

*June 27, 2000*

## **UPDATE SESSION**

### **WRAP Meeting May 9-10** (Pat Cummins)

The Market Trading Forum is developing an annex for the Regional Haze Rule, which is currently going through public hearings in Flagstaff, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and Casper, WY. The Annex is necessary to preserve the 309 Option, and will reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Due Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to EPA.

At the recent Colorado Air Quality Control Meeting, Colorado industries voiced opposition to what's going on in the market trading forum, also about the fact that the emissions released from prescribed fires remain unregulated comparatively.

Smoke Management Plans and Burning Alternatives recommendations for the 309 SIP are due Dec 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2003. The FEJF will have to decide what components an ESMP will include prior to the SIP submittal.

#### Other Announcements:

WRAP Meetings scheduled for: Aug 11, 2000 (Seattle)  
Sept 25, 2000 (Sacramento)

CA and SD have joined the WRAP. AK may also join eventually, but NV remains out.

A tiered Alternatives for Agricultural Burning Proposal was delivered this 6/27. FEJF members Mark, Brian, and Carol will need to decide if the bid is acceptable.

The Emissions Forum has looked at different emissions tracking systems in CA, however the fire part is not so great. Emissions tracking systems that are already in places will be looked at as well. How best to develop an emissions tracking system – one that fits into a regional modeling program? The Emissions and Modeling Forums planning on a sort of “regional technical center.”

Appropriate to have FEJF coordinate with:

- Emissions Inventory Forum
- Modeling Forum
- Mobile Source Forum

Rich Halvey has finalized \$185,000 towards the development of a modeling workplan. EPA's Model 3 needs both time and money. Need to get the workplan

going, because most of the coordination in Regional Haze planning will reside in technical issues.

**WGA Progress on RFP's/contracts**  
(Pete Lahm)

SMP Assessment Progress : An amendment has been made to include Agland SMP's into the original Wildland SMP assessment with EC/R.

Emissions Task Team Progress: working with EPA on emissions estimation report for wildlands, and will assist in follow-up workshop efforts. Assisted in addressing FEJF-ETT funding shortfall.

There are no other RFP's pending at this time.

**FEJF Webpage Discussion**

FEJF storyline is up, so check it out sometime..

Concerns/Problems:

- The Westar Links are no longer functioning
- The EPA's guidance documents links are not longer functioning.
- May want to put links on FEJF page to other sites to save some space on AirSci

Pat Cummins has hired new tech. support (through an independent contractor) for the WRAP's webpage, which will be moving to a whole new better site, so be watching!

**WORKPLAN AND FUNDING RE-ALIGNMENT**

**FY2000 Budget Update**  
(Pat Cummins)

WRAP - \$4 million to work with over the next 14 months. \$2.8 million is available this year, possibly more coming in FY01 – although it's a bit early to say what 01 will bring...

FEJF - \$175, 000 from Revised FY99 + \$429,000 from Revised FY00 =  
\$604,000 Total to carry over through the next 18 months.

Other announcements:

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000: Meeting to discuss the workplan with the allocated budget. At this meeting, the Co-chairs need to discuss how the each of the various forum's tasks relate to prevent redundancy.

### **FEJF Re-alignment and Project needs discussion**

(Pete and Co)

(See Handout) Describes the breakout of the different tasks.  
What would reductions mean in terms of these tasks?

An additional item, tribal SMP Assessment (\$25,000) is now in FEJF budget. NTEC's Bill Grantham had earmarked that money for ITEP.

IOC/TOC Co-chairs want to know what is fluff. Will these decisions affect policy outcomes? Can glossy overview approach work instead of detailed effort?

Since the 2001 budget will be less than the monies needed, the Forum might want to start looking at some of the deadlines as a means to consolidate, accomplish, and budget some of the tasks at hand.

(Pat) The 2001 funds will probably be pretty small, so plan on the \$600,000 dollars to carry the forum through the next 18 months. Efforts do need to be made to get money into EPA's 2002 budget, and put together a workplan for through the next 18 months. WRAP and states need to procure funding and not merely rely on the EPA to do so.

About the deadlines.....

