

Air Quality Planning Process: Team 1, Group 2



AQM Subcommittee Meeting

Arlington, VA April 4, 2006

Group 2 : Overarching Concepts

- ❑ **Establishing reasonable performance levels (RPLs) for all types of sources**
- ❑ **Assuring progress through a continuous improvement system for all types of sources**
- ❑ **Identifying multipollutant planning approaches: creation of an air quality management plan (AQMP)**
- ❑ **Determining meaningful boundaries (e.g., state, airshed, or other approach)**
- ❑ **Identifying optimum use of monitoring & modeling**
- ❑ **Improving local air quality planning**

Reasonable Performance Levels

- ❑ **All air pollution sources would be required to have controls that meet reasonable performance level (RPL) requirements (“cut-offs” or thresholds considered)**
- ❑ **Legislation or rules needed governing how RPLs are established and how frequently they must be reviewed/ revised**
- ❑ **In concept, RPLs would constitute a minimum set of performance standards nationwide, providing a foundation for additional controls, if needed, to address area-specific air quality issues**
- ❑ **Possibility of seasonal or intermittent controls**
- ❑ **Attributes include:**
 - **Addresses all pollutants on a multi-pollutant basis**
 - **Eliminates grandfathering partially or totally**
 - **Provides a process for achieving gradual improvement in air quality nationwide**
- ❑ **Scenario 3**

Continuous Improvement

- **A multitude of mechanisms may be used to encourage/require continuous improvements in emission reductions and air quality**
 - **Cap and Trade programs with continuously declining cap**
 - **Emission fee system**
 - **Emission standards with improvement glide-slope**
 - **Ambient air quality standards with improvement glide-slope**
 - **Voluntary improvement programs, e.g., labeling programs**
 - **State/Tribe regulatory improvement system**
 - **Reasonable performance levels**
 - **Industry average performance standards**
- **Benefits**
 - **Promotes improved AQ**
 - **Promotes technology innovation**
 - **Counterbalance to modeling / strategy uncertainties**
- **Scenarios 1-3**

Multi-pollutant Planning Approach

- **Multi-pollutant planning could be accomplished most effectively through the creation of an AQMP with one of two approaches:**
 - **an umbrella planning document (within CAA framework) that includes individual/integrated SIPs for criteria pollutants and possibly selected HAPs, as well as plans for addressing air toxics, ecosystem protection, and local environmental issues within a State (Scenario 2)**
 - **a comprehensive AQMP that addresses all aspects of air pollution in an integrated manner (would require CAA revisions) (Scenario 3)**
- **AQMPs features under the second option:**
 - **Relieve timing issue for SIP due dates and NAAQS attainment dates**
 - **Establish a standard period of comprehensive statewide air quality planning – 5 to 10 years**
 - **Restructuring the NAAQS development not required; however must establish process and timing for integrating new NAAQS into AQMP**
 - **Provides for a more efficient, certain and effective process**

Determining Meaningful Boundaries

- **Options evaluated include:**
 - **Status quo – Nonattainment areas, State and RPO boundaries**
 - **Elimination of boundaries**
 - **Regional airsheds**
 - **Areas of influence/Areas of Violation**
- **Regional Airsheds Recommendations:**
 - **Need to be developed based on science, but recognize political boundaries**
 - **RPO structure could bring the airsheds together**
 - **Cover multiple pollutants**
 - **Regional modeling, monitoring should be incorporated**
 - **Local, regional, super-regional and national pollution controls may still be considered in the air quality planning process**
- **Scenario 3**

Role of Monitoring and Modeling

- **Continuing improvements in air quality require blended program of regulation, assessment, implementation and measurements**
- **Combination of technology-based controls, monitoring and modeling as implemented now should continue with feedback for improvements in system**
- **Continuous improvements of technology as move forward to improve data outputs**
 - **Modeling systems developed with true multipollutant capability**
 - **Networks should evolve to provide collocated multiple pollutants and expand to cover gaps in rural and background locations**
 - **Regional and urban analyses should be coordinated with larger scale intercontinental assessments to provide appropriate boundary conditions**
- **Scenarios 1-3**

Improving Local Air Quality Planning

- **Taps little used resource of local elected officials and business community that have a economic interest in good AQ**
- **Desirable objective - integrate air quality planning into their land use, roadway and community development plans**
- **Provides for a complete regulatory planning structure geographically building up from local communities, to airsheds, to state/tribal AQMPs and in an aggregate multi-state AQMP**
- **Requires:**
 - **Extensive and continuing outreach and education**
 - **Driver in some cases**
- **Test pilot new regulatory structures in several locations – possibly testing different approaches based on severity of air quality problems**
- **Scenario 3**