

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

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

8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard

- EPA revised the NAAQS for ozone, lowering the standard from 0.084 to 0.075 ppm.
- Designations are expected in 2010. SIPs are due in 2013.
- States in the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) are considering litigation against EPA. CASAC had recommended that the standard be lowered to between 0.060 and 0.070 ppm.
- Staff provided an analysis of the impact of the lower NAAQS on the number of exceedance days. Based on the review, exceedance days are expected to increase by approximately 95 percent, from 18/year to 33/year.
- Agencies implementing Free Bus Rides on forecasted Code Orange Days are considering changes to the system to lower the financial burden associated with the increased number of code orange days.
- EPA revised the AQI to reflect the new lower ozone NAAQS. The new AQI will be used for forecasting and reporting real-time conditions this year.

Transportation Conformity

- COG DTP staff have requested updated Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs) from the states for use in calculating mobile emissions for this year's conformity analysis. State air agencies have agreed to help coordinate acquisition of the data.

EPA Request for Proposals for Diesel Projects

- EPA Region III has issued a Request for Proposals for projects to lower emissions from on- and off-road diesel equipment. Only government agencies and non-profits are eligible to receive grant monies, but private fleets can be included in the proposal/project. The deadline for proposals is June 13, 2008.

EERE Measurement and Verification Protocols

- Under a DOE-funded project, staff are working to develop measurement and verification protocols for the region to document the energy and environmental benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. An advisory committee is being formed to evaluate and recommend the protocols. Initial protocol efforts will focus on building efficiency, primarily lighting and HVAC, as well as clean energy purchases and Renewable Portfolio Standards.

Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

- The CCSC is in the process of developing a set of recommendations for inclusion in the final climate report. Categories of recommendations include reduction targets, government lead by example, economic development, advocacy positions, outreach/education, energy, transportation, land use, financing and adaptation. The COG Board is scheduled to receive the draft report in June.
- The COG Board, with a recommendation from CCSC, took a position on the proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County Virginia, requesting analysis of the potential for renewable energy and conservation to meet growing demands for power.

State and Local Air Agency Update

- In Virginia, an Air Board meeting will be held in May and the agenda will include the revised conformity regulations and the OTC VOC rules. The first meeting of the PM Implementation workgroup will be held on April 10.
- Maryland is working to complete the industrial adhesives/sealants rule. The Maryland legislative session ended and the Global Warming Solutions Act did not pass.
- The District has been working on finalizing the OTC VOC rules.
- All three states submitted the PM SIP to EPA before the April 5 deadline.

Upcoming Events

- TPB. April 16.
- Virginia PM Workgroup. April 10.
- AQPAC. April 21.
- CCSC. April 23.