

Proposed AMC 2006 Workplan Narrative

Air Managers Committee

2006 will be the third year of the current strategic plan. Practically, this is the final year to conclude the essential technical and policy work needed by states and tribes for 2007 SIP and TIPs. The Air Managers Committee role to assure and assist in completion of these projects will be essential. The state and tribal caucuses will continue their current staffing levels, including the Alaska Tribal Coordinator, to help accomplish its goals in 2006. The AMC Implementation Work Group “customers” began their work in earnest in 2004. The IWG will continue through 2006 to:

- Help guide and assess project output from the other WRAP forums and workgroups;
- Develop a roadmap or template/framework that states and tribes may use to construct their individual SIPs and TIPs;
- Compile information on supplemental benefits of regional haze control strategies, and;
- Facilitate the essential understandings between states and tribes to develop and implement their SIPs and TIPs.

AMC1 Staff Support for the State and Tribal Caucuses – The State and Tribal Caucuses each have a caucus coordinator as staff to assist the tribal and state air directors with continual tracking and reporting of WRAP activities, issue identification and communication among the WRAP partners, recruitment of WRAP participants from states and tribes, and facilitation of issue resolution. The State Caucus Coordinator position is filled through a services contract between WGA and WESTAR, and is listed as an AMC budget item. The Tribal Caucus Coordinator and the Alaska Tribal Outreach Coordinator positions are funded directly through NTEC, are not included in the AMC budget table below, but they are included as part of the NTEC budget for WRAP support.

AMC3 Summary of Supplemental Benefits of Regional Haze Controls

Although virtually all of the work within the WRAP is directed toward supporting states and tribes in meeting requirements of the Regional Haze Rule, it is apparent that there are supplemental benefits to reducing air pollutants associated with haze. These benefits are related to health, ecosystem, cultural, agricultural and other factors. While haze is the primary focus of any control measures considered under the Regional Haze Rule, it is helpful when considering potential emission control measures, to also evaluate supplemental benefits where possible. Much of this information can be gained from the results of on-going WRAP activities and other outside sources, but it is scattered and not organized in a useable form for consideration. Distilling such information and putting it into a communication package for managers, stakeholders and the

public will assist states and tribes in describing the full value of emission control measures considered to meet regional haze requirements.

The purpose of this project is to identify and describe these supplemental benefits and how they would follow from regional haze controls in a way the public can understand. The final summary material will be useful to WRAP participants for communicating the full merits of their regional haze control programs, and identifying ways in which existing WRAP datasets, models, and monitoring networks may be optimized to provide more quantitative estimates of supplemental benefits,

Although this project will be carried by AMC, it is expected that the Economic Analysis Forum will actively participate in it. The work of identifying and compiling the available information will require the assistance of outside expertise with knowledge of where the data is, how it can be used. The final work product will consist of written and visual material in one or more formats suitable for workshop settings, This may include printed and PowerPoint® presentations.

AMC4 Development of TSD “section” addressing visibility impact to Traditional Tribal lifeways.

Although there are several forums, (i.e. CoHa and FEJF,) addressing Tribal visibility impacts, this data needs to be compiled into a technical support document (TSD) component that would be useful in the development of SIPs/TIPs. This task would give a comprehensive view of the relationship between regional haze and its effects on Tribal lands and traditional lifeways. The document will describe why tribes need to be concerned with regional haze and how their involvement in the WRAP serves to reduce the haze that may interfere with their traditional practices.

This document will serve as an educational tool for WRAP participants (and members of other regional planning organizations) who regularly work with and/or live near tribal lands. It is anticipated that the documents will be professionally developed into a document to be included in the 308 TSD.

AMC5 Implementation Work Group (IWG) – The IWG got up and running in 2004, and will continue its work in two principle areas through 2006: First, IWG is on track to develop one or more “templates,” or “roadmaps,” to assist states and tribes in writing their 308 and 309(g) plans. In addition the IWG will maintain ongoing communication with the other forums and oversight committees as needed, prompting timely information from states and tribes, and in turn providing feedback to the forums to ensure they are focused on the critical planning questions. WESTAR provides direct staff assistance under a services contract with WGA. The State of New Mexico provides additional part-time contract staff to address the specific planning needs of tribes.

AMC6 Workshops on Effective Collaboration – In the last year, during discussions among states and among tribes, reference has been made several times, along the lines, “The Tribes won’t talk to us.” or “State (agency) is making assumptions we don’t agree with.” Although there are examples of collaboration among states and tribes on specific projects, states in general have more mature air programs than most tribes and they must meet certain deadlines. Tribes are not subject to these deadlines. There is strong opinion among some of the tribes that they are included in WRAP work when it is convenient or in name only. Some states have little to no working relationship with tribes in their respective states. Tribal emissions and air quality data are almost non-existent. A number of tribes are reluctant to release tribal information because they are distrustful of state and federal regulators.

This task would begin to strengthen working relationships between states and tribes that is essential in order to fulfill the requirements of the regional haze planning process and the Regional Haze Rule. EPA’s Regional Haze Rule explicitly addresses state-tribal relationships and directs them to work collaboratively with each other and in “partnership with other interested stakeholders,” but provides little guidance in this regard. The goal of these workshops is to facilitate improvements in working relationships within WRAP and among individual states, tribes and federal agencies, by enhancing the understandings of leadership and staffs of these entities about how each of them functions within their organizations, their various operational protocols and traditions.

In general, the form of this project is a series of sub-regional workshops at selected locations within the WRAP region to instruct state and tribal WRAP partners in tribal/state protocols. Tribal and state leaders would address in turn their procedures and expectations of consultation, their governing structures, environmental priorities and their efforts toward collaboration. The focus would include identification of barriers to collaboration and ways to overcome them. Interested stakeholders would be invited to give insight into their organizational structures and collaborative efforts.

Proposed AMC 2006 Budget Table

Project Code	Project Title	Projects Pending	2006 Request
AMC1	State Caucus Staff Support (WESTAR)		120,000
AMC3	Supplemental benefits of Haze-related control measures	15,000 (-30k) ¹	
AMC4	TSD Section on Haze and Traditional Tribal Lifeways	10,000 (-25k) ¹	
AMC5	308 Implementation Work Group Support (WESTAR, New Mexico)	20,000 ²	38,000
AMC6	Workshops on Effective Collaboration	35,000	
	Contractor Assistance	145,531 ³	
Totals		225,531	158,000

¹ These figures represent decreases from 2005

² This figure may have been expended for staff support to develop 309 TIP template.

³ This figure includes -\$11,049 from 2005 for the tribal emission inventory part of the Stationary Sources Joint Forum EI project approved by AMC in February 2005.