



# *WRAP*

## TRIBAL NEWS

April 2006

### **WRAP Board Climate Change Meeting**

The WRAP Board recently sponsored a two-day session, April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, on climate change, focusing on such matters as climate change registries for identifying and tracking greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; carbon sequestration partnerships for removing carbon from the atmosphere; coal gasification which converts coal to a cleaner gaseous energy alternative; and current activities being undertaken by western states in addressing climate change. The session was well attended and had representatives from a number of tribes, states, industries, and environmental organizations. Presentations given during the two-day session are available at <http://www.wrapair.org/WRAP/meetings/060404slc/index.html>.

During this two-day session, the Board also had a discussion about the development of western GHG emission inventories (EIs), consisting of data on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and Black Carbon (mixture of partially burned hydrocarbons). Development of these EIs would then allow the WRAP to assess individual state and tribal GHG emissions for the years 1990-2020 for all emitting sectors. While a cost estimate for developing this EI data was provided by Tom Peterson with the Center for Climate Change Strategies, the contractor for the project, it did not include development of EI data for tribal lands. This is because this EI data is expected to be developed through incorporation of a GHG module into the existing Tribal Emissions Inventory Software Solution (TEISS). While a cost for incorporating such a module is not currently known, an estimate is expected to be completed by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals in the near future. Such a cost along with others associated with development and collection of western GHGs EIs will necessitate securing funds outside the WRAP's regular budget that is currently and solely earmarked for regional haze purposes. While efforts are currently underway to secure such outside funding, the WRAP is still interested in hearing suggestions from individuals about potential funding sources and opportunities that may exist. Please forward such suggestions to Bob Gruenig, WRAP co-director, via e-mail at [bgruenig@ntec.org](mailto:bgruenig@ntec.org) or via phone at 505-242-2175 ext. 103.

### **AMC Finishes Comments on PM-NAAQS**

At the time of this writing, the WRAP Air Managers Committee (AMC) is putting the final touches on comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the proposed PM NAAQS and monitoring provisions. (The beginning of this process was reported in last month's *WRAP Tribal News*). It was determined early in the process that there would not be time within the comment period to obtain consensus among all WRAP tribes, states, and

stakeholders. Therefore, the AMC developed a letter for signature by individual tribes and states at their option, rather than comments from the WRAP as a whole.

The draft letter recommends the EPA follow the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's recommendations on the range of values for the NAAQS; supports the adoption of a secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS to protect visibility; objects to the urban/rural division for the PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> standard and to the exemption of agricultural and mining sources, and calls for a secondary PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> standard for visibility purposes in all areas (not just in urban areas where the proposed primary PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> NAAQS would apply). The letter also calls for continued PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> monitoring in both urban and rural areas, in order to collect the data needed to better understand the health effects of this fraction of PM pollutants.

The letter, with supporting technical information, should be available on the WRAP web page ([www.wrapair.org](http://www.wrapair.org)) by the time you receive this newsletter.

### **Tribal Data Development Working Group**

The TDDWG met March 14<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The main topic of discussion was the work plan items that need to be accomplished before the end of FY07, when the Regional Haze SIPs are due. Aside from the current work plan items, the TDDWG is considering not only the continuation of the TEISS software and training, but also a tribal road dust emissions proposal and Phase II of the Tribal Representative Analysis of the IMPROVE Network (TRAIN). The discussion of these work plan items is being held in the context of the proposed Regional Planning Organization (RPO) budget cuts and the need for the WRAP to set priorities to get the core regional haze work done. This means the TDDWG work plan is being met with increased scrutiny during this round. A follow-up conference call was held April 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a final call is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup> at 11am PST, 12 pm MST to finalize the work plan. If you would like more details, please contact Tamera Dawes ([tamera.dawes@itcaonline.com](mailto:tamera.dawes@itcaonline.com)) or Ken Cronin ([kcronin@ntec.org](mailto:kcronin@ntec.org)).

### **Communications Committee Long-Time Co-Chair Resigns**

Communications Committee Co-Chair Al Zemsky, senior external advisor at the EPA (Region 9), officially resigned his co-chair position at the committee's April 3-4 meeting in Salt Lake City. Al, who has held the co-chair position representing the federal government, is retiring from his EPA position in May. He will be succeeded by Carl Bowman, air quality coordinator with the National Park Service. The three other co-chairs represent the tribal, state, and stakeholder positions on the committee.

Also at the meeting, committee members continued their work on the core packet of WRAP information, which is intended to be used as a recruiting tool as well as to provide information to anyone wishing it. WRAP's major accomplishments, including those of the TDDWG and others affecting tribes, will be a prominent feature of the project.

In addition, committee members heard a presentation on "green tags" from Bonneville Environmental Foundation and established a group to look into the issue further. Also called

Renewable Energy Credits, the tags allow consumers to support renewable energy independently of their local utility company or the utility grid.

### **Future of WRAP – Beyond Regional Haze?**

While researching funding opportunities for the tribes, NTEC air program personnel assigned to WRAP located an EPA grant opportunity, entitled “Consequences of Global Change for Air Quality.” With a cap of \$900K and a focus on long-term research and modeling for changes in air quality and the impacts on state and local regulations, this could be a very close fit with the WRAP. The WRAP Board has held two meetings within the last year to discuss the implications of climate change, the most recent being in April. NTEC brought this to the attention of the Tribal Caucus on April 11<sup>th</sup> during the regular monthly call. The participants of that call agreed that this should be brought to the Board for their approval, which is being sought now. The deadline for the grant application is June 20, 2006.

### **Grantham Leaves the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC)**

After eight years with NTEC, including a year and a half assignment with the EPA, Senior Policy Analyst Bill Grantham has left the organization to serve as an attorney with the New Mexico Environment Department, Office of General Counsel. Friday, April 14, was his last day at NTEC. Bill sends his heartfelt thanks to all for the many great memories and the opportunity to work with tribes, and encourages everyone to stay in touch at [wggrantham@gmail.com](mailto:wggrantham@gmail.com). “Tribal Air Rules!!!”

*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](http://www.wrapair.org), while NTEC’s website is located at [www.ntec.org](http://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](mailto:sparker@ntec.org).*

