

**WRAP Emissions Forum  
Meeting Summary  
October 18-19, 2006  
Doubletree Hotel, Spokane, WA**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Alice Edwards	Alaska DEC
Dennis Schwehr	WEST Associates
Bob Downing	Maricopa County
Lee Gribovicz	Wyoming DEQ
Dan Herman	Wyoming DEQ
Roy Doyle	Colorado APCD
Chris Ramsdell	Idaho DEQ
Don Arkell	WESTAR
Brenda Harpring	NV DEP
Bob Gruenig	NTEC
Tom Moore	WGA/WRAP

Phone participants during parts of the meeting included:

10/18/06:

Jim Carlin     MT DEQ  
Jeff Stocum    OR DEQ

10/19/06:

Jim Carlin             MT DEQ  
Heather Lancour      NMED  
Steve Boone            EH Pechan  
Jim Wilson              EH Pechan

## Meeting Summary

The main project of the Emission Forum is the Emission Data Management System (EDMS) for managing WRAP emission inventories. The effectiveness and efficiency of the current EDMS design and hosting contract had been of concern to the Forum, and consequently the EF prepared an RFP to get alternative proposals for long term system operation. The RFP was released in August and five proposals were received from 1) Air Resources/Air Sciences (hosted internally w/ possible transition to CIRA), 2) Environ, 3) Eastern Research Group (hosted at UC-San Diego), 4) Lakes Environmental (hosted internally) & 5) Pechan (hosted at CIRA). The Steering Subcommittee of the EF met the morning prior to the general meeting to review the five proposals and make decisions on finalists to interview. The status of the project was described for the balance of the Forum in the general meeting, and we are targeting November 1<sup>st</sup> for issuing a contract on this project.

Later in the meeting we received a report on current EDMS Operation and Maintenance. Pechan, the current contractor, went through the Project Scorecard, listing issues and bugs that they have addressed, or are planning to address in the future. Regarding EDMS user training we reviewed potential topics for Data Analysts and discussed the idea of preparing some sort of tutorial that could be accessed by users who aren't able to attend a formal training session.

We talked about the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS) project to help nine WRAP states in developing an inventory of Greenhouse Gasses (GHG's) and raised concerns regarding translating the "paper" report of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent state emissions to electronic NIF files. These could then be used in standard emission inventory databases (EDMS, NEI) for future assessment and analysis. And we reviewed the results of the EF's Survey of WRAP states' plans for submittal of 2005 emission inventory data.

Then we heard an update on EPA's NEI re-engineering project, whereby the 2008 version of the inventory will be redesigned to improve functionality for all users. Several members of the Emission Forum are participating in the EPA task force on this project.

Finally we discussed the fact that Regional Haze funding is projected to drop from historical levels, and looked at steps the WRAP might take to work with some reduced level of funding. Within this scenario, we reviewed the Emission Forum Budget, which is targeted at EDMS operations between November 2006 and the end of 2008.

The last item was notice that the TSS, Version 1, is due out in the next 7 to 10 days, with current WRAP analyses or emissions, monitoring and modeling.

## **Meeting Details**

### **★ EDMS RFP Status ★**

The Steering Committee met the morning prior to the beginning of this meeting to review the five proposals received on the August RFP for hosting the EDMS during 2007 (ARS/AIR SCIENCES, Environ, ERG, Lakes & Pechan). The Committee reviewed each of the proposals, prioritized the ranking of the proposals, and developed a series of questions to ask of the top finalists in interviews to be scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>. We are targeting November 1<sup>st</sup> for issuing a contract on this project.

It has become apparent that the EDMS might be down for a period of a few weeks, and forum participants concluded that this would probably not cause extensive problems, so long as the system was back up in late Spring to allow submittal of 2006 Inventory data.

### **★ Greenhouse Gas Inventory ★**

The Center for Climate Strategies has an agreement to help nine WRAP states in developing an inventory of Greenhouse Gasses (GHG's). This is paid for by grants from a variety of organizations and foundations, after the WRAP Board expressed interest in the parallels between Climate Change & Regional Haze. CCS gave a September 11<sup>th</sup> report to the Board at Whitefish (subsequently updated to October 18<sup>th</sup>) showing that they have prepared work plans for each of the states, with those states reviewing the plans for approval. In September they had received approval to proceed from six states. The inventories are to be completed in January 2007.

The project is designed in two phases, first to compile a "paper" report of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent state emissions, and second to look at putting the inventory information into EDMS. Right now CCS is only funded for the first Phase state by state reports. Lee Gribovicz was concerned that we be able to use this inventory information in the future, rather than having just a "one time" report. He suggested that the Emission Forum was a proper place to consider whether emission professionals wanted to pursue some electronic conversion for future assessment and analysis. It should be put on the agenda for a future TOC call for further exploration. It was noted that we really need to settle the future of the EDMS itself, before we make any move on this issue.

### **★ Tribal Data Report ★**

No Tribal representative was available this date to give an update on TDDWG activities.

### **★ RoundTable Discussion on Emission Projects★**

Participants discussed a variety of emission projects occurring throughout the WRAP region. Tom Moore provided information on WRAP fire emissions and the fire tracking system. Alice Edwards described a fire emission spreadsheet template Alaska is using to help summarize annual emissions for their ESMP. Tom Moore provided information related to the work of the

Dust Emission Forum. Bob Downing shared information on Maricopa's 2005 windblown dust emission inventory. Chris Ramsdell described Idaho's work related to transportation data. Lee Gribovicz provided the group an update on the Wyoming data system. Brenda Harpring updated the group on Nevada's data system. Roy Doyle discussed Colorado's efforts related to general permits and an imaging project that would hook into their emission inventory. Jeff Stocum provided information on the Columbia River Gorge emission project as well as a statewide biofuel mandate and the difficulties calculating emissions for biofuels. An idea surfaced for an emission workshop that would allow WRAP participants to document the lessons learned from the development of WRAP emission inventories and provide ideas for future improvements.

