



WRAP

TRIBAL NEWS

December 2005

WRAP ACTIVITIES - TRIBAL SYNOPSIS

Mercury Session at the December WRAP Board Meeting:

Responding to a request by the Tribal Caucus, an informational session on mercury was planned and carried out by Bob Gruenig, WRAP co-director, and Sandra Sac Parker, communications specialist, as part of the WRAP Board meeting held Dec. 14-15 in Palm Springs, California. While Sandra researched and compiled a booklet of handouts and the speakers' PowerPoint presentations, Bob took on the task of determining an agenda and contacting the guest speakers, which ranged from representatives of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa to the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management.

The two also arranged to have the session videotaped, and will work with the WRAP webmaster on a webcast of the event. In addition, the PowerPoint presentations of the various speakers will be posted on the WRAP website at www.wrapair.org. WRAP tribal representatives will be continually updated as these events occur. In the meantime, you may contact Bob at bgruenig@ntec.org or Sandra at sparker@ntec.org or call either one at 505/242-2175.

EPA Issues Draft Guidance for Setting Reasonable Progress Goals:

At the December WRAP Board meeting, it was announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a new guidance document on which it seeks comments from tribes and states. The document provides guidance on "Setting Reasonable Progress Goals Under the Regional Haze Program." EPA regulations require states to set interim goals for visibility improvement for each affected national park and wilderness area. The guidance covers topics such as identifying key pollutants and control strategies, and considering certain factors specified in the Clean Air Act, including energy and non-air quality impacts, costs of and time necessary for compliance, and the remaining useful life of polluting facilities. The methodology used by states in setting their goals will be key in determining the overall stringency and effectiveness of their regional haze programs. Therefore, tribes are highly encouraged to review and comment on this document. Look for it on the WRAP website, or email bgrantham@ntec.org or kcronin@ntec.org. The document is not subject to a formal notice-and-comment period, but comments should be submitted by the end of January to ensure timely consideration.

Report on Meetings:

Past Meetings:

- There was an Attribution of Haze Work Group meeting held Nov. 16-17 in Tempe, Arizona. Progress on development of the Attribution of Haze, Phase II report (AofH), and the Technical Support System (TSS) was reviewed. Included in the review was the status of air quality monitoring, and emissions and modeling data to be incorporated into the report. Many of the current and projected base-case emissions models are now available at the Regional Modeling Center (<http://pah.cert.ucr.edu/rmc/>)
- The Fire Emissions Joint Forum (FEJF) met in Seattle on Nov. 30 – Dec.1. Of particular interest to tribes is the continued development on the “Guidance for Coordinating Smoke Management Programs,” which is trying to define how states, tribes, and federal fire managers can coordinate regionally. Please contact Ken Cronin (kcronin@ntec.org) if you would like to review the current draft.
 - One issue that has arisen is the lack of participation by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the FEJF. As the fire manager for the majority of the tribes in the WRAP region, the BIA will be expected to coordinate with the other federal, state, and tribal fire managers in the future, so its input would be valuable in the creation of documents like the one above. The Tribal Caucus discussed this issue, agreed that the BIA should be participating in the FEJF, and is currently seeking BIA fire managers who have a good relationship with tribes. If you have a suggestion, please contact Ken Cronin.
- The Tribal Data Development Work Group met in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Dec. 7-8. The work group heard the final report on the *Tribal Causes of Haze* project from the Desert Research Institute. This exciting project included a “representative analysis” of the IMPROVE air monitoring network to determine whether these air monitors are also monitoring tribal air quality. This is the first project in which this type of analysis regarding tribes has been done. The TDDWG also continues to scope out two Requests for Proposals to carry out its 2006 work plan tasks. These include:
 1. Hiring a contractor to review each of the §308 and revised §309 RH SIPs as they are being developed, and provide an analysis of potential tribal implications to each of the tribes located within each state’s boundaries.
 2. Providing a contractor to work with individual tribes to access the updated emission inventory and modeling data available within the WRAP Technical Support System. While this information could be used as the technical basis for a Regional Haze TIP, tribal representatives may also find this information interesting for other reasons as well.
- The WRAP Tribal Caucus held a meeting on Dec.12-13 in Palm Springs, California. The main focus of this meeting was to prepare each of the Board members for the Dec. 14th

Board meeting, which focused on the nearly completed stationary source projects and some of the trends revealed by updated 2002 emissions data and 2018 projections. Also discussed were the sessions on mercury (which was set up at the request of the Tribal Caucus) and the “next steps” that the WRAP Board is considering regarding climate change.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Jan. 10-11: **Technical Workshop on Sulfate, Nitrate and Reasonable Progress** – Tucson, Arizona. Get more information at: <http://www.wrapair.org/cal/calendar.php?op=view&id=458>
- Feb. 23-24: **WRAP Planning Team Meeting** – Salt Lake City, Utah. There is an unexpected \$425K available for project funding that will be apportioned at this meeting.
- March 14: **TDDWG/Tribal Inter-RPO workgroup**. This joint meeting will be the first for the newly formed Tribal RPO Workgroup, and will allow the members to interact with the TDDWG members.
- March 15-16: **WRAP Tribal Policy and Technical Workshop** – Albuquerque, New Mexico. This workshop is intended to provide an overview of all the recent efforts by the WRAP committees, forums and workgroups. It will focus on how the updated modeling tools and emissions data can be used by and benefit tribes, with demonstrations of the Emissions Data Management System (EDMS) and the Regional Modeling Center.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIBES

- **There are currently four positions open on WRAP Board.** Please contact Bob Gruenig (bgruenig@ntec.org) or Ken Cronin (kcronin@ntec.org) if your tribe is interested in joining.
- **Want to know what how much haze is impacting your tribe, what it is made of, and where it is coming from?** The Attribution of Haze workgroup has offered to conduct their Phase II modeling for any tribe who wants to participate. So far, three tribes have expressed interest, and the AoH workgroup says that it can do this analysis for any interested tribes in the WRAP region. Please contact Ken Cronin (kcronin@ntec.org) if you would like this analysis done for your tribe.

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.

