

TheWRAPSheet

Western Regional Air Partnership News
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Next WRAP meeting April 2 - 3 in Portland

The next meeting of the WRAP Board of Directors will be held in Portland, Ore. on April 2 - 3 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower (www.portland.hilton.com). The meeting will begin April 2 at 1 p.m. and will adjourn on April 3 at 2 p.m. The Tribal Caucus and Communications Committee plan to have separate meetings the afternoon of April 1 and the morning of April 2. For reservations at the Hilton Portland, call (503) 226-1611 or (800) 445-8667, and reference the WRAP to receive the contracted room rate of \$91. Detailed meeting information and a draft agenda will be available soon at www.wrapair.org.

Planning Team "Summit" scheduled for March 20

The WRAP Planning Team will meet March 20 at the Eldorado Hotel in Santa Fe, N.M. (www.eldoradohotel.com) to review a draft 2004 - 2007 work plan. The team will also conduct an assessment of emission inventory database needs and get an overview of the economic analysis framework. Several forums are also scheduled to meet on March 18 - 19 at the Eldorado, including:

- Air Managers Committee, 19th
- Ambient Monitoring, 19th
- Economic Analysis, 19th
- Emissions, 19th
- Market Trading, 18th & 19th
- Modeling, 19th
- Joint Fire, Emissions, Dust, and Modeling, 19th

Details on the agenda will be posted on the Web at www.wrapair.org as soon as they are available. For reservations at the Eldorado Hotel, call (505) 988-4455 or (800) 955-4455, and reference the WRAP to receive the contracted room rate of \$99.

OMB to review Annex

The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is expected to complete its review in March of the WRAP Annex to the Report of the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission. Once OMB's review is complete, EPA will publish a final rule in the Federal Register incorporating the Annex into Section 309 of the Regional Haze Rule. The Annex sets milestones for reducing sulfur dioxide emissions from large industrial sources and includes a backstop emissions trading program if those milestones are not met through voluntary actions. Each state and tribe within the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission region may choose to implement the Annex by submitting to EPA a regional haze plan under Section 309 by Dec. 31 of this year.

Gila River Indian Community one of first in region to develop TIP

The Gila River Indian Community Council submitted the first part of a tribal implementation plan (TIP) for air quality to the U.S. EPA last August and will seek public comment to the second section in May. The tribe, which has jurisdiction over more than 375,000 acres in southern Arizona, is one of the first in the region to develop its own tribal implementation plan.

The first section of the TIP provides definitions, an explanation of general authority for implementing air quality programs under the Tribal Authority Rule, the procedures for preparation, adoption, and submittal of the TIP, and the recognition that the national ambient air quality standards are adopted as the community standards for sulfur oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen oxides and lead. Questions on the Gila River plan may be addressed to tribe's Department of Environmental Quality at (520) 562-2234.

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February workshop to assist states/tribes writing 309 implementation plans

WRAP's technical committees will host a [February workshop](#) to assist states and tribes understand and incorporate regional data into their own implementation plans under Section 309 of the Regional Haze Rule. Individuals preparing state and tribal implementation Plans (SIPS and TIPS) for submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are encouraged to attend the workshop Feb. 11 - 12 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Topics to be covered include: the technical analysis history of WRAP and the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission; emissions inventories, modeling of visibility improvement; clean air corridors; and issues related to additional Class I areas (other than the 16 areas on the Colorado Plateau).

Work group developing 2004 - 07 work plan

An ad hoc WRAP work group will meet Feb. 13 in Scottsdale to review a [work plan](#) covering the period 2004 - 2007. The work plan is being developed to assist WRAP states and tribes meet their deadlines under the Regional Haze Rule. The WRAP Planning Team will meet on March 20 to review the plan before it is submitted to the WRAP Board, which will meet April 2-3 in Portland. More information on the March 20 Planning Team meeting will be available soon at www.wrapair.org.

WRAP supports EPA's effort on rules for non-road mobile sources

In a Jan. 28 [letter to U.S. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman](#), the WRAP urged adoption of "rigorous new engine and fuel sulfur standards for non-road diesel sources" and suggested that EPA work with states and tribes to design cost-effective retrofit programs to reduce emissions from existing on-road and non-road diesel engines.

