

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues December 1 Conference Call

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the December 1 conference call are summarized below.

1. EPA Proposed Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Standard

- On November 16, 2009, EPA proposed to strengthen and therefore revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) to a level of between 50 and 100 parts per billion (ppb) measured over 1-hour. The existing primary standards were 140 ppb measured over 24-hours, and 30 ppb measured over an entire year. The Agency also is taking comment on alternative levels for the 1-hour standard up to 150 ppb. EPA is proposing to revoke both the current primary SO₂ standards.
- A notice was published on December 8, 2009 in the federal register to this effect. The public comment period ends February 8, 2010.

2. Greater Washington 2050 Report Recommendations

- Recommendations of the GW 2050 report regarding the air quality in the Washington region were discussed. Specifically, the parameter for measuring progress towards the air quality was discussed in detail and improvements in the language related to that in the report were suggested by a number of members.

3. Transition to MOVES Model

- EPA published a new motor vehicle emissions estimation model called MOVES (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator) to replace the current Mobile6.2 model. The draft 2009 version of MOVES was published in April 2009 and the final version is expected to be out by the year end or early next year.
- An interagency task force formed to address the transition to the new model is currently working to develop various methodologies and inputs to the new model, which will be used for developing emissions inventories and mobile budgets for SIP and Conformity purposes. COG DEP and DTP staff are coordinating the efforts in this regard.

4. Low Carbon Fuel Standard

- Governors of eleven northeastern and mid-atlantic states are expected to sign a MOU by December 2009 to develop a regional low carbon fuel standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. Under the proposal currently being discussed, this standard would require a 10% reduction in the carbon intensity of transportation fuels used in these states. The base year is still being discussed.
- A preliminary assessment of the merits of the standard has been completed and further analyses are being pursued to allow states to come up with their final recommendations by early 2011 related to compliance goals, parities to be regulated, mechanisms for creating and trading credits for the sale of low carbon fuels, and monitoring, compliance and enforcement mechanisms.

5. Report on Virginia Opacity Rule Revision

- State Air Pollution Control Board of Virginia did not agree to revise the Opacity standard from the existing 20% to 10% proposed by MWAQC.

6. Report on the OTC Fall Meeting

- COG staff presented a number of issues discussed in the OTC meeting held in November 2009. Specifically, timelines for developing a revised SIP for the new 2008 standard, CAIR rule, new soon-to-be proposed ozone standard, etc. were discussed.

7. TAC Stakeholder Appointments

- COG staff discussed the process for TAC and AQPAC stakeholder appointments for 2010.