

Summary for September 25, 2008 Oil & Gas Workgroup Call

This Call was the second held with interested O&G Stakeholders. The purpose was to bring participants up to date with the progress on the WRAP/IPAMS Phase III O&G Emission Inventory Project, and to discuss other issues surrounding O&G field activities which were raised on the first call including: Mobile Source Emissions and Non-Criteria Hazardous & Other Air Pollutants incident to O&G Field Operations.

- 9/25 Call Agenda ([PDF](#) or [DOC](#))
- 9/25 Call Summary Presentation ([PDF](#))

Call Summary:

There were about 35 participants from State Air Agencies, Tribal Representatives, Federal Land Managers, EPA, Environmental Interest Groups and O&G Industry representatives on this call.

Phase III Emission Inventory Project Progress: Amnon Bar-Ilan went through Environ's PDF presentation prepared for the call. Regarding on the status of work on the Phase III effort, work is proceeding on the Uinta and Piceance Basin inventories, as well as South and North San Juan Basins. It was noted that no new inventories have been posted on the WRAP website since the last call even though it was originally thought that initial Uinta and Piceance Basin results would be there by now. There had been inquiries about the availability of these two inventories, but participants had been notified that IPAMS is also conducting a separate modeling effort for the Uinta Basin called the Uinta Basin Air Quality Study (UBAQS) where these two basin inventories play a critical role. Thus it was concluded that it would be appropriate to release Uinta and Piceance Basin inventories concurrently with the UBAQS modeling results, and there is not yet a target date for completion of this combined inventory and modeling work.

Next up are the four Wyoming Basins (Southwest [Green River], Big Horn, Wind River & Powder River). Surveys were originally to go out in September, but Wyoming DEQ has requested some consultation on exactly what these surveys contain and how the inventories will be compiled so initiation of Wyoming work will probably be delayed into October. A separate call with Wyoming DEQ is being scheduled, and the WRAP will report out any significant issues that come from these talks on the next general Stakeholder Call.

Oil & Gas Operations Mobile Source Emissions: We next talked about the on and non-road Mobile Source Emissions associated with O&G operations. Environ explained that existing WRAP inventories already contained data produced from the EPA's MOBILE 6 and NONROAD emission models on a county basis, but the O&G "piece" of these inventories is not well defined. An effort to parse out the O&G mobile sector emissions would take a dedicated effort outside of the Phase III project, and Environ's presentation described in general what types of specific survey information might be needed to arrive at such an inventory separation. And there will be overlap of the calculated O&G mobile emissions with the existing on and non-road inventories resulting in some level of "double counting". From evaluation of a limited number of Federal Environmental Impact analyses, Environ's initial estimate of the contribution of mobile source emissions to O&G field totals (well pad construction compared against drilling rigs) is small. But it was freely acknowledged that the

totals could differ depending on the specific characteristics of varying O&G fields, and that there were significant gaps in what was evaluated (on road contributions and ongoing field operations were not considered). Finally, since the question of O&G field emissions is not universal among all WRAP states (only about half of the WRAP states have this type of activity), funding for an effort to quantify these emissions would likely have to come from the handful of states with O&G operations.

It was concluded that we really need to have a subset of the O&G Workgroup members who are interested in this mobile source emissions question, get together to scope out details of a project that can be brought back to the broader Workgroup and WRAP Oversight Committees for their consideration. To that end, volunteers will be solicited for working with this ad hoc O&G Mobile Emissions Committee.

Oil & Gas Operations HAP's Emissions: We then talked about the question of Hazardous Air Pollutant emissions from O&G operations. Those HAP's include formaldehyde, methanol, n-hexane and the BETX compounds (benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene). It was pointed out that unlike criteria pollutants which have an impact on regional air quality issues (primarily Regional Haze), the impact of HAP's was highly localized. And although this certainly is an important question associated with O&G, it tends to fall in the category of issues such as Wildlife and Water Quality Impacts which are not central to the mandate of the WRAP Charter and Workplan. The WRAP staff would be amenable to helping coordinate some sort of evaluation of HAP's, but funding would certainly have to come from those Stakeholder groups who were directly affected. Absent a strong outpouring of sentiment for the WRAP to move into this arena, it doesn't appear that the matter is "ripe" for WRAP participation at this time.