



WRAP

TRIBAL NEWS

January 2006

WRAP ACTIVITIES - TRIBAL SYNOPSIS

Climate Change Session Set for April 4-5, 2006

During its December 2005 meeting, the WRAP Board held a discussion about climate change and some of the next steps for the organization. While a lot of discussion occurred and good ideas were shared, the Board ultimately made two decisions: to develop greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories (EIs) for the West and to have follow-up meetings with WRAP partners (e.g., state and tribal representatives) to hold further discussions about climate change.

With respect to developing GHG EIs for the West, the Board decided that this was a next logical next step for the organization based on its ongoing work in developing other types of EIs. With an emissions data management system (EDMS) already in place, the ability to populate it with GHG EIs should be relatively easy. To accomplish this task, the WRAP will need to:

- Discern what the data gaps are in the WRAP's existing EIs;
- Identify preferred methods, data sources, and key assumptions to consistently estimate GHG emissions;
- Identify overall goals of the inventory project and the value of developing inventories through a coordinated regional effort; and
- Prepare a scope of work for contractor assistance.

Current estimates are that collecting GHG EIs will cost \$20-30,000 per state or tribe with an additional \$75-100,000 required to populate the EDMS with all of these GHG EIs.

With respect to follow-up meetings, the Board intends to have two such meetings during 2006 with the first one scheduled for April 4th and 5th in Salt Lake City, Utah. Possible topics that could be discussed during these meetings include:

- Carbon Sequestration;
- Potential economic effects of climate change;
- The 2005 Energy Bill;
- WGA Clean and Diversified Energy Committee;
- Greenhouse gas registries; and
- Updates from states, tribes and the federal government.

Both these decisions made by the Board will necessitate funds separate and apart from existing WRAP funds which are earmarked for regional haze activities. Short-term funding needs will be focused on bringing the WRAP's partners together for the April meeting to discuss climate change issues more in length. This will require the WRAP to look to its stakeholders (e.g., industry, non-governmental organizations), public and private sector sources, and other types of financial sources to fund this meeting and other activities beyond it.

As further information becomes available, NTEC staff will make sure that it is properly communicated to the WRAP Tribal Caucus. Until then, questions about climate change efforts as they relate to the WRAP can be forwarded to Bob Gruenig, WRAP Co-Director, via phone (505-242-2175 ext. 103) or e-mail (bgruenig@ntec.org).

March TDDWG/Inter-RPO Meeting and WRAP Policy and Technical Workshop

Work is well underway for both an upcoming meeting and workshop to assist tribes in their efforts to better understand the regional haze planning process, and how their needs and concerns could and should be better addressed by regional planning organizations (RPOs).

To kick things off, the Tribal Data Development Work Group (TDDWG) will hold its quarterly meeting in conjunction with the first in-person meeting of the Inter-RPO Tribal Workgroup. Scheduled to take place Tuesday, March 14th, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the TDDWG meeting will include discussions about the workgroup's 2006 projects and updates provided by Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) personnel concerning their work on behalf of the TDDWG. The afternoon will largely consist of a roundtable discussion among representatives of the five RPOs, sharing their stories and discussing next steps that should be taken by the RPOs to address tribal needs and concerns with respect to regional haze efforts.

On March 15th and 16th, the second WRAP Tribal Policy and Technical Workshop will be held (the first one was held in September 2003). Audience participants will have an opportunity to learn about the WRAP, its activities, and how some of the tribes' needs and concerns are being addressed.

While hotel arrangements are currently being finalized, it is expected that the meeting and workshop will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Albuquerque, at 201 Marquette Avenue, NW. Once arrangements are finalized, tribal representatives both within and outside the WRAP region will be notified. Until then, questions may be forwarded to Ken Cronin via phone (505-242-2175 ext. 115) or e-mail (kcronin@ntec.org).

Upcoming WRAP Planning Team Meeting in Salt Lake City

Tribal air quality managers in the WRAP region are strongly encouraged to attend the upcoming WRAP Planning Team meeting scheduled for February 22nd and 23rd in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Sheraton City Centre. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- Conduct a review of current and pending WRAP projects;

- Identify opportunities to reprogram funds currently budgeted for projects that have not yet begun;
- Discuss new projects needed in 2006 and 2007 to support regional haze plans due in 2007; and
- Begin preparation of a 2007-2010 strategic plan to support future funding requests.

