

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues
November 18, 2005

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the November 18 TAC meeting are summarized below.

SIP Planning

- EPA released Phase 2 of the 8-hour Ozone Implementation Rule. The second phase guidance answered several planning questions. The region must demonstrate Reasonable Further Progress and assess Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM). RACT and NSR also apply. Contingency measures will be required.
- The guidance does allow the region to request a bump-up. Such a voluntary bump-up would entail no new requirements but would extend the attainment date and would mean the region would be designated as serious nonattainment.
- The PM_{2.5} implementation guidance was also recently proposed. The attainment date for PM is 2010. The PM SIP is due in April 2008.

PM2.5 Conformity

- Draft results for PM2.5 conformity were released for public comment and interagency consultation at the November TPB meeting. The determination must be approved by April to avoid a lapse.
- The analysis demonstrates that emissions are below the 2002 interim emissions test for all milestone years.
- The conformity subcommittee will meet to discuss a draft comment letter.

Control Measures

- The control measures workgroup met recently to discuss criteria to assess RACM.
- Measures would be considered RACM only if they could advance the attainment date by one year, are technically and economically feasible, cause no adverse impacts, are not *de minimis*, and are enforceable.
- Each of the criteria will be assessed for each measure on the master list. A preliminary assessment of RACM will be circulated to the control measures workgroup next month.
- The MWAQC Control Measures workshop was held on October 26.

SCC Top Ten Sources

- Summary tables were prepared with emission source rankings to be used to identify important PM_{2.5} sources.
- The largest source of NO_x emissions are power plants and on-road vehicles.
- The largest source of VOC emissions are highway vehicles, gasoline distribution, and solvent use.
- The largest source of ammonia emissions are on-road vehicles. The largest source of SO₂ emissions are power plants.
- The largest source of PM_{2.5} direct emissions are open burning and stationary source fuel combustion.

State and Local Air Agency Report

- The Mirant Potomac River Power Plant has started testing additional SO₂ controls called TRONA and is still operating one unit in a cycling mode at reduced capacity.
- The DC Council approved the creation of a new Department of Environmental Protection in the District, which may be operational in about six months.
- The state of Maryland is proposing a new Clean Power Rule which will require significant reductions in emissions of both SO₂ and NO_x by 2010. The Clean Power Rule is the largest emissions reducing program ever adopted in Maryland.