### ★Co-Chair Opening★

Dennis Schwehr is retiring and a new co-chair is needed for the Emission Forum. The group thanked Dennis for his efforts and wished him well in the future! Anyone interested in taking this on should contact Alice Edwards or Tom Moore.

### ★ EDMS: Pechan Operational Report ★

Jim Wilson and Steve Boone gave Pechan's operational report on EDMS Operation & Maintenance, describing accomplishments since last summer and current action items. He noted that the Project Scorecard is at the project website: <http://projects.pechan.com/edms>, and he went through those items on the October 19<sup>th</sup> version of that scorecard individually.

As requested by the Forum, they completed and delivered the "As Delivered" description of the system and the DBA Activities Documentation by the end of summer. They also worked on XML import of data from a couple of states (Nevada & Alaska), as well as imported some additional fire data. They finished addressing the last of the bugs in the 30/60/90 day Action Plan. They delivered a CD with the EDMS source code in September.

Pechan is working on loading 2018 on and off road mobile, and area source data, with completion targeted for the end of October. Importation of the point source data is being delayed until the final 2018 EGU data is in place. Regarding fire data, it was noted that it has been removed from WRAP EDMS Data Versions 1.2 and 1.3 to re-enable the Ad-hoc reports and NIF export functions for Data Analyst and Data Owner-level users. The volume of fire data had been interfering with these reports, and a link will now be set to the hourly fire data files as an alternative for users interested in downloading that information.

### ★ State Survey Status ★

Bob Downing handed out a summary spreadsheet of the results from the EF survey regarding the status of WRAP states submittal plans for 2005 emission inventory data. There was good participation, with essentially all of the WRAP states responding that they planned on submitting their 2005 data to the EDMS. The survey confirmed that there is a wide variety of definitions for point sources, ranging from 100 TPY, down to 2 TPY, thus evaluation of point and area sectors can vary significantly depending on which state is being analyzed. And the survey

revealed that only a couple of states are currently working in XML (Alaska, New Mexico & Nevada), which is the format that is planned by EPA for future inventory data.

### **★ EDMS Training ★**

Alice Edwards prepared a PowerPoint slide of potential topics for EDMS training to be given for Data Analysts.

Lee Gribovicz noted that he had received a number of calls over the past couple years, requesting Wyoming EI information. These people have been referred to EDMS, but they have regularly reported that they had troubles getting the data. He suggested that it would be good if we could somehow reach that universe of users for this training. Tom Moore suggested that we could probably prepare some sort of tutorial that could be accessed by such users, as an alternative to them participating in a formal planned training session.

### **★ NEI Re-Engineering Update ★**

Tom Moore gave a short presentation on the NEI re-engineering process, whereby EPA intends to redesign the NEI for the 2008 version of the inventory. Chris Ramsdell, Brenda Harpring, Bob Downing and Jeff Stocum from Emissions Forum are participating in the EPA task force. Among the topics they are evaluating are SCC codes and NEI format for modeling analysis.

### **★ WRAP Effort Status ★**

Tom Moore gave a couple of presentations on the status of the WRAP Budget, and on the Technical Support System. He gave a graph of historical funding, showing that the WRAP received over \$4MM/year up through 2004, but 2005-06 funding levels dropped to \$2.5MM/year. Although funding levels have not been set for 2007 as yet, the initial proposal was to reduce the grant for Regional Planning Organizations such that the WRAP's share dropped below \$1MM. WRAP expenditures are climbing, such that we will have expended about all the available funds by June '07. There is an effort by WESTAR to look at what RH Planning & Implementation would cost states in the absence of WRAP support, and this shows that EPA is getting a "bargain" through their RPO funding. But unless the funding decisions are reversed, the WRAP faces a reduced presence.

In planning, we are looking to combine the Modeling, Ambient Monitoring and AoH groups into a Technical Analysis Forum, and that would reduce the meeting frequency. There is a move to hold less frequent in-person meetings, supplemented with more conference calls and web sessions. The WRAP may be forced to revise travel reimbursement policy if needed.

Regarding the Emission Forum Budget, we are looking at \$168K for EDMS operations between November '06 and December '07, followed by \$162K for 2008. And there is \$20K set aside as a contingency for EDMS transition to the new contractor.

Regarding the TSS, Tom explained the purpose of the system is to provide a single portal to access technical data & analytical results for all the haze disciplines as prepared by WRAP Forums & Workgroups. Version 1 of the TSS is due out in the next 7 to 10 days. It will contain the following data & results:

- 2002, 2000-04, & 2018 base case emissions data
- 2000-04 monitoring data
- 2002, 2000-04, & 2018 base case modeling results; and
- integrated apportionment analyses of visibility impairment sources and causes, for the 2000-04 to 2018 base case

**★ Next Meeting/Call ★**

The group did not set a date for the next face-to-face meeting. There was some consensus that a meeting might be good in conjunction with some EDMS training later in the spring. In the interim, if needed, the EDMS work group might meet with the selected EDMS contractor.

The forum agreed to schedule a conference call for Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM Mountain Time. The call would be to provide an update on the EDMS contract and transition.