

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues January 12, 2008 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the January 12 meeting are summarized below.

Area Designations for the 2006 PM_{2.5} 24-hour NAAQS

- EPA attended the TAC meeting to discuss the December 5 EPA proposal to include Montgomery and Prince George's County in the Baltimore Nonattainment Area for the 2006 PM_{2.5} 24-hour NAAQS.
- If complicating issues arise with the Baltimore SIP or transportation conformity in Baltimore, there could be transportation conformity implications for TPB. If the proposal is finalized, the DC and Baltimore MPOs, and MDE, will need to coordinate closely to demonstrate conformity and develop new subregional motor vehicle emission budgets.
- Maryland is in the QAQC process for the 2008 air quality monitoring data. Once the data are finalized, it is possible that they will show that the PM_{2.5} Design Value for Baltimore is now in compliance with the 2006 daily PM_{2.5} NAAQS.
- Concerns were expressed by members and staff about EPA's technical analysis supporting the proposal. Issues were raised about the emission inventory data, VMT growth data, and that EPA was arbitrary in its selection of counties to evaluate for significant contribution to the Baltimore nonattainment problem. The proposal also adds a cost burden to government with no new emission reductions.
- Staff is preparing a comment letter to include with comments submitted to EPA by Maryland. The comment letter may be prepared jointly with TPB and the COG Board.

Designations for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS

- The states have recently received guidance from EPA regarding the designation process for the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. Recommendations from the states are due to EPA by March 2009. EPA must make final designations by March 2010.

Stakeholders

- Walt Seedlock (MWAA), Candice Gay (DoD Regional Environmental Coordinators Office), and John Kinsman (EEI) have all reapplied for stakeholder positions for 2009. Flint Webb, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations, has decided to not reapply for a stakeholder position on the TAC. One new application was received from Ana Prados representing the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations. The final selection will be made by the TAC chair in coordination with MWAQC.

Upcoming Meetings

AQPAC January 26

MWAQC January 28

TPB January 28