

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues January 12, 2010 Conference Call

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

1. Ozone NAAQS and SIP Development Update

On January 6, 2010, EPA proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. EPA proposed to strengthen the 8-hour primary ozone standard to a level within the range of 0.060-0.070 parts per million. The proposal is based on scientific and technical information showing effects in healthy adults at 0.060 ppm. EPA will take public comment for 60 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register. EPA will propose the final ozone standard in August.

2. Proposed New SO₂ NAAQS

EPA proposed a new hourly standard for SO₂. 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. No comments were suggested by the committee.

3. MOVES Transition Team and Conformity

EPA released the final MOVES 2010 model on December 29, 2009. The policy and technical guidance were released at the same time. MPO's will have two years to do conformity from the time of the MOVES publication in the Federal Register.

4. 2009-2012 Climate Action Workplan

The Climate Energy Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) is finalizing a 2010 Climate Action Workplan. The workplan includes performance measures for recommended actions. The CEEPC hopes to finalize its workplan at its meeting on January 27.

5. Annual Survey of Local Voluntary Programs

The SIP contains local government voluntary (nonregulatory) programs to reduce ozone and fine particles. COG collects data on the programs every three years and provides the states and EPA with an evaluation report. The last report was completed in 2007. Staff will begin surveying local governments this month.

6. TAC Stakeholder Appointments for 2010

Three stakeholders have reapplied to continue their appointments, and a fourth stakeholder is being sought. The TAC Chair will appoint stakeholders with the approval of the MWAQC Executive Committee.