

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues October 9, 2007

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

PM2.5 SIP Schedule

- The current plan is for MWAQC TAC to receive a draft SIP in November and for MWAQC to approve a draft SIP for public comment in December. Staff are currently working to develop the draft SIP. Major outstanding items include the contingency plan. Local government voluntary initiatives will be included based on the recommendations of local jurisdictions. Commitment letters are needed by December 12.

PM2.5 Emission Inventory

- Draft emission inventories are complete for 2002 and 2009 for all on-road, non-road, point, and area sources. Results are being prepared for inclusion in the SIP and for contingency planning.

PM2.5 Attainment Modeling

- The OTB/OTW attainment modeling results indicate that the region will be in attainment of the PM2.5 annual standard by the 2009 deadline. A draft modeling protocol will be provided to EPA by October 31. The modeling protocol and results will be included in the draft SIP in November. No additional annual runs of the model are anticipated.

PM2.5 Control Measures

- Control measures to be included in the PM2.5 SIP include all of the OTB/OTW measures affecting PM2.5 direct and the precursors NO_x and SO₂. BOTW measures may be included in the SIP as supplemental measures. Local governments will make recommendations on which local voluntary programs to include in the SIP. Contingency measures will be identified to meet reduction targets calculated using the completed emission inventories. Additional guidance is needed from EPA on substitution of precursor reductions for meeting the contingency targets.

COG Climate Change Initiative

- The Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) met in September. The committee heard reports on federal legislation and may recommend action to the COG Board.
- A preliminary greenhouse gas emission inventory was reviewed by the CCSC in September. The results suggest that emissions are expected to increase through 2030. The inventory may be refined depending on the availability of regional activity data, particular for electricity and fuels consumption. Additional sources of emissions are also being evaluated and will be included in future projections. A draft inventory is due to the CCSC in November. There will be a special meeting of the CCSC on October 24 to review the inventory and discuss options for setting reduction targets.

Ozone Season Summary

- There have been fifteen ozone exceedance days this year. The peak 8-hour ozone concentration was 110 ppb at the PG Equestrian Center on August 4. Peak 24-hour PM2.5 was 46 µg/m³ on August 7.

State and Local Air Agency Update

- Maryland, Virginia, and the District are working on regional haze SIPs and the infrastructure SIPs. Various state climate initiatives are underway.

Upcoming Events

- AQPAC. October 15.
- Joint meeting of Energy Advisory Committee and Greenhouse Gas Emission Workgroup. October 11.
- Climate Registry Meeting. October 11.
- Maryland Climate Commission. October 17.
- Special Meeting of the Climate Change Steering Committee. October 24.
- MWAQC. October 24.
- Maryland Climate Mitigation Workgroup. October 26.