Tribal representatives may find the last item of particular interest as states and tribes begin to discuss what direction the WRAP could or should take in the future. Some questions needing to be answered may include:

- Should the WRAP (and other RPOs) continue in its efforts to address regional air quality issues?
- Should regional haze continue to be the focus of the WRAP?
- Should the WRAP address other air quality issues in the future such as climate change or mercury?
- If the WRAP pursues non-regional haze air quality issues, how will the organization need to frame its funding requests to allow it to address such issues?

A room block has been reserved at the Sheraton City Centre for the night of February 22nd at a rate of \$78. For reservations, please call the hotel by February 13th (1-801-401-2000) and reference the “WRAP” in order to receive the contracted rate of \$78/night.

For specific questions about the meeting, please contact Bob Gruenig via phone (505-242-2175 ext. 103) or e-mail (bgruenig@ntec.org).

Attribution of Haze Project and Haze Impact on Tribes

As a follow-up to the WRAP Tribal News for December 2006, five tribes have requested that the Attribution of Haze (AOH) Workgroup conduct Phase II modeling of their lands in order to determine how much haze is impacting these lands, what the haze is made of, and where the haze is coming from. The tribes that have agreed to participate thus far include:

- Fort Belknap Indian Community,
- Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation,
- Pueblo of Acoma,
- Pueblo of Taos, and
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

It is expected that the modeling for one of the tribes will serve as a case study to be presented during the upcoming WRAP Tribal Policy and Technical Workshop in March. If your tribe is not currently participating in this effort but has an interest in doing so, please contact Ken Cronin via phone (505-242-2175 ext. 115) or e-mail (kcronin@ntec.org). Ken will help place you in contact with the appropriate individuals involved with the modeling that will help answer the questions mentioned above.

Point and Area Source Emissions Inventory Completed

A joint project of the Tribal Data Development Work Group, Stationary Sources Joint Forum and the Emissions Forum to gather and address point and area sources in the WRAP region was recently completed. The project consisted of an analysis and quality assurance of 2002 point and area source emissions inventory data as reported by WRAP regional air quality agencies, applying selected inventory improvements, and making the first “base case” estimates of 2018 emission projections for WRAP point and area sources.

Further information about this project can be found on the home page of the WRAP at www.wrapair.org.

Final Report for the “Tribal Causes of Haze” Project

At the December TDDWG meeting, Mark Green of the Desert Research Institute (DRI) gave a report on the final results and recommendations of the final phase of this project. For a total cost of \$85,000, DRI performed three tasks: (1) a Phase I “Causes of Haze” assessment for six tribal Class I areas; (2) an assessment of whether the IMPROVE air quality monitoring network was representative of tribal air quality; and (3) recommendations for additional monitoring sites as indicated by Task 2. The representative analysis indicated that there are 11 tribes in the WRAP region that are not represented by the current IMPROVE network. The TDDWG raised questions as to whether the analysis adequately represents certain tribes whose local topography may influence whether it is truly representative, and the TDDWG is working with DRI to create a proposal for additional work that would refine the results. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact Ken Cronin via phone (505-242-2175 ext. 115) or e-mail (kcronin@ntec.org).

This monthly newsheet is a collaboration of the National Tribal Environmental Council's (NTEC's) air program staff assigned to work with the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), and condenses for the reader the activities and issues of the various forums, committees, and workgroups of the WRAP as they pertain to the tribes within the WRAP region. WRAP - a partnership of the western states (including Alaska), tribes within those states and other stakeholders - is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with the purpose of developing data, tools, and policies needed to improve visibility in parks and wilderness areas across the West. More information on WRAP may be found on its website, www.wrapair.org, while NTEC's website is located at www.ntec.org. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this newsheet, please contact Sandra Sac Parker, Editor and NTEC air program communications specialist, at 505/242-2175 ext. 104 or e-mail sparker@ntec.org.

