

Tribal Monitoring Guidance Workgroup Conference Call
02/13/06

Attendees:

Annabelle Allison (ITEP), Bill Thompson (Penobscot), Brandy Toft (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Farshid Farsi (TAMS), George Dilbeck (TAMS), Joy Wiecks (Fond du Lac), Ryan Callison (ITEC), Bill Nally (R6), Michael Copeland (R8), Norm Beloin (R1), Joe Tikvart (OAQPS/SEE), Julie McClintock (OAQPS), Tami Laplante (OAQPS)

Discussion:

Review: Julie McClintock began by reviewing minutes from the prior conference call (1/23/06). Major elements were emphasized: the concept of two separate guidance documents, status of report preparation with particular emphasis on Sections V, VI, and IX, and distinctions between the National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy and the “policy and strategies” guidance document. The two separate documents are to be: “Technical Guidance for Tribes on Air Monitoring Issues” (Lead: Annabelle Allison) and “EPA Policy and Strategies Regarding Tribal Air Monitoring” (Lead: Phil Lorang). It was also indicated that new material had been received within the prior week on Sections IV through X; all these new sections are available on the TribalAir website.

Status: The status of the various sections was reviewed:

Section I – Julie McClintock and Bill Grantham are still working on this section. Annabelle Allison, as the lead on the monitoring guidance document, volunteered to prepare a draft that could easily be used for the newer document. The current Section I, with limited editing, is suitable for the policy and strategies document.

Section II – This section is done and will be used in the policy and strategies document.

Section III – This section has been updated and divided between the two separate new documents.

Section IV – This section has been revised. Examples of tribal air monitoring projects are being sought. Region 6 may have some changes that remain to be incorporated.

Section V – Various comments have been addressed and the section revised. Additional input on grants is to be pursued.

Section VI – This section is complete.

Section VII – A revised draft has been submitted.

Section VIII – A revised draft has been prepared and placed on the website.

Section IX – The section has been revised and new material included. Comments on some types of data analysis are still to be provided. The status of BlueSky Rains as it relates to the southeastern U.S. is unclear.

Section X – Mary Manous (R10) took the lead in preparing this section and has submitted a draft. Comments from other regional offices are being sought.

Section XI – Material for this section has not yet been prepared and Annabelle volunteered to take the lead is developing a draft.

Section XII – This section has been completed and requires no change until complete drafts of the two separate documents are ready.

It was recognized that the complete drafts of these sections goes a long way to fulfilling the needs of the technical guidance document; the policies and strategies document still requires the preparation of several (still to be written) sections.

Next Steps:

Julie McClintock indicated that she is phasing out of this guidance activity, although she may stay involved with other tribal issues. Annabelle Allison, Phil Lorang, Tami LaPlante, and Joe Tikvart will continue to be involved with the guidance activity.

Annabelle indicated that she is planning to take the lead in reviewing and preparing a complete final draft of the technical guidance on monitoring. Annabelle will also review the results of past outreach to tribes and their comments on the overall direction and content of the technical guidance. Another conference call is unlikely to be necessary until that final draft is complete, i.e., the next conference call will not be needed before some time in March. Annabelle will nevertheless stay in touch with the workgroup via email or phone calls to complete the technical document.

On the other hand, substantial work on the policy and strategies document is still needed and Phil Lorang (who was not on the call) may have the need for additional calls.

Comments on the draft reviewed above, or drafts of the two separate documents, may be provided to the section leads or to Annabelle/Phil. The goal is to issue final versions of both documents some time before the end of April. Watch the TribalAir website for updates as they become available; www.epa.gov/oar/tribal .