The WRAP Board agreed in November to draft a letter backing EPA's proposed standards for diesel engines used in construction, mining, industrial and farming equipment. At that meeting, the Mobile Sources Forum reported that, in the future, emissions from non-road sources will be greater than emissions from on-road sources, unless new standards are put into place. Timely action by the EPA on engine and non-road diesel sulfur standards will help states and tribes as they seek to improve visibility in Class I areas under the Regional Haze Rule and also meet health-based air quality standards.

Templates progressing well for state/tribal implementation plans

The WRAP's STIP-II Working Group is making good progress in developing templates for state and tribal implementation plans under Section 309.

Brian Finneran of Oregon is leading the effort on the state template. He is focused on developing template language and adding references to technical support documents and specific policies developed by the WRAP for Section 309. A draft of the model SIP will be available in early February.

Rosanne Sanchez of New Mexico is leading the effort on the tribal template. Rosanne is expanding Brian's template language to include appropriate tribal language. She is also working on additional sections that will provide tribes with guidance for TIP development. There exists little precedent for developing a model TIP, which adds another layer of complexity to an already complicated process. Completion of the draft model TIP is expected by May.

New tribal member to join WRAP Board; communications specialist to be hired

A concerted effort by the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) to inform more tribes about the activities of the WRAP and the vital role tribes play on the WRAP Board and its forums has resulted in the addition of the Shungnak Native Village, to be represented by the Maniilaq Association, on the WRAP Board.

Bill Grantham, WRAP Co-Director, and Bob Gruenig, WRAP Tribal Caucus Coordinator, have made presentations at several national tribal meetings to encourage tribal participation in the WRAP. Letters were sent to more than 400 tribes in the West to urge participation on committees and forums. NTEC plans to hire a communications specialist to assist with tribal outreach and to solicit additional tribal input in the WRAP process. A job announcement will be posted soon on the WRAP Web site and the NTEC Web site at www.ntec.org.

Developments under way for In and Near Forum

The WRAP [In and Near Forum](#), which addresses areas close to Class I areas, met with contractor Environ on Dec. 10 to review a proposed work plan to characterize emissions from point and mobile sources. The characterization will include all Class I areas in the WRAP region. Environ has proposed a series of nine tasks, including an in-depth analysis of a subset of the areas that will also review trends and seasonality of emissions. For more information on the project, please contact Lee Alter, WRAP Policy Analyst, at lalter@westgov.org.

Related air quality developments

Proposed coal mine near Zuni

The Pueblo of Zuni is seeking to protect a sacred lake -- Zuni Salt Lake -- from development of a nearby coal strip mine proposed by the Salt River Project, an Arizona electric utility. The Zuni Salt Lake Coalition includes the Department of Natural Resources of the Zuni tribe, the Water Information Network, the Environmental Justice Program of the Sierra Club, the Citizens Coal Council of Colorado and the Tucson, Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity. The Zuni Salt Lake has been tapped for salt for ceremonial and domestic uses over the centuries by the Zuni, Hopi, Acoma, Laguna, Navajo and Apache peoples. Among the concerns is that development of the strip mine will drain a nearby aquifer and damage the Zuni Salt Lake, as well as create air-blown dust from mining activities. Both the state of New Mexico and the Department of the Interior have granted permits for the Fence Lake Mining Project to begin work. For details, see <http://www.doi.gov/news/020531a.html>.

Organic and elemental carbon workshop scheduled

At Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., an organic carbon and elemental carbon workshop is scheduled for March 4 - 5 in cooperation with the Desert Research Institute. The WRAP is supporting the international workshop, which continues efforts begun in Feb. 2002, in Reno, Nev. Researchers will discuss sampling, analysis and characterization of carbon in its various forms, with a goal of improving measurement standards and understanding of public health and visibility issues related to elemental and organic carbon. For more information, see: <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/aerosols/ocec/default.htm>

Comments? Questions?

Comments and questions on The WRAP Sheet are welcomed. Please contact: wrapnews@wrapair.org to request further information. If you have story ideas or other comments, also contact wrapnews@wrapair.org. Thank you.

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For More Information about The WRAP

The WRAP, a voluntary organization of Western states, tribes and federal agencies, promotes, supports and monitors programs implementing the Regional Haze Rule, including recommendations from the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission and other programs that protect visibility throughout the West. For other information about the WRAP or past issues of The WRAP Sheet, visit www.wrapair.org.

