

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force

Other Sources Work Group

August 9, 2006

Cortez, CO

Attending: Rita Trujillo, NMED (work group coordinator); Jeanne Hoadley, USDA Forest Service (Note taker); Brett Francois, San Juan Basin Health Dept.; Bev Warburton, Citizen- Archuleta Co.; Kim Bruce Livo, CDPHE/APCD; John Lyons, League of Women Voters; Laura Lewis, Region 9 EDD; Stacey Simms, American Lung Association of the Southwest

Transportation Issues - Laura Lewis gave a summary of transportation issues in the Four Corners area. They fall in five areas as follows:

On the minus side

- 1) Limited air service. This results in more vehicle traffic
- 2) Limited transit. There is some senior and local public transit but very little regionally.
- 3) Not much state funding due to limited population. This limits opportunities to develop transportation alternatives.

On the plus side

- 4) Work is in progress to get Clean Cities designation from DOE. This would open up possible funding for such things as alternative fuels, hybrid vehicle fleets, etc. Eleven counties in Western Colorado would be included. A determination will be made in about a month.
- 5) Durango – Silverton Train. A feasibility grant has been received to look at air pollution mitigation options. A consultant has been hired to do a study. The train company put in matching funds for this grant.

Brainstorming on transportation issues – The group shared information and discussed transportation and energy options.

A coal fired power plant in Victorville, CA is being shut down. Southern California Edison has contracted to buy energy from Phoenix based Sterling Energy which is building an array of solar collectors to replace the plants ½ gigawatt generator. More solar collectors could be built but existing transmission lines cannot carry the load.

New Mexico has a renewable portfolio standard, requiring that utilities provide a certain percentage of their energy from renewable sources.

There is no local company in the 4 corners region that can install solar.

Rita mentioned a number of pollution prevention ideas developed under the Blue Skyways initiative along the I-35 corridor.

Bev suggested that shoulders should be widened as highways are resurfaced in order to better accommodate bicycle traffic.

Laura pointed out that CDOT does not currently have any incentive to use funds for multiple-use.

One option is to redirect funds for alternative transportation.

Fleet retrofits are currently being done only because funds are available.

RAQC (in Denver) is working on a model anti-idling ordinance.

HOV lanes have been implemented in Aspen.

A recreational (bike/jogging) trail between Durango and Bayfield along the railroad grade has been discussed.

A transit route between Durango, Ignacio and Bayfield may be viable.

Share ride vans might be an option for the Durango area.

CO 2035 transportation plan is being worked on and needs advocates.

Action: Rita will add link to Four Corners AQ Task Force web site

A truck stop must have parking for at least 100 trucks in order to economically implement electrification.

Truckers are resistant to non idling options – may need education and enforcement via fines.

Exposure of children to toxics from diesel school buses should be regulated with retrofit mandatory. In New Mexico school buses are largely owned by private contractors so harder to make this happen.

O & G fleet retrofit

- CO has incentives for alternative fuel vehicles

- Newer diesel engines are good candidates for retrofit

- A bio-diesel plant using sunflower has been discussed

- Grants are available for ethanol retrofit

 - Depends on the number of qualifying vehicles in the area

 - E10 contributes to summer ozone

 - E85 is much better

Clean Cities designation is more about energy diversity than air quality, air quality is a side effect, not a goal.

Mitigation Options

- 1) Include multi-modal transportation options in 2035 Transportation Plan – Laura
- 2) Clean Cities designation for Western Slope – may be feasible to extend to 4 corners region once designation is granted – Laura/Stacey
- 3) Local organizations to push for new projects and ordinances – Bev
- 4) Anti-idling – Kim/Stacey
- 5) School bus retrofits – Kim/Stacey
- 6) Small tax add-on to auto licensing or registration – Brett
- 7) Regional I & M programs – Kim
- 8) Oil and gas fleet retrofit/replacement – Kim
- 9) Prescribed fire – consider ambient air quality before burning – Jeanne
- 10) Low Reid Vapor Pressure – Kim

Review of Land Use/Planning

Kim will revise Land Use Planning option. There was some discussion of wood stove/fireplace restrictions.

Schedules

Draft mitigation papers due by September 8

Conference Call to discuss progress Sept 1 8:30

Next Meeting

Topic will be Alternative Energy – separate field trips may occur in the interim to Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM and the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in Golden, CO. The Lung Association will be touring NREL on August 29; contact Stacey Simms if you're interested in tagging along.