

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues July 8, 2008**

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the July 8 meeting are summarized below.

What is Being Done to Meet the New Ozone Standard?

- Several new initiatives are being considered to meet the new ozone standard. Measures include ICI boiler controls, a Distributed Generation Rule, updates to AIMS coating regulations, expanding controls on power plants, and high electric demand day initiatives. OTC is working with LADCO and VISTAS to try to expand controls to a larger geographical area.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> Redesignation Request

- The MWAQC TAC agreed to begin the process of investigating a potential PM<sub>2.5</sub> redesignation request. Initial work will be to look into milestone years that may be acceptable to EPA for inclusion in a maintenance plan. Transportation agencies expressed some concern about the need to establish outyear (2020-2030) mobile budgets in a maintenance plan.

Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

- The CCSC draft Climate Change report will be considered by the COG Board on July 9. If approved, the COG Board may release the report for public comment, which would end on September 30.

Impact of Climate Change on Air Pollution

- Climate change may have an impact on air pollution locally. Based on available research, global warming trends could cause a 2-8 ppb increase in ozone concentrations, as a result of higher temperatures in the region. Because of warmer temperatures, it is also possible that there will be higher PM concentrations in the wintertime. Large-scale tree planting can serve to reduce the temperature increases and reduce the potential increase in pollutant concentrations.

Transportation Conformity

- The proposed transportation plan meets both the interim emissions tests and the proposed new motor vehicle emissions budgets for both the 8-hour ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. The MWAQC TAC approved recommending a comment letter to the MWAQC Executive Committee for action.
- Given issues with transportation funding in Northern Virginia, it may be possible that the TPB will have to redo this year's conformity analysis using a new set of projects reflecting the lack of funding.
- According to representatives from EPA Region III, the public comment period for the new 8-hour ozone budgets ended on April 21, 2008, and the budgets may be approved as soon as August 2008.

Alexandria/Mirant Settlement

- The City of Alexandria and Mirant reached a settlement regarding the Potomac River Generating Station. Under the terms of the agreement, the facility will proceed with the stack merge, will comply with new lower pollution limits, and will establish a fund to study and install additional controls at the facility.

Ozone Season Summary

- For ozone, there have been 23 code yellow, 6 code orange, and one code red day. For PM, there has been one code orange and 29 code yellow days. The highest concentrations were 102 ppb on June 12 for ozone and 35.8 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on June 14 for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

State and Local Air Agency Update

- In Virginia, the Air Board took action to approve the air permit for the proposed Wise County power plant. The Virginia Climate Commission has met twice, the final report is due to the General Assembly in December.
- The District is in the process of hiring a consultant to develop a greenhouse gas inventory and action plan. The VOC regulations, and the PM Infrastructure SIP public hearings, are still pending.
- Maryland is continuing work to develop a distributed generation rule and to revise the opacity regulation. The final climate report will be available in July.

Upcoming Events: COG Board July 9; AQPAC July 14; TPB July 16.