

LIFE IN THE WRAP FOR TRIBES**AFTER DECEMBER 2007****September 12, 2006****Introduction**

Tribal participation in the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) after state implementation plans (SIPs) are required to be submitted (December 2007) has been a topic of conversation during Tribal Caucus meetings in the past and has become an issue that tribes must address to the WRAP Board Members at this time. Within this document, we will address the need for the WRAP to expand its scope from regional haze into more general areas that will serve the interest of tribes and states where commonality exists. This document is the product of meetings and teleconferences of the Tribal Data Development Work Group (TDDWG), the Tribal Caucus and a special call held on September 6, 2006.

In general, tribes fully support the accomplishments of the WRAP and its partnership that have facilitated successful dialogues between states, tribes, federal agencies, and other stakeholders. We have made strong connections with the above agencies and wish to continue these connections. We are concerned, however, that if EPA funding is not forthcoming, the WRAP will, in fact, lose its true affiliation and status as a partnership. We say that because without tribal funding support to be an active partner in all WRAP activities, the word “partnership” would not be a true representation of the Charter and By-Laws of the organization. The tribes feel very fortunate that they have had the opportunity to be in the company of highly experienced air quality professionals which truly increases the capacity of tribal air programs and our ability to provide input into state actions that benefit both the states and tribes.

A. Issues that could become the focus of WRAP efforts while maintaining a system to track Regional Haze Reasonable Progress Goals

1. **Particulate Matter in Rural Communities.** Inconsistencies in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed Coarse rule and the existing PM_{2.5} rule with regard to the use of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (population of 100,000 or more) for application of a monitoring program are of concern to tribes. Libby, Montana has been designated non-attainment for PM_{2.5} and does not have a population hardly near 100,000 people. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have the same problems in the winter as Libby which are woodstove smoke and inversions. There are countless tribes in Alaska that have far more severe woodstove smoke and inversions than Libby, Montana.

(a) Actions Suggested:

- (1) Apply for funding for research into health impacts of PM. Could partner with groups like the Native Research Network and the Indian Health service.

- (2) The WRAP would be an appropriate institution for this project because it already has PM data, which would greatly facilitate health research into respiratory diseases in rural areas, which include most tribal populations in the west.

B. **Risk management analysis.** States and tribes are required in some of their grants, to conduct risk management analysis.

- (1) **Action Suggested:** We request that the WRAP develop a template designed to determine which risk management tools to use.

C. **Dust Modeling.** Most western tribes suffer from “dust” issues whether it is road or windblown dust. The WRAP, given sufficient funding, has the capability to develop a dust model that is predictable and scientifically sound. This is made evident by the innovative technical tools previously developed by the WRAP. Tribal emission inventories as well as those of states would benefit from a sound dust model to fully quantify dust contribution to regional haze and other health-related issues.

1. **Action suggested:** The WRAP should apply pressure to the EPA to provide funding to the WRAP to proceed with research and scientific applications to find an acceptable model in support of tracking reasonable progress goals (RPGs).

D. **Climate Change.** The Tribal Caucus supports the current expansion of the WRAP into Global Climate Change issues. This is not only a regional issue but a national and international issue as well. We should take the lead in starting research into understanding our current global warming situation in the West and find tools to define what global warming is and how it impacts regional haze and other air quality issues and how to deal with it. The most dramatic evidence of this condition exists in Alaska. Tribes in Alaska bring to the forefront the actual conditions that exist which support scientific studies and their claim of global warming (e.g., the forced relocation of tribal communities, fewer fish in the waters due to warmer temperatures, migration of big game to areas not commonly visited, water fowl not present in old nesting grounds and a more visible daily event of haze that rarely existed in the early twentieth century). There appears to be support from environmental groups for the advanced work that the Western Governors’ Association and WRAP are starting (see attached letter)

1. **Action requested:**

- (a) Secure additional funding to support Tribal travel to WRAP climate change meetings and trainings.
- (b) Examine the results of the ongoing research into the effects of climate change on air quality to identify areas where WRAP may effectively pursue research in the west.
- (c) Work with Center for Climate Change (CCS) to add GHGs to TEISS, to measure tribal emissions of greenhouse gases.
- (d) The WRAP staff (NTEC and the Western Governors’ Association) should continue to seek funding from the EPA and private foundations to support future work addressing this serious increasing environmental problem.

