

Update on MWAQC Process Dialogue

*Honorable Thomas E. Dernoga, Chair
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
November 10, 2004*

How We Got Here...

Governors and Mayor's Letter

- Governors and Mayor send letter to MWAQC initiating dialogue to reexamine regional air quality planning process for the Washington region.
- State Secretaries form working group to address changes in MWAQC

How We Got Here...

Dialogue: March - October

- Negotiations between State Secretaries group and MWAQC officers, Mar-Oct
- States' proposal discussed, modified
- Consensus to address MWAQC changes through bylaws
- Revision presented to MWAQC in Sept; amended and adopted in October

Where We Are...

- October 27, 2004 – MWAQC adopted the bylaws revisions by an overwhelming vote.

Key Changes to MWAQC Process

- Creation of Cabinet Level Interstate Air Quality Council
- MWAQC Authority and Mission Clarified
- MWAQC TAC Chair – State Air Official
- New Budget allocation –
 - COG 1/3
 - State air agencies 1/3
 - State transportation agencies 1/3

Interstate Air Quality Council

- Environment and Transportation Secretaries (MD-VA-DC)
- IAQC may transmit formal air quality proposals to MWAQC
- IAQC recommendations shall be given great weight.
- MWAQC plans submitted to IAQC
- MWAQC and IAQC jointly issue annual report

Additional Changes

- Membership Updated
 - Consistent with COG Board member/process
- Matters of Major Concern
 - Disclosure requirement
 - Revised DC quorum
- Electronic meeting participation permitted

Where We Go Next...

- Interstate Air Quality Council formalized by Governors and Mayor
- Governors and Mayor formally announce IAQC and MWAQC Process with MWAQC/COG Leadership
- Active Planning for 8 hour standard continues
- Planning initiated for new particle standard