

## **Policy Summary - MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (May 14, 2013)**

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the May 14 meeting of the MWAQC-TAC are summarized below.

### **Ozone Data and 2013 Ozone Season Outlook**

Staff briefed the committee on the historical ozone data, the current 2013 ozone season data, and the weather outlook for this summer. There has not been any exceedance (code orange and above) of the 2008 ozone standard thus far in this season. The most current ozone design value (parameter to evaluate attainment status of an area) based on the preliminary data for the period 2010-2012 is 87 ppb, which is above the current ozone standard (75 ppb) published in 2008 as well as the previous 1997 standard (84 ppb). The region has to attain the current standard by December 31, 2015. The weather outlook published by the National Weather Service shows above normal temperatures for the Washington region for this summer with no clear forecasts for precipitation.

### **Ozone Transport Commission Photochemical Modeling Results**

The committee discussed the results of the OTC modeling effort currently underway for the 2008 ozone standard. OTC is evaluating different emissions reduction scenarios to attain the above standard. The modeling results show attainment by 2020 for the Washington region. Based on the interpolated modeling data, the modeling also shows attainment of the standard by the deadline (December 31, 2015). Additional emissions scenarios are planned for development for the above modeling, which will include EPA's proposed Tier 3 rule, CAFÉ standard, and emissions from the shale gas extraction process and the demand response program.

### **Attainment Options for 2008 Ozone Standard**

The committee discussed a number of options for attaining the 2008 ozone standard by 2015. These options included:

- A. Waiting until 2015 to see if the region attains
- B. Wait until 2015 to seek extension of attainment date based on good air quality data
- C. Request voluntary reclassification to Moderate ozone nonattainment area
- D. Pursue advance emissions control planning in anticipation of the Moderate reclassification

Currently the Washington region is designated as a Marginal nonattainment area for the 2008 ozone standard, which does not require the region to submit an attainment plan to EPA. However, there was a general agreement among the members to start the planning process to attain the 2008 ozone standard by 2015 in view of the recent observed ozone data.

### **State Control Strategies to Reduce Ozone**

MDE, VDEQ, and DDOE staff presented different emissions control measures currently adopted and planned in the future in their respective states. These control measures are currently providing and are also expected to keep providing emissions benefits in the future to help attain the 2008 ozone standard and maintain the fine particle standard.