E. **Increased emissions from Oil & Gas.** With the increase in oil and gas production due to increased demand, places like the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in Colorado and Jicarilla are experiencing increased levels of SO_x, NO_x, Particulate Matter and Mercury. The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will soon offer a course to tribal personnel entitled “Air Quality and Community Health” which will focus on the interface between water and air quality. Tribes will take advantage of this offering to ensure that a solid connection between water and air is made, and this connection is emphasized with tribal councils.

1. **Actions suggested:**

- (a) The WRAP should ensure that the increased emissions from oil and gas production is entered into the EDMS and factored into future projections to ensure that RPGs are attained in SIPs.
- (b) Funding should be sought by the WGA and NTEC from private foundations that are aware of the increase of oil and gas production across the nation and also from EPA discretionary funds for Regional Administrators.

F. **Atmospheric Deposition.** The WRAP should begin to stress the interrelationship between airsheds and watersheds, affecting both tribes and states. Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Michigan and various tribal fish & wildlife programs have identified fish with sores and blisters on them which could be attributed to excessive levels of either methylmercury or elemental mercury, from major sources such as electrical generating units, cement manufacturing industries and prescribed fires.

- (a) Gather more data via monitoring on mercury deposition in the west.
- (b) Use EDMS and RMC to track mercury emissions and identify mercury deposition areas.

G. **Consumption of PSD increments.** An additional issue that could be addressed by the WRAP is incremental consumption under the Clean Air Act’s Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program. There is recent litigation to support states and tribes that do not have the tools to properly track the consumption of PSD increments. This is particularly important to the tribes that have redesignated their reservations to a Class I airsheds (e.g., Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Fort Peck, Northern Cheyenne, Spokane and Yavapai-Apache).

1. **Actions Suggested:**

- (a) The WRAP should develop a model which helps to identify a baseline for PSD incremental consumption or a tracking system that allows for the proper designation of areas in support of further industrial development without destroying the existing airshed.
- (b) The EPA should provide funding to the WRAP to develop the tools necessary to accomplish this particular task.

H. **Continued collection of Tribal RH Data.** The continued ability for tribes to fill existing data gaps is necessary to fully support RPGs of regional haze SIPs and FIPs

(and TIPS). The continued need for modeling is evident as more tribes complete their emission inventories and subsequently provide this data to the EPA; tribes are also prepared to provide updates on these inventories every three to five years. Currently, there are 30 tribes that have current data in the WRAP's Emissions Data Management System.

1. **Actions suggested:**

- (a) Funding for the TDDWG to continue to function as it does at this time.
 - (b) Continued contractor support for ITEP and the Tribal Emissions Inventory Software Solution, also known as TEISS, for data input as well as other projects that assist tribes in analyzing activities which states must undertake in complying with the Regional Haze Rule and what impacts those activities have on tribal lands.
 - (c) The WRAP should investigate methods and models to support minor source activity and begin to research methods to control this activity and prevent additional contaminants that diminish PSD incremental consumption on state and tribal lands. Funding for these projects should come from the EPA.
 - (d) Continued funding for current NTEC programs
 - (1) Technical Assistance to tribes to develop TIPS
 - (2) Facilitation of effective tribal partnership in SIP process
 - (3) Facilitation of inter-RPO issues
 - (4) Analysis of Tribal Set-Asides for SO₂ and NO_x.
- I. **Ozone.** The final suggestion from the Tribal Caucus deals with western rural communities, which includes 95% of western tribes and a significant percentage of WRAP states. The WRAP modeling has indicated that, in fact, rural ozone is increasing at an alarming rate, which has serious implications for both health and regional haze.

1. **Action suggested:**

- (a) Use the existing CMAQ modeling tools (which were designed to model ozone) to model ozone emissions and the increase in new source contribution in rural areas.