VDOT's Project-Level Air Quality Resource Document and Online Data Repository

Draft Version
PROJECT-LEVEL AIR QUALITY RESOURCE DOCUMENT

Prepared for:
VDOT Environmental Division

TPB Technical Committee Meeting

March 4, 2016

Presentation Agenda

Objectives of Resource Document

Consultation

Contents of Resource Document

Online Data Repository

Future Updates

Objectives

Focus of Resource Document

Project-Level
Air Quality Modeling
(**Conformity and NEPA**)

Relevant Pollutants:
CO, MSATS, PM$_{2.5}$

- ❑ To streamline and otherwise facilitate project-level air quality analyses prepared by and/or on behalf of VDOT

- ❑ Resource for modelers to ensure regulatory requirements are consistently achieved

- ❑ Online data repository to support modeling

Consultation

☐ Inter-Agency Consultation for Conformity (IACC) conducted on December 14th, 2015

VDOT, MWCOG, DEQ, LPOs, FHWA, FTA, EPA Region III, DRPT

☐ Addressed Federal, State & TPB consultation requirements

models, methods, and assumptions

☐ Agreed on PM$_{2.5}$ project assessment criteria that limit consultation to those projects that may be of air quality concern

TPB Consultation Procedures

"Should such project level analysis be required, it will be the responsibility of the appropriate state and/or local air agency in each jurisdiction to notify implementing agencies and other project sponsors of such analytical and subsequent procedural/consultation requirements"

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Streamlining Future Consultation

❑ The general requirement for interagency consultation can be satisfied **without consulting separately on each and every specific decision that arises**.

❑ The Resource Document **develops procedures that will apply for any hot-spot analysis.** Only significant departures from procedures would be discussed by involved agencies.

Resource Document Contents

Section 1.2-1.3	Standard Text for Project-Level Documentation
Section 2.1-2.12	General Analysis Protocols
Section 3.1	Online Data Repository
Section 3.2	Project Assessment Methods and Criteria
Section 3.3	CO Hot-Spot Analysis Resources
Section 3.4	$PM_{2.5}$ Hot-Spot Analysis Resources
Appendix A-L	Resource Appendices

PM$_{2.5}$ Assessment Criteria

Assessment Level	Who Makes Decision?
LEVEL 1 Is the project exempt?	VDOT
LEVEL 2 Is the project clearly <u>not</u> of AQ concern?	VDOT **(Using ICG-Reviewed Resource Document)**
LEVEL 3 For projects that cannot be excluded in Level 1 or 2, is the project of AQ concern?	VDOT (Project-Specific Consultation)

Determination if Project is of "Air Quality Concern"

Resource Document Appendices

A Interagency Consultation	**B** References and Resources
C Conformity Exemption Tables	**D** Traffic Data Needs for Assessments and Analyses
E Input Data Sources for MOVES Modeling	**F** Local MOVES Model Data
G Default Dispersion Model Parameters	**H** Default Background Concentrations
I Default Meteorological Data	**J** Sample Model Input Files
K Example Mitigation Measures	**L** Project Assessment Methods and criteria

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Online Data Repository

VDOT Environmental Website:

http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/pr-environmental.asp
http://outsidevdot.cov.virginia.gov

Registration Required

❑ Houses data needed to support emissions and dispersion modeling

- **MOVES / CAL3QHC / CAL3QHCR / AERMOD**

❑ Data sources include:

- **MWCOG for conformity files (consistency with regional analyses)**
- **DEQ for SIP and NEI files**

❑ Final selection or specification of data rests with VDOT

Future Updates

Regional Conformity Files	VDOT HPMS Data	Background Concentrations
Meteorological Data	Removal of CALINE Models	References and Resources

❑ Inter-agency consultation for conformity purposes is **typically <u>not</u> conducted for updates to the data and files if the updates simply reflect recent data or new assumptions**, but follow procedures consistent with applicable regulations and guidance.

Conclusions

❑ How does the Resource Document & Online Data Repository benefit VDOT?

  ➢ **Limits unnecessary consultation**
  ➢ **Ensures consistent analyses meeting federal requirements**
  ➢ **Reduces time and costs for analyses**

❑ Can serve as a template for both D.C. and Maryland

  ➢ **Assemble local data from each region**
  ➢ **Ensures consistency for all jurisdictions (D.C., MD, VA)**
  ➢ **Applicable to both NEPA and Conformity**

Questions?