

February 3, 2006

Technical Oversight Committee & Forum/Workgroup Co-Chairs Conference Call Notes

Participants: Steven Arnold, Tom Moore, Lee Gribovicz, Don Arkell, Darla Potter, Marc Pitchford, Dave Jones, Duane Ono, Kevin Briggs, Ken Cronin, Mark Fitch, Bob Gruenig, Bob Palzer, Alice Edwards.

WRAP Co-Director change at NTEC- David announced Bob Gruenig will step down as the co-director. NTEC put out an announcement for a full time replacement among the tribes. A copy of the announcement is available through David Jones or Bob Gruenig, and will be posted on the NTEC website. Bob will not be stepping down until there is a replacement. Bob felt there were too upcoming demands with the WRAP and other projects, plus administrative stuff and travel. Ken Cronin is currently the tribal caucus coordinator and will remain in that position as a full time position. The announcement closes February 21 and is open to all qualified applicants.

PM NAAQS Review comment topics. Tom prepared a draft document concerning the implementation of the PM NAAQS starting with work Marc Pitchford had done, and some information about the process for preparing WRAP comments and adding potential additional topics. Several conference calls have occurred to shape this draft with participation by Marc, Wayne Leipold, Duane Ono, Bob Palzer and Don Arkell. Marc reported he participated in an Inter-RPO Monitoring/Data Analysis Discussion Group conference call last week about the proposed standard and EPA participated to answer questions. John Bachman from EPA responded to Marks question about RH impacts that EPA had not considered those in the proposal. Mark emphasized the coarse particulate impacts. Removing this as a controlled fraction has a potentially huge impact on visibility in the West. Mark reported that Ivar Tombach was on the RPO call and commented that in many communities farm land abuts communities and measuring violations that could be tracked back to agricultural sources, those violations would be ignored. Marc said the urban coarse particles would be considered as controllable. Discussion followed about why the EPA believes agricultural particulates are considered to be benign. Lee said many states have already submitted comments related to health impacts. It was suggested that our focus needs to be on the visibility impacts. Speciation of coarse particles appears to be a pressing need in the comments since partitioning the particles into “agricultural and mining dust” and urban dust becomes the challenge for control programs.

A discussion about the health effects studies for Tribes and the lack of studies in smaller populations ensued. The arbitrary cutoff of 100,000 people appears to remove health protection for smaller communities. However, EPA's answer for this is that smaller areas are dominated by agricultural and mining coarse particles. Mark suggested States and Tribes should be concerned about the nature of the studies that led to the PM standard

Action Item: *TOC members and other interested parties need to review that proposed comments that Tom will redraft. We need to strategize how to finalize these and pass the comments through proper channels to get them to EPA. The Planning Team meeting will focus on trying to finalize comments and coming up with a process to finalize them as official WRAP*

*comments. The final comments are due to EPA in April. The three WRAP related items appear to be 1) Impacts on visibility, 2) Need for speciation monitoring, 3) Providing EPA with information we have developed related to coarse particles showing they are not all agricultural even at remote sites. Tom will draft a new version of the letter and a **conference call was set for 2:30 Mountain February 13th** to help shape up the letter. Tom will send out an announcement.*

Tech Report status - Tom is working on the November 2005 through January 2006 update. The Tucson meeting, and AoH, Modeling and Emissions group meeting occurred and it will take a bit of time to get the summary together. Tom will try to get this out in the next 10 days. Since the status report contains 'upcoming' work it is critical to bring the outcomes of these various meetings into the update to help guide the planning team meeting. The emissions workshop pointed the need for States to have more modeling assistance for the BART analysis. Bob Palzer asked about costs for doing the work in the emissions/modeling. No dollar costs have been developed yet. Don Arkell suggested costs for what the States think they will need will be likely above the available resource. Tom Moore felt the co-chairs and work groups are looking at the work for the future and shifting of resources will probably be more of the focus, not adding new tasks.

Planning Team meeting- February 22-23 - Tom said that Pat Cummins will send out a reminder memo with a draft agenda next week. Dwayne Ono said the Dust Forum has pretty much completed their work and if there are no other demands they will not have proposed work for the remainder.

Next TOC/Co-Chairs call - 1100 AM Mountain, March 3rd, Friday. We will focus on reviewing action items from the Planning Team meeting as they relate to TOC work and the status or need to add more information on the EPA NAAQS letter. We will also review the Tech. Status report. Other items to be added as needed.