In all practicality, FEJF is past all the deadlines so far, and not all the tasks need to be completed in detail before the Dec 31, 2003 SIP deadline. (John Kennedy-EPA) In the past, when EPA gets a SIP, its not always complete. Rather, states may adopt measures at a later time. There is a bit more flexibility with 309.

### **Task Team Discussions**

- 1) Smoke Management Program TT
  - a) Wildlands Sole Source Contract  
Wildlands \$ = 18,111  
Deliverable in September
  - b) Ag Programs Amendment  
Ag \$ = 24,658  
Deliverable in October

Both Ag and Wildlands BSMP Budget totals \$42,769

Because of budget shortfall, need to go back through the workplan to ensure that projects are not duplicated (Jim made the point that the Joint Fire Sciences Project is participating in similar activities)

- c) Tribal Programs Survey  
(Diane Riley)

After a lengthy conference call, decided to go with a modified option one off of the original scope of work. Bill Malone will be assisting ITEP and providing expertise to address any technical issues.

Bill brings up the fact that the survey seems a little lengthy.

Breakout session to resolve any issues with regards to the question and the scope of work, also whether ITEP needs money.

## **ALTERNATIVES TO AGCULTURAL BURNING**

RFP is out, one proposal is in. Closed as of yesterday. Let out for 30 days. Was the scope of work that the forum had agreed too. Ten groups attended pre-bid conference. Next step is to do an interview with the proposers. Some sort of decision will be made within the next week or two. First outline is \$60,000. The contractor is Roy F. Weston out of Pennsylvania. Sensitivity to agricultural issues is one of the key criteria for this type of work.

Questions?

What are the alternatives?

How to best assess the use of alternatives?

What is the cost effectiveness of using the alternatives?

What is the applicability of alternatives from state to state?

## **EMISSIONS TASK TEAM**

- 1) EPA-OAQPS Contract on Wildland Emissions Factors

Framework developed in Spokane for an emissions framework, which was later developed into a SOW. There is still some room for refinement on the tasks themselves

SOW TASK 1 (not available because its not finalized) is to prepare a technical review of existing databases, and to request literature from land managers to get available

emissions estimation techniques to give to the contractor. This will be done jointly with EPA and OAQPS, as well as the Emissions Task Team. Task 1 has 300 contract hours in it, and will probably range in cost to total \$25-35,000.

Also, get the emissions estimation tools in the hands of the people that can successfully develop the emissions inventories.

The key point is to provide consistent approaches to allow interstate and cross boundary techniques to develop a way to estimate and model smoke emissions throughout the WRAP region.

Approach in developing a Wild land Emission Inventory

1. Literature review
2. Workshop

**96 Emissions Data Synopsis -**  
(Mike Ziolkko) (See Handout)

In summary:

Washington, Colorado and Oregon most complete  
No Response from Montana, New Mexico,  
No Data from Nevada, North Dakota

Discussion:

- No State has hourly profiles for individual pollutants, however what's required is some sort of temporal profile.
- For most states, there needs to be some clarification between rangeland and forestland burning.
- Most states that responded were using AP42 to calculate their emissions
- Kennedy brought up PM2.5, and states can use information from their fire sources to build their emissions inventories
- Consistency is needed for modeling.
- Most states do not track anything other than particulate emissions.
- A few states do to track fuel types
- Do we use other techniques or other methods to fill in the gaps for 1996?

- There are implications down the road to whether a state or a region will be using a basic smoke management plan or an enhanced smoke management plan.

## **Natural Background**

Nat background TT meeting in Portland several weeks ago.

Made some progress... came up with some key decisions.....

Task team consensus:

- Develop a methodology to classify smoke emissions into broad categories
- Develop optional approaches to determine how smoke fits into natural background conditions
- To establish methodology for tracking apportionment of smoke emissions

A mediator was hired in preparation for the Denver meeting Sept. 26-27  
One workshop, instead of several, was decided upon due to funding and timing.

