

WRAP Board of Directors

Proposal to form a standing 309 Coordinating Committee

October 15, 2003

Background:

Section 309 of the Regional Haze Rule provides that the 9 western “transport region” states and Indian tribes within those states may opt to develop regional haze SIPs following the recommendations of the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission (GCVTC). If implemented, the GCVTC recommendations satisfy the requisite showing of “Reasonable Progress” toward meeting the national visibility goal. Transport states electing to submit 309 SIPs must incorporate the GCVTC recommendations, and submit their initial SIPs by December 31, 2003. Eligible tribes are not subject to this deadline and may submit 309 TIPs at later dates. Over the last several years the WRAP has performed most of the technical analyses and policy recommendations to support the states on a regional scale.

Five transport region states have declared their intent to submit 309 SIPs. These states are AZ, NM, OR, UT, and WY. To date, no tribe has announced its intention to submit a 309 TIP.

As these 309 states have moved through their individual planning processes following the work of the WRAP, it is clear they would benefit greatly through continuing the cooperative relationships already established under the WRAP. Likewise, tribes that choose 309 would also benefit greatly from this ongoing collaboration. This would better enable each participant to take advantage of the work done by the other participants on their initial submittals, with higher assurance that the SIPs and TIPs would meet all requirements of the Regional Haze Rule and the Annex. Over the longer term, a coordinated approach provides a forum to facilitate ongoing communications among the participants, and a mechanism to meet particular implementation requirements, such as milestone tracking, monitoring information and data exchange.

Proposal:

The 309 states propose that the WRAP board create a standing committee, called the “309 Coordinating Committee.” This committee would be formed according to the WRAP Bylaws, II. E., which allows the formation of additional standing committees (see attachment). The committee would be organized as follows:

Membership –

One designated representative from each state and tribe that submits a plan under §309 (in the case of tribes, a declaration of intent to move ahead with submission of a plan would warrant membership). Additional state and tribal staff may participate in meetings of the committee, as appropriate. The WRAP will appoint Co-Chairs from the membership.

Additional members –

If issues arise which require participation of federal agencies or stakeholders, the committee at its discretion will extend membership to such federal representatives and stakeholders as appropriate. The WRAP will make these appointments for limited duration as long as the issue requiring federal or stakeholder membership is active.

Charge of the Committee –

To provide an ongoing forum for 309 states and tribes to facilitate communications and information exchange.

To provide a mechanism to achieve consistency in implementing requirements of §309 of the regional haze rule, including but not limited to implementation of: the emissions tracking system to evaluate stationary source compliance with the SO₂ milestones; the backstop market-trading program for stationary sources, if required; and emission tracking in clean air corridors, for fire and enhanced smoke management programs, and for mobile and area sources.

The committee will also make recommendations to the WRAP Board, as needed, toward improving implementation of programs contained in SIPs and TIPs adopted under §309, and evaluate the value and appropriateness of WRAP involvement in resolving disagreements between states or between states and tribes on 309 matters.

ATTACHMENT

(From WRAP bylaws, revised 7/23/02)

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I. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTING DIRECTLY TO THE WRAP.

A. All meetings shall be open to the public, and should include an opportunity for those members of the public who are observing the meeting to comment on or provide suggestions relevant to the committee's work.

B. Whenever processes are directed to be stakeholder based, membership should represent a wide range of social, cultural, economic, geographic, relative population and technical viewpoints. To meet this goal, the following categories of representatives should be considered.

- * Industry (focused on production sector but excluding the mobile source sector)
- * Small business (focused on the service sector, including "green industry")
- * Mobile sources (including vehicle manufacturers and transportation planners)
- * Federal government
- * Tribal government
- * State government
- * Local government
- * Academia
- * Environmental groups
- * General public

In all cases it may not be possible or appropriate to include each of the categories in stakeholder processes. However, whenever a category is not included, an explanation for the exclusion should be recorded.

In selecting members for committees, both technical expertise and diversity of viewpoints must be considered in balancing committee membership to provide equity. It

is not expected that each member of a committee be a technical expert in all aspects of the committee's work but rather, that all can contribute to the committee's overall goals.

II. TECHNICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (TOC), INITIATIVES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (IOC), AND OTHER COMMITTEES

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E. Other Committees

1. The WRAP may establish other standing committees, forums or work groups. Membership on such standing committees, forums, or work groups shall consist of state and tribal representatives from the applicable region.
2. The committee shall extend membership to other regional stakeholders as appropriate. Members will be selected by the WRAP from letters of interest. Duration of the appointment shall coincide with the duration of the air quality issue.
3. The WRAP will appoint co-chairs of any standing committees. The co-chairs of any standing committees established will be members of the Coordinating Group.