

MWAQC Resolution to Adopt PM2.5 SIP
Adopted March 7, 2008

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) was certified in 1992 by the governors of Maryland and Virginia, and the mayor of the District of Columbia to prepare regional air quality plans demonstrating attainment of federal criteria pollutant standards for the Washington, DC-MD-VA non-attainment area; and

WHEREAS, in January 2005 EPA designated the Washington region as a nonattainment area for the annual PM2.5 standard and as such Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia are required to submit a state implementation plan (SIP) and an attainment demonstration to EPA by April 5, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the monitors in the Metropolitan Washington region, including the five monitors in Northern Virginia, have demonstrated compliance with both the annual and 24-hour standards (1997) for fine particles since 2005; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2007, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) decided even though the region shows compliance with EPA's fine particle standards, to prepare a plan (SIP) to further reduce levels of fine particle pollution by 2009; and

WHEREAS, EPA - approved models used to demonstrate attainment in the fine particle SIP indicate the metropolitan Washington region will continue to comply with the federal 1997 standards for fine particles, and

WHEREAS, EPA has not yet approved a methodology for performing microscale analysis of emissions from a single stationary source such as the Potomac River Generating Station (PRGS); and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria and its residents are concerned about the impact of fine particle emissions from the Potomac River Generating Station on the health and well being of the residents of Alexandria and the Washington region and desire microscale analysis of the plant's emissions and impacts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE:

1. That MWAQC approve the proposed PM2.5 SIP for the Metropolitan Washington Nonattainment Area.
2. However, to fully address the concerns expressed by the City of Alexandria, MWAQC specifically requests:

a) that VDEQ install a Federal Reference Monitor (FRM) PM_{2.5} monitor in Alexandria and the monitor will be funded and operated by VDEQ personnel.

b) that VDEQ convene a PM_{2.5} Implementation Workgroup of stakeholders in the PM_{2.5} process to develop a methodology to perform microscale analysis for review and approval by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board. The City of Alexandria will be invited to participate as a stakeholder.

c) that within eight months of SIP submission VDEQ complete a review and develop a quantitative process for microscale analysis of PM_{2.5}.

d) that once VDEQ finalizes a quantitative process for microscale analysis that Mirant complete this analysis for the PRGS within a period of six months and make results of this analysis public.

e) Further, a letter will be drafted and sent by MWAQC to the Commonwealth of Virginia Air Pollution Control Board asking that action be initiated to tighten Virginia's standards from the existing 20% for opacity to 10%. Upon adoption of such a standard, the Commonwealth of Virginia would submit the revised regulation to EPA as a revision to its SIP.