

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues June 13, 2011 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the June 13 meeting are summarized below.

1. Ozone Season Summary 2011

- The region has had 2 Code Red Days and 4 Code Orange Days since April 15. The first episode was May 30-31, and the second episode was June 7-10. The last Code Red Day was on June 10 when very high levels of ozone were recorded.
- MDE reported that the Edgewood monitor reached a one hour peak of 143 ppb; for the 8 hour average, 111 ppb, the highest in many years.
- Transported pollution was a factor in the June episode. The University of MD flew aircraft and readings at 3000 ft. showed 115 ppb ozone coming into MD from the west.

2. PM2.5 Redesignation and Maintenance Plan, Outline and Emissions Inventories

- The status of inventories for the Maintenance Plan are that inventories are needed for three pollutants: NO_x, SO₂ and PM_{2.5}. The point source inventories for 2002 and 2007 are final. MARAMA is preparing the inventories for 2017 (final) and 2025.
- Area source emissions for 2002 need to be revised due to changes in methodology since it was submitted in the PM_{2.5} SIP.
- Nonroad inventories need to be recalculated for 2002 using NMIM, the Nonroad model portion. Marine emissions need to be finalized for 2025.
- Mobile source emissions will not be completed until December.
- Staff is cautiously optimistic that the inventories will go down in 2025.

3. Air Quality Conformity

- VDOT requested an amendment to the 2010 CLRP in order to fast track two projects.
- The technical approach to the conformity analysis was the same as for the original analysis of the 2010 CLRP.
- Changes to the CLRP include changes to I-95/I-395: the removal of HOV to HOT lane conversion and construction, and addition of a reversible ramp from the HOV lands of I-395 to/from Seminary Road.
- Conformity analysis results show that emissions decrease slightly for all pollutants due to VMT reduction.
- The public comment period begins June 9 and ends July 9.
- A draft MWAQC comment letter was reviewed and corrections were made to the project description.

4. Redesignation and Maintenance Planning Experience

- Virginia DEQ staff reviewed their experience with submitting Redesignation Requests for the 1997 ozone NAAQS that were subsequently approved.
- There are 3 governing documents: Clean Air Act, Sept. 1992 EPA memo, "Procedures for Processing Requests to Redesignate Areas to Attainment," and 40 CFR 93.118(b)(2) (conformity).
- Maintenance Plans must contain Contingency Provision, which can take different forms. Virginia submits a list of provisions and promises to adopt them in a certain timeframe with triggers being a violation or an exceedance, as the state wishes.

5. Regional Transportation Priorities

- COG's Dept. of Transportation is proposing a scope of work and process to develop priorities for future grant funding opportunities like TIGER.
- The process will identify 10-15 regional priorities to propose when funding is available.
- The two-year process will cycle into the 4 year update of the CLRP in 2014.
- Most of the priorities will be programs like Street Smart and Commuter Connection. They will most likely not be transportation projects.
- TPB will approve the scope of work on June 15.

6. Integrated Community Energy Planning

- COG has awarded a contract to FVB to support the Integrated Energy Solutions Task Force. The statement of work includes support for identification of current local policies and programs with recommendations for potential changes to facilitate new clean energy. It also includes a task to develop information on the costs and benefits of available clean energy resources as well as the business case for select approaches. Reports are due in June, July and September.

Upcoming Events

ACPAC, June 13; TPB, June 15; MWAQC, June 22