless the modification insures equivalent or greater emission reductions.

Implications of Revocation of 1997 PM2.5 Annual Primary Standard

- Transportation conformity no longer required for PM2.5
 - Washington region is in attainment of all PM2.5 standards (primary & secondary).
 - 1997 PM2.5 annual & daily standards, 2012 PM2.5 annual standard & 2006 daily standard.
 - EPA did not revoke the 1997 annual PM2.5 secondary standard, but CAA does not require an attainment area for the secondary standard to make transportation conformity determinations.
 - Therefore, Washington region no longer required to make metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or transportation conformity determinations for any PM2.5 standard starting October 24, 2016.
- Updated PM2.5 maintenance plan no longer necessary
 - Since the Washington region is no longer required to demonstrate transportation conformity for the PM2.5 standard, the updated PM2.5 maintenance plan will no longer be necessary for submission as the main reason for the plan update was to develop revised motor vehicle emissions budgets for PM2.5 using the latest MOVES2014a model.



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