New people:

Ken Evans-Phelps Dodge  
Kevin McKernon-Hoopa Tribe  
Laura Autry-EPA  
Sam Sandberg-USFS Research  
Rose Lee-Yakama Tribe  
Bob Palzer-Sierra Club

Fred Greef (Co-chair & FEJF member) has a new job with the WA DNR, so someone will need to pick up his work with the forum. Any volunteers?

From the planned Sept. NBTT meeting, will get options for classification scheme and definitions. NBTT will attempt to get as much feedback to recommend to the FEJF followed by Ambient Monitoring and Reporting Forum on the fire in natural background.

Six Options or more will be presented as possible alternatives. Breakout session groups will then bring their recommendations to the larger stakeholder group. Then can present these ideas to larger, public stakeholders, and then on up. First really need to figure out the conceptual framework.

A proposal has been developed that suggests two stages in coming up with a 309 SIP submittal.

Pros and cons need to be collected, and need to make sure that each constituency is represented. Northern Air managers should be involved in the Denver Meeting. They can get the word out to the other folks.... State Air Directors, Regional Foresters, and industry stakeholders.

Mark Pitchford deadline is questioned since his Forum must go public on findings. Is Jan 1, 2001, drop dead date for everything when it comes to modeling including NB? Come July 17, compromised outcomes and priorities should come forth. What are possible fallbacks if the forum can't make the deadline.

Need to write up an invitation in preparation for the next meeting.

How to proceed with developing the Natural Background SOW?

One idea, to just go ahead, no workshop, and just develop the SOW internally to possibly meet the deadline at hand. There seems to be some agreement that the workshop is necessary to get some ideas. Then, the forum or the task team can compile the ideas from all the different stakeholders, write up a white paper, and send it back out to all of the different stakeholders for review.

Given the timeframe and the fact that the TT is looking for policy guidance, then it may be a good idea to give the stakeholders a chance to indicate as to whether or not they feel a workshop is necessary based on a packet of information they receive about the FEJF and the WRAP. Perhaps even discussing the workshop with the WRAP before hand (here's what we've developed so far and this is what we're thinking)

On the workshop, no more than 2-3 hours of presentations, with 30-40 minutes of breakout sessions per day for one and ½ days. Need to get the information and options out to all who will be attending the meeting, what's at stake, so that they come informed.

Already have some basic guidelines and assumptions, in addition to the pros and cons, for each of the options.

Participants:

- Tribes
- States
- Regional Foresters
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Environment

Conveners:

John Seitz, Director of Air Quality Planner and Standards

Invitation should include a final, polished package that includes all options and recommendations. Recommendation made that something simple goes out now announcing the meeting and what will be discussed.

There's a lot of work to be done, and there needs to be other people stepping up to the plate to make this move forward.

**ESMP - NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS**  
(Mark)

## **PRESCRIBED FIRE ASSESSMENT**

Development of WESTAR Survey may provide tools for this assessment. Slow progress. Need new co-chair and TT members.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Revised storyline. (Totally revised)  
Next Steps;

- Perfecting, finalizing and touching up this document.
- Also creating a small brochure with this information
- Survey of existing public outreach and education programs
- Forum Clearinghouse

6/28/00

## **Workshop Summary**

### **NATURAL BACKGROUND**

Denver Workshop scheduled for 1/24-25/2001

COSTS: (\$50,000 Budget)

SPEAKER/TRAVEL/FEES/KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
FACILITY  
PLANNER  
PACKETS/INVITATIONS  
FACK

First day: First three hours presentations, then discussion of Options  
Second day: Feedback about options

Email will be going out which discusses what the meeting is about, why it's important, and who the target audience is. Air directors, regional directors, state directors, environmental, industry, ag.....

### Natural Background TT Meeting - 10/24-25/2000

End of Meeting Recap:

#### **BSMP**

ECR will review 25 ag. programs + 19 states under the existing contract  
Basic SMP survey is ok

Tribal survey

#### ITEP

Don't know if need more money  
Need to talk to Paul Mountcastle

(ITEP will resurvey all 249 tribes. SOW has been finalized/Survey Questions need some work. Plans on having the survey complete in September.)

