

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
1-Page Summary of Policy-Relevant Issues September 11, 2007

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

Proposals for New Ozone NAAQS

- EPA is proposing to take action on the NAAQS for ozone. EPA is seeking comment on possible new 8-hour standards, ranging from 70-75 ppb, to as low as 60 ppb, or retention of the current standard at 85 ppb. EPA will issue the final standards by March 12, 2008. Designations would be effective in 2010 and SIPS will be due in 2013. TAC members discussed preparing a comment letter to submit to EPA by October. The draft letter supports setting a new ozone NAAQS at levels protective of public health based on sound science. The draft letter will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.

PM2.5 SIP Schedule

- MWAQC decided on July 25, 2007 to continue work on developing an attainment SIP for submission to EPA in April. The current plan is for MWAQC to approve a draft SIP for public comment in December. Staff are currently working to develop the draft SIP. Major outstanding items include the emission inventory and the modeling documentation. Contingency measures will be evaluated based on the completed emission inventory. Local government voluntary initiatives will be included based on the recommendations of local jurisdictions. There are no Reasonable Further Progress Requirements.

PM2.5 Emission Inventory

- Emission inventories are needed for 2002 and 2009 for all on-road, non-road, point, and area sources.
- On-road emissions estimates for the on-road sources will be completed by COG DTP staff using MOBILE6.2 emission factors. COG staff will use EPA's NONROAD model to develop the nonroad emissions. State air agencies will provide the point source inventories. COG staff will develop the area source projection inventories using inputs from the states.

PM2.5 Control Measures

- Control measures to be included in the PM2.5 SIP include all of the OTB/OTW measures affecting PM2.5 direct and the precursors NO_x and SO₂. Measures include low-sulfur motor vehicle fuels, Tier 2 motor vehicle standards, the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and Maryland's Healthy Air Act.
- BOTW measures may be included in the SIP as supplemental measures. Local governments will make recommendations on which local voluntary programs to include in the SIP. Contingency measures will be identified to meet reduction targets that will be calculated using the completed emission inventories.

PPM2.5 Town Hall Meeting

- AQPAC is hosting an Air Quality Town Meeting in October or November that will focus on PM2.5 pollution and climate change. Staff are currently identifying speakers and setting a date for the event.

COG Climate Change Initiative

- The greenhouse gas emission workgroup met in August and developed recommendations for base years and milestone years for consideration by the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC). The workgroup recommended 2005 as the base year, 2020 and 2030 as interim years, and 2050 as the milestone year. Proposed reduction targets will be recommended to the CCSC for action in November.

Ozone Season Summary

- There have been fourteen ozone exceedance days this year. The peak 8-hour ozone concentration was 100 ppb at Southern Maryland on June 18. Peak 24-hour PM2.5 was 46 µg/m³ on August 7.

State and Local Air Agency Update

- Maryland is working with UMD to develop weight of evidence analyses for the PM2.5 SIPs. Maryland is also working to finalize the OTC VOC rules. MDE staff are also working on a variety of climate change initiatives including Maryland's Climate Change Commission and RGGI.
- The District is working on CAIR allocations, the OTC Phase II rules, and on regional haze.
- Virginia is working on CAIR, power plant permitting, the OTC Phase II rules, and a regional haze SIP.

Upcoming Events

- AQPAC. September 17. Climate Change Steering Committee. September 26.