

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues June 15 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the June 15 meeting are summarized below.

1. National Initiatives to Address Greenhouse Gases

- EPA proposed phase 2 of a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS-2). RFS-2 increases the mandate for renewable fuel from 10 to 36 billion gallons by 2022. Fuel eligibility criteria will be established and will be based on lifecycle analysis showing that the fuel will provide a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to convention petroleum fuel. OTC and NACAA are expressing concern about the air quality impact of increased use of biofuels. The public comment period ends July 27.
- The federal government announced a new joint rulemaking between EPA and DOT. The rule will harmonize EPA vehicle emission standards for greenhouse gases (250 grams/mile) with DOT fuel efficiency standards (35 mpg by 2016).

2. Transition to MOVES Model

- EPA's new MOVES (Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator) model is designed to estimate both on-road & non-road emissions. The draft 2009 version of MOVES cannot yet be used for SIPs and conformity. EPA is seeking feedback/input on the draft model.
- An interagency task force is being formed to address the transition to the new model. COG DEP and DTP staff are coordinating to identify issues with any of the new model inputs that may be required.

3. Report on the Recent OTC/LADCO Meeting

- Virginia DEQ presented results of modeling performed by LADCO states. The modeling is not SIP quality and there may be some overestimation of local power plant emissions. However, the results suggest that it is important to control local sources of NO_x, particularly from the mobile sector. LADCO also suggests that local air pollution is mainly caused by emissions from in-state and neighboring states. OTC is currently reviewing the modeling study.

4. Draft Conformity Results

- TPB has released for public comment its draft conformity analysis for the 2009 CLRP and 2010-2015 TIP. The analysis shows that emissions are below the required and proposed mobile budgets for all analysis years. Compared to last year, 2010 emissions increased. Factors affecting the changes in 2010 emissions estimate include reductions in projected VMT and an increase in the emission rate due to an older vehicle fleet. Analysis of 2008 vehicle registration data indicate that the average vehicle age in the fleet has increased compared to that documented using 2005 vehicle registration data. A draft MWAQC comment letter was approved.

5. Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- Due to higher prices for local Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the regional wind energy purchase program is moving toward purchase of out-of-region RECs due to significant cost savings. It is not clear if it will be possible to include the same quantity of local wind energy purchases for the next round of SIPs expected in 2013.

6. Technical Committee for the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

- Members are currently being appointed for COG's new Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC). The first meeting may be held in late July. TAC members suggested that a formal technical committee is not necessary. The CEEPC could rely on the existing technical committees when it needs specific input and support.

Upcoming Meetings:

AQPAC June 15

TPB June 17

Energy Advisory Committee June 18

MWAQC June 24