#### **EMISSIONS TASK TEAM**

Discussed deadlines and emissions inventory, annual, or episodic, and scope of 1996 inventory.  
Will be working with Tom (EPA)

#### **BURNING ALTERNATIVES**

Draft request for proposal for the alternatives to prescribed fire on wildlands was handed out. Needs to be reviewed by 7/21/00,  
And returned to Shelly.

#### **STORYLINE**

Finalized storyline

Next step...

Develop brochure , possibly submit to communication committee

Ag and Wildlands SOW info

Clearinghouse: setup webpage on WRAP site, or FLMA / Annotate page with links to other fire and other air quality sites.

6/29/00

### **NBTT Meeting**

(Modifications to original previously distributed document in red)

#### Assumptions

#1 Regulatory approach will be applied equally across all ownerships **Regulatory approach for smoke and visibility protection should be applied equally as set out by each states and tribes needs.**

#2 Smoke management plans will be tailored locally and applied to all natural and unnatural sources **Visibility protection considerations are included in both basic and enhanced SMP's . Smoke management plans may be individually tailored by states, tribes, and local entities and applied to all natural and unnatural fires**

#3 An emission tracking / inventory system will be required for natural and unnatural sources **An emission tracking / inventory system should be established for natural and unnatural fires**

#4 Visibility monitoring and some form of source apportionment will be necessary **Visibility monitoring and some form of source apportionment will be necessary to show reasonable progress**

#5 EPA believes some prescribed fire can be considered natural. **(Ref 35735 ...subsequently, prescribed fire can be considered natural)**

#6 Public health, visibility, and ecosystem health are all protected under federal law **(Goal : Omit as an assumption)**

#7 Some level of fire is inevitable in most ecosystems and prescribed fire can sometimes prevent more adverse smoke impacts to public health and visibility not to mention preventing fire impacts to life and property. **(Ref 35735 discuss role of fire and Connect to Assumption #5)**

Assumptions cont. (sorting between assumption and definitions)

Belief: Some human activities, including prescribed fires, are natural sources if they are necessary, desired, or inevitable to attain and sustain the desired future ecosystem and structure.

Strike: The RHR has the dual purpose of reducing manmade visibility impairment and the restoration and maintenance of ecosystems.

Hypothesis: The total visibility impairment (natural and manmade) from all fires that impact a class I area may be greater, less, or about the same as during the baseline period or any other historical or current period; depending on the collective ecosystem history, future, and condition relative to natural disturbance from fires. **Possible Assumption: *(In many cases the extent of fires and the emissions surrounding an area may be greater even while visibility improves, due to effective smoke management. (Related to #2 Assumptions above))***

Assumption: Fires **play a role in the wild lands and agricultural lands of the west**, and are episodic in nature.... The natural return interval must be considered when assessing the pattern of natural visibility impairment.

Hypothesis/Opinion: Climate change will in all probability have a dramatic effect on future natural visibility impairment from fires. Some ecosystems will experience fewer fires than historically, others much more. Ecosystem management will focus increasingly on natural disturbance agents such as fire to manage the adaptation of ecosystems to a changing climate. In some systems the extent of prescribed fires will be greater and more frequent than in the past.

Assumption: **Fed Wild land Fire policy and Regional Haze Rule GCVTC recommendations: increasing use of prescribed fire due to long term suppression and fuels buildup.**

Assumption: **Land use patterns have changed historically, and will continue to change in the future, and may affect natural background conditions. This could effect fire as land management tool.**

Assumption: **Ag fire (make new assumption)**

Assumption: **Tribal (make new assumption)**

Assumption: **We will have improved Smoke Management Plans (How we categorize smoke needs to be the same, as does the way it is regulated)**

## DEFINITIONS

Natural: (Deferred)

Natural Background (or natural condition) Visibility Impairment: (Deferred)

Define: Difference between basic and enhanced SMP (bridge)

## WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES and PARTICIPANTS

Policy makers (Policy) – March meeting to decide on the definition of fire's contribution to natural conditions that will affect visibility impairment in Class I areas in the West For WRAP. Also to discuss policy implications (10-15 participants)

