

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues December 9, 2008 Meeting

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the December 9 meeting are summarized below.

Area Designations for the 2006 PM_{2.5} 24-hour NAAQS

- On December 5, EPA proposed to include Montgomery and Prince George's County in the Baltimore Nonattainment Area for the 2006 PM_{2.5} 24-hour NAAQS.
- Maryland will have 60 days to submit comments. The decision will be finalized no later than 120 days after December 5.
- EPA originally intended to designate the entire Washington, DC-MD-VA MSA as attainment for the 2006 24-hour PM NAAQS. EPA reversed its preliminary decision based on adverse public comment received after its initial 120-day letter sent to the states on August 18, 2008. The American Lung Association commented that Prince George's and Montgomery Counties substantially contribute to exceedances of the standard in Baltimore. EPA's preliminary analysis focused only on counties that were contiguous to the current Baltimore nonattainment area. A mathematical technique called a Contributing Emissions Score was utilized in making the designation, and the CES for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties were the highest of the contiguous counties.
- If the new proposal is finalized, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties would be included in the Baltimore SIP for the 2006 daily standard. Subregional motor vehicle emissions budgets would be required and would be enforced by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) in close collaboration with the state of Maryland and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC).
- TPB will also have to demonstrate conformity within one year of the final designation using an approved interim test until new mobile budgets are developed. As an alternate course of action, the region could also develop and submit an early action SIP to establish subregional motor vehicle emission budgets so that the TPB could demonstrate conformity independently of BMC.
- If complicating issues arise with the Baltimore SIP or transportation conformity in Baltimore, there could be transportation conformity implications for TPB.
- Staff will collate questions for EPA Region III and solicit responses. Staff will also coordinate supporting analysis and comment letters to include with comments submitted to EPA by Maryland.

Designations for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS

- The states have recently received guidance from EPA regarding the designation process for the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. Recommendations from the states are due to EPA by March 2009. EPA must make final designations by March 2010.

Conformity Scope of Work for the 2009 CLRP and 2010-2015 TIP

- TPB has begun the conformity process for the 2009 CLRP and 2010-2015 TIP. The scope of work includes updated inputs such as Round 7.2 Cooperative Forecasts and 2008 vehicle registration data. The scope of work is scheduled to be approved in February 2009. TPB is scheduled to act on the final conformity analysis in July 2009.

Upcoming Meetings

MWAQC December 10; COG Board Annual Meeting December 10; AQPAC December 15; TPB December 17