

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott, Convention Center

Farmington, New Mexico

Meeting Record

Attendees: see separate attachment

Welcome

Rita Trujillo (for Mary Uhl), NMED-AQB

Mike Silverstein (for Margie Perkins), CDPHE

Opening Remarks

Mike Silverstein explained the genesis of the Task Force. The San Juan Basin EIS found visibility and ozone impacts, and called for a Task Force to be formed that would address these issues. The coordinating agencies (federal, tribal, and states) convened the Task Force to look at a broad range of air quality issues with a diverse group of people and perspectives in the four corners region so as to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issues and options. From this review, it is intended that a document will be developed by the Task Force that outlines a spectrum of possible mitigation options for agencies to consider.

Agenda Review

Rebecca Reynolds, Facilitator and Project Manager gave a quick overview of the agenda and indicated that the next meeting would be in Cortez on August 9th. Details are on the web site.

PPT Presentation: Technical Background Information (see separate PPT on website)

Rita Trujillo, NMED-AQB gave a PPT presentation that reviewed the progress on the background documents development. The documents covered were:

Emission Inventories

Monitoring Data (Argonne: Mike Lazaro is taking comments on their GIS map)

Modeling Data

Air Quality Effects

Regulatory, Legislative and Other AQ Initiatives (New, in draft form now)

Comments:

The Federal Leadership Forum (covered under the Regulatory, Legislative & Other Initiatives doc) includes not only USFS and NPS, but also DOE & EPA. They anticipate having the control options section on oil and gas ready in four months (September)

Regulatory, Legislative & Other Initiatives document doesn't include Tribal regs nor the TIPs (Tribal Implementation Plans). Please add this, specifically Navajo, but any Tribes that have this.

Bill Hochheiser: the Argonne SERP is an options paper. We are looking for comments. Please email anything you have to Mike Lazaro.

Work Group Breakout Instructions & Breakouts

Rebecca reviewed the Mitigation Option Development Handout, the Work Group Timeline and the Breakout Agenda in preparation for the work group breakout sessions. The breakout session agenda included:

Welcome & Introductions: Quick round robin and pass sign-in sheet around.

Review Background Docs/Presentation: Review the Background Documents for completeness and accuracy. Record changes.

Work Plan Development: Review scope of work and develop a work plan with a schedule of benchmarks so as to reach May '07 draft report complete. Determine drafting teams to begin drafting mitigation options using outline.

Work Group Logistics: Decide on a conference call schedule for June and July – will full work group convene? If so, when and for what? Will smaller drafting teams convene? When? Plan for the August mtg in Cortez.

Return to Plenary for Report Back: Work Group Coordinators give report back on highlights of the session.

[Note: All five Work Groups met for the next hour and 45 minutes. Notes from these sessions will be posted separately under the work group web pages.]

Work Group Report Backs & Next Steps

Work Group Coordinators

Monitoring

Work Group Coordinator: Terry Hertel (NMED); Note taker: Bud Rolofson (USDA-FS)

The monitoring work group had a presentation by Mike Lazaro on the Argonne Map, which was followed by the group's review and discussion of a Power Plant Plume video from Mesa Verde. The group has more review to do on the Monitoring Background document, and they will address this through an inter-group email Blog. Results will go to Rita for revision and posting.

The group will conduct a preliminary assessment of Monitoring Gaps on their regular call in June.

Then another call will take place after June 16 (date/time TBD on the June call) to review tagged issues from source group drafting teams.

Extra face-to-face meeting in July will also be discussed and scheduled on the June call.

Oil & Gas

Work Group Coordinator: Cindy Allen (CDPHE); Note taker: Bill Papich (BLM)

No comments on background documents

The group discussed the Mitigation Option Development Outline and made some minor additions. (See work group notes)

The group split the oil & gas source sector into sub categories as follows:

- Engines
- Exploration/production
- Compressor Stations/Gas Plants/Transmission sites
- Refineries

The O&G work group will address Engines first. Drafting teams were identified in the following areas under Engines:

- Truck traffic (note: fugitive dust emissions/Other Source overlap)
- Turbines
- RICE
- Rig Engines
- Overarching: policy, funding, incentives (overlap with all source groups)

50 Mitigation Strategies were brainstormed by the group in the above areas. These will be culled on drafting team calls to take place next week. Results from these calls will be posted. Draft mitigation option papers will be due from all drafting teams by June 9th.

All workgroup conference call: Wed, June 21 at 2pm MT

Other Sources

Work Group Coordinator: Rita Trujillo (NMED); Note taker: Jeanne Hoadley (USDA-FS)

No comments on background documents.

The group split the other source sector into sub categories as follows:

- Transportation & Mobile
- Burning: fireplace & open burning
- Alternative Energy & Fuels
- Land use planning (Sand & gravel/batch plants)

A Conf call will be held for the whole group on Tues May 30, 9:30am MT. Drafting teams will be identified at this time.

Comment: What about transport?

Answer: We did discuss it, but thought it would be too difficult to address in this forum.

Power Plants

Work Group Coordinator: Mark Jones (NMED); Note taker: Susan Johnson (NPS)

The group had a presentation by Mark Farley on San Juan Generating Station – this provided the group good background.

We decided we also need some more background information specific to Power Plants. This will be the subject of the first call. We will get results to Rita for document revision and posting.

The group split the Power Plant mitigation options into sub categories as follows:

- Existing Power Plants
- Proposed Power Plants
- Future or other Power Plants

We decided to keep the same conference call time/date for both months (June and July)

Reminder: There will be a field trip to the Four Corners Power Plant on Wednesday, May 10th at 11am

Cumulative Effects

Work Group Coordinator: Mike George (NPS); Note taker: Kevin Golden (EPA)

No comments on the background documents.

Concerns about the work group's ability to turn around any analysis by July 1st

-- Rebecca reminded the group that all that needs to be accomplished by the July 1st deadline is progress on the group's review of the tagged mitigation options, not necessarily any analysis.

The group is working on a more detailed set of global information for Cumulative effects. We are developing a work plan description of what the Cumulative Effects group can do:

- Figure out ways to use existing information
- Look at benefits of doing some modeling in the mid-term (6-9 months)
- Develop long-term goal standards
- Best way to approach this

We will adhere to our regular conference call schedule in June & July (calls will be set up and call-in info distributed by Mike George)

Adjourn