### Primary Objective(s)

- 1) (This is one's is John's creation ☺ ) Evaluate the range of NBTT optional approaches for describing the contribution of smoke to natural background visibility conditions and develop a policy option(s) for defining those contributions.
- 2) Identify policy implications of the options prepared a the Tech workshop for describing the contributions of smoke to natural background visibility conditions.
- 3) Evaluate and decide on a preferred approach that defines fires contribution to natural background that will affect visibility in Class I areas in the West for WRAP

Policy makers: Industry stakeholders  
Electric Utilities  
Mining  
Trucking  
Small business?  
Wood products

Environment  
Save Our Summers  
Sierra Club  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Wilderness Society  
Nature Conservancy

Agriculture

Farm Bureau  
State Ag Dept  
Cattlemen Association

Tribes

Tribal Council  
David Larosh  
ITEP  
NTEC

States

Ag Depts  
State Ag Directors  
State Foresters  
Dept of Ecology  
Dept of Nat Resources  
Air Program Directors  
Environmental Program Directors  
Local Air Districts

FEDS

EPA  
BLM  
NRCS  
DOD  
USFWS  
NPS / USFS / BIA

Policy maker Workshop: Inclusive

- Put word out now – use senior staffers to develop policy maker list
- NBTT develop key list to lobby to come
- Plan workshop for # of RSVP's
- Include both WRAP and Non-WRAP members
- Look at this state by state, to select “best” inviter

Senior Staffers (Tech)– January meeting to discuss the merits of a range of options for defining the role of fire in natural conditions. (50-75 participants) Broad, large audience. Linkage with other forum members

and other regional planning bodies

**Primary Objective(s):**

- 1) Critique and modify the methodology to classify smoke emissions into broad categories as prepared by the NBTT
- 2) Critique and modify the range of the NBTT optional approaches for describing the contribution of smoke to natural background visibility conditions throughout the WRAP Region
- 3) Critique and modify the methodology for tracking and apportionment.

<b>TIMELINE</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Communication with Mark Pitchford AND Co-Chairs 7/17</li><li>2) Funding decisions 7/27 (Northern Air Managers)</li><li>3) FEJF Boise Meeting 9/6-7/00(possible NBTT 9/5 in pm?)</li><li>4) Briefing to WRAP about the NB Workplan 9/25 (Pete)</li><li>5) NBTT Meeting 10/24-25 Denver (possibly early Nov)</li><li>6) NBTT Products Due 11/1 (Regarding tasks 7,9,10 below)</li><li>7) Senior Staffers Workshop Denver 1/24-25/01</li><li>8) NBTT Meeting 2/15-16/01</li><li>9) Policy Makers Workshop 3/15/00</li><li>10) FEJF Meeting 4/17-18/00 w/ NBTT Meeting 4/16/00</li></ol>



**NATURAL CONDITIONS – FRED’S PAPER**

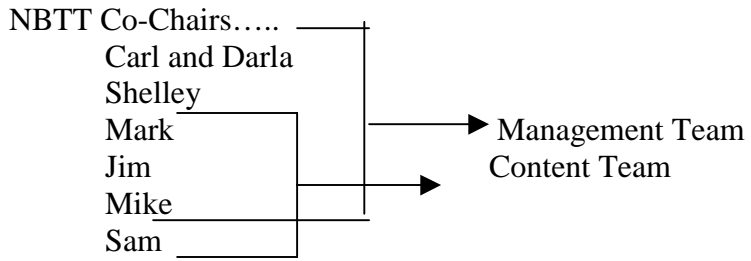
- Enhanced Smoke Management Plans –  
Assumption: We will have improved Smoke Management Plans  
(How we categorize smoke needs to be the same, as does the way it is regulated)
- Approach “Moniker” meant to highlight differences
- Need to fully review pros and cons, and take new assumptions into account
- Consider Sandburg’s classification

**FOR THE RECORD:**

Eliminate “inner/outer circle of NBTT” use FEJF as default on irreconcilable decisions  
Travel Dollars to be provided from FEJF budget for maximum: 4 Tribes, 4 States, 1 Environmental

Status - Passed the Team

## NEXT STEPS AND ASSIGNMENTS



### Management Planning

Shelley  
Tim Sexton  
John Graves