

## **Vision and Principles**

### **June 16, 2005**

#### ***Introduction and Background***

In Phase 1 of this process, the Air Quality Management Workgroup (“the Workgroup”) agreed upon 38 recommendations for improving the AQM system. Most of these were either short term projects or ones that did not require substantial or radical changes to the current system. The Workgroup focused on these types of suggestions because it felt that (1) the time allotted to Phase 1 (9 months) was not sufficient for more comprehensive recommendations and (2) there were numerous straightforward suggestions that could and should be pursued expeditiously. The Workgroup also decided that before (or as a part of) beginning the Phase 2 discussion of more big picture recommendations, the group should develop a long term Vision and set of Principles to be a touchstone and guide development and discussion of those recommendations.

Building on initial work by the Workgroup, a small group of participants developed a draft Vision and Principles (the “V&P Group”). On March 19, 2005, the Workgroup met to discuss this draft. With some changes to the draft, the Workgroup adopted the Vision set forth below. There was some discussion of the draft Principles,

#### **Vision**

Air in all areas of the country is of the highest quality, supporting a high quality of life that protects and enhances public health, ecosystems and other public welfare values, and economic well-being for all.

Governments, businesses, and the public all have a common goal to improve and protect air quality because they understand the relationship between economic well-being, public health and ecosystem health, and other public welfare values. They work together in an atmosphere of trust towards the common goal.

The nation’s air quality management system is clear, open, transparent, accountable, effective, efficient, timely, equitable, cost-effective, and is consistent with science.

but not enough time for full consideration.

At its April 2005 meeting, the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee agreed to form a subcommittee (“the AQM Subcommittee”) to continue with Phase 2 of the AQM discussions. The AQM Subcommittee will meet on June 16-17 in Ann Arbor. A threshold task for the AQM Subcommittee will be to settle upon the Vision and Principles. The V&P Group has had several more discussions to refine the draft principles for consideration by the AQM Subcommittee at its upcoming meeting.

#### ***Summary of V&P Group Work***

In further considering the principles in preparation for the subcommittee meeting, the V&P group developed shorthand descriptors intended to capture the essence of the draft principles (see box below)

The AQM system should:

- Be performance-based
- Rely on shared responsibility and partnerships
- Use integrated, multipollutant, multimedia approaches
- Use regional, national or international reduction strategies where appropriate
- Use proven pollution reduction approaches
- Promote new and innovative pollution reduction approaches
- Be as simple as possible, but flexible to adapt to changing or unanticipated needs (e.g. new pollutants, new science, new techniques, etc)
- Provide as much certainty as possible to parties over time
- Consider other factors such as energy, land use and transportation
- Maintain and improve research efforts
- Make information and data accessible to all
- Be economically efficient
- Incorporate an international perspective

The Group also debated shortening the text of the principles themselves. Ultimately the Group decided not to shorten the text, but to provide an introductory phrase for each principle.

The V&P Group believes that the principles set forth below adequately express a consensus of the key issues and values the AQM Subcommittee should consider as it develops its Phase 2 recommendations. The V&P Group did not seek 100% agreement on the specific wording of each principle, believing that it was not necessary for the principles to serve their purpose of providing guidance to the subcommittee members as they consider additional recommendations.

The V&P Group submits the text below to the Subcommittee for its consideration.

## **Principles**

### **1. Protect Public Health and Welfare through a Performance-based Approach .**

The Air Quality Management system should be designed to protect public health and welfare, and should be performance-based, with periodic, meaningful reviews to determine whether appropriate air pollutants are being regulated to safe levels and whether societal expenditures made are resulting in predicted health and environmental protection.

### **2. Shared Responsibility and Partnership.**

The Air Quality Management system should establish shared responsibility among tribal, local, state, and federal government for achieving air quality goals, but also maintain and assure tribal, local and state governments' authority to protect public health and the environment.

**3. Multipollutant and Multimedia Approaches.**

The Air Quality Management system should integrate multipollutant and multimedia considerations into all aspects of air quality management, wherever possible.

**4. Regional, National, and International Measures.**

In addition to employing local measures where appropriate, the Air Quality Management system should expand application of and develop regional and national measures, and where appropriate, international agreements, considering air quality needs and cost-effectiveness for every source sector (stationary, area and mobile) to address air pollution in an internationally, nationally or regionally consistent manner and consistent with the science of air pollution, including chemistry and movement.

**5. Traditional and Innovative Approaches.**

The Air Quality Management system should acknowledge the role of, and include where appropriate, proven emissions reduction approaches as well as exploring and advancing reductions from all sources of air pollution, including non-traditional sources, and newer approaches such as innovative, episodic and voluntary measures. Through improved emissions measurement and characterization, the system should ensure that all emissions reductions yield appropriate levels of public health and environmental protection while being economically efficient.

**6. Effectiveness, Simplicity, Flexibility and Openness.**

The Air Quality Management system should strive to be simple, open, effective, efficient and flexible and should be capable of adapting to new information, technical advances, innovations, and improvements in our understanding of the science of air pollution, its reduction, and its effects on health, welfare and ecosystems.

**7. Certainty and Predictability.**

The Air Quality Management system should recognize that predictability and as much certainty as possible for all stakeholders will make progress more cost-effective and simpler to implement.

**8. Coordination with other Issues that Affect Air Quality.**

The Air Quality Management system should coordinate air quality planning and management to the greatest extent feasible with planning and management in related areas, such as energy use, land use and transportation.

**9. A Strong, Continuing Research Program.**

The Air Quality Management system should maintain and improve a vibrant research program and technical infrastructure, with a special emphasis on providing improved scientific and technical support for a program capable of

protecting human health and welfare from the increasing number of potentially toxic pollutants in the atmosphere in an effective and timely manner while not unnecessarily impeding economic activity and technological progress.

**10. Information Must Be Accessible to All.**

The Air Quality Management System should provide on an ongoing basis all parties with access to air quality related information (ambient data, emissions inventories, air pollutant impacts, cost and benefit information, air quality analyses, technology assessments) in an information friendly manner as a means to enhance the understanding of air quality issues among all stakeholder groups, to encourage independent assessments and to stimulate effective dialogue within the air quality community.

**11. Efficiency.**

The Air Quality Management system should strive to achieve the public health and environmental goals at the lowest possible cost and recognize the need for American businesses to be competitive.