

# Needs and Responsibilities of Potential Hosts for a WRAP Regional Modeling Center Draft 9/5/00

## I. Introduction

The WRAP Modeling Forum has recommended the creation of a WRAP Regional Modeling Center (RMC). The RMC would be responsible for producing the modeling outputs necessary for meeting the requirements of Sections 308 and 309 of EPA's regional Haze rules. The work of the RMC will be overseen by the WRAP Modeling Forum and Emissions Forum, with input and collaboration with other WRAP committees and forums as appropriate.

## II. Potential Hosts

Potential hosts include universities, federal agencies, and existing regional organizations. Each has potential advantages and limitations that would need to be addressed. These include the following:

Host Type	Potential Advantages	Possible Limitations
University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very educated personnel are available.</li> <li>• Not oriented towards any particular stakeholder.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deadlines are difficult to set in a learning institution.</li> <li>• Funding IPAs may require external hosting.</li> <li>• Funding equipment purchases may be difficult.</li> <li>• School schedules can interfere with staffing</li> </ul>
Federal Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can draw on skilled staff volunteers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding towards federal agencies may be prohibited.</li> <li>• Funding equipment purchases may also be difficult.</li> <li>• Federal staff cannot be funded by WRAP.</li> </ul>
Regional Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding issues may not be a problem.</li> <li>• Some organizations already have good communications with modelers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreements need to allow input from all WRAP stakeholders.</li> </ul>
Individual State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination with University may improve this option.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreements need to allow input from all WRAP stakeholders</li> </ul>

### **III. Capabilities and Duties of the Host**

In order for an entity to host the a RMC capable of performing the level of air quality modeling needed to meet the analysis requirements of the RH rule they will need strong air quality modeling, chemistry, meteorological and programming skills. In addition, if the center is to operate in a virtual fashion, the host will have to be able to facilitate good communication and cooperation between the states, tribes and other participating entities. Finally, the host will need to be able to perform the standard administrative functions associated with the center. Some of this expertise can be procured through outside contracts.

The most important attribute the host entity will need to be successful is the leadership to encourage, advocate and ultimately enlist active participation of all WRAP stakeholders. The following is a list of some of the capabilities and duties a RMC host would need:

#### Infrastructure

- Provides hardware and technical support needed to make a “distributed” RMC work.
- Hosts conference calls and technical training meetings for capacity building - computer training room and high performance Internet connection.
- Obtains and provides training needed for RMC members.
- Has system administration skills to manage the required computer and data base infrastructure - possibly windows, NT and UNIX based.
- Conducts frequent travel to states, tribes, other participants and contractors - convenient to a municipal airport.
- Works towards developing capacity within the WRAP stakeholders to assure that local modeling can be performed for refinement of SIPs and TIPS.
- Responds to needs from WRAP stakeholders for writing SIPs and TIPS.

#### Technical

- Has an expert photochemical modeler with leadership skills to guide the project.
- Has emissions modeling capabilities.
- Has meteorological modeling capabilities.
- Has data base skills needed to create and maintain a western states visibility emissions storage and retrieval system.
- Has programming and GIS skills for manipulating large data sets.
- Has the ability to acquire, install, modify as needed and validate complex modeling applications.
- Works with other WRAP contractors to provide the necessary time advantage (jump starting) for the modeling efforts.

#### Administrative

- Provides leadership to encourage and advocate active interest within all WRAP stakeholders.
- Completes work, which meets the requirements of the work plans set forth by Modeling and Emissions Forums.

- Reports regularly to the WRAP forums to assure work is being performed according to schedule.
- Facilitates technical communication and data exchange between states, tribes and other entities.
- Manages budgets that can withstand an audit.
- Manages personnel working in different locations within the WRAP area.
- Writes and administers technical contracts and spec out large hardware and software purchases.
- Hosts Interagency Personnel Agreements (IPAs) and develops Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) between WRAP stakeholders and the RTC to provide staffing for RMC work.
- Has reasonable overhead expenses.

#### **IV. Possible Alternative**

For funding of some potential hosts (e.g., Federal Agencies), some combination of hosts may be needed. For example, this possibly could be a cooperation between a regional organization with a Federal Agency. Another alternative is a cooperation between a state and a university.