

Power Plant Work Group

Conference Call March 8, 2006, 4:00 PM MST

Participants:

Jack Schuenemeyer, Southwest Statistical Consulting LLC; Carla Sonntag, NMUSA; Mark McMillan, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment; Mike Farley, Public Service Company of New Mexico; Shirley McNall, Concerned Citizen; Kelly Palmer, USDA Forest Service; Rita Trujillo, New Mexico Environment Department; Rebecca Reynolds, Facilitator; Mark Jones, New Mexico Environment Department, Group Coordinator; Susan Johnson, National Park Service, Note Taker. At least 5 others entered after role call.

Work Group Process: Ms. Reynolds led the group through the Work Group Process Guide, beginning with a discussion of the mission of the task force. She emphasized that any pollutants and issues could be addressed by the work groups. She also noted that it was not necessary to have consensus, and that a broad range of options should be developed for review by the air quality regulatory agencies.

A description of the work group charters followed. The Power Plant work group charter was read, and timeframe and resource limitations were noted. The Cumulative Effects work group, formerly the Modeling work group, was described as written in the new work group charter. She emphasized that we are looking to promote good synergy / cross pollination among the work groups, as appropriate. It was emphasized that the task force does not have much of a budget for new modeling or monitoring; however, if gaps are identified, these can be included as suggestions in the task force final report.

The task force Guiding Principles were reviewed. The revised guiding principles include edits from the Feb 8, 2006 Durango task force meeting.

The Parameters of the task force were also reviewed. Ms. Reynolds emphasized that the work of the task force should be based on current modeling and monitoring, as well as an understanding of what is taking place in other related air quality initiatives so as to avoid duplication wherever possible.

To illustrate the Outline for the Source Work Groups section, Ms. Reynolds directed the participants' attention to the Mitigation Option Development Examples. Options should be developed by work groups by first reviewing background technical information, then brainstorming mitigation options, and then selecting work teams to develop each option. If no one is interested in developing an option, then that option will not be included in the task force report. The entire task force will have an opportunity to comment on each of the options; the work groups will revise the options as needed, and the final options will be incorporated into the final report of the task force. There will also be a broad web-based review of the document before it is finalized.

The List of Mitigation Option Examples was presented as only a list