Policy Summary - MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee

Key policy-relevant issues discussed at the MWAQC-TAC meeting on October 8 and a special conference call for State Air Agencies on November 12 (held in lieu of MWAQC-TAC meeting in November) is summarized below.

<u>**MWAQC-TAC (October 8, 2013)**</u>
Development of Base Year 2011, Reasonable Further Progress Year 2017, and Attainment Year 2018 Emissions Inventories for 2008 Ozone Standard SIP
The Washington region is currently designated as a "Marginal" ozone nonattainment area. As part of the requirements for the marginal nonattainment area, the region needs to submit a comprehensive emissions inventory for the base year 2011 to EPA by July 20, 2014.
Also, the region would need to submit a Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) plan in case it does not meet the current ozone standard by December 2015 and as a result gets reclassified as (or bumped-up to) a "Moderate" ozone nonattainment area. As part of an agreement in the fine particle maintenance plan, states decided to develop a Reasonable Further Progress (RFP) plan in anticipation of the reclassification. As part of this plan, the region needs to develop an emissions inventory for 2017. In addition, states also decided to include the development of an emissions inventory for 2018 in the MWAQC FY2015 work plan. The attainment year for the moderate ozone nonattainment area is 2018.

EPA Proposal: Greenhouse Gas Rule for Power Plants
MWAQC-TAC discussed EPA's proposed greenhouse gas rule for new power plants and its plan to propose a rule for the existing power plants by the next year. Under the proposal, any new plant that runs on coal would be permitted to emit only about half as much carbon dioxide as an average coal plant puts into the air today. While the proposed rule for new power plants will be directly enforced by EPA, the proposed rule for existing power plants will be enforced by states. Therefore, states will have choices in meeting the standards. States will be encouraged to use renewable energy sources (wind, etc.) and could reduce electricity demand by employing energy efficiency measures. Since the new coal based power plants will have to incur additional costs to limit carbon dioxide output or develop new methods of cleansing emissions, the industry is likely to challenge it in court. While a few industries such as, natural gas sector are expected to support the rule, coal fired power plants will likely oppose it.

Regional Transportation Priorities Plan
Joan updated the members on the status of the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan being developed by TPB. The plan was revised on December 12, 2013 and comments from the public are being accepted until January 11, 2014.

Status of State Rules and Data: Distributed Generators
MWAQC-TAC discussed details of the rules concerning distributed generators in the District, Maryland, and Virginia.
Until recently Maryland did not have very good data on distributed generators. Therefore, implementing permit rules on the existing distributed generators was difficult. However, Maryland was able to get some detailed data recently from the Curtailment Service Providers (CSPs). The number of distributed generator owners who need to report is much small. MDE is trying to get CSPs to provide more data.
At this time, Virginia is not completely aware of the extent of this issue. There is only limited information available on the details of the operation of these generators. Virginia expects voluntary participation from Dominion on this issue.
The District does not have any regulation on distributed generators. The District receives on an average 180 applications for permits every year.

<u>**State Air Agency Call (November 12, 2013)**</u>
The State Air Coordination call was held to review and discuss TPB's interagency consultation process on transportation conformity assessments. The group agreed to have a meeting of the TAC Conformity Subcommittee to discuss projects that go into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to hold meetings around specific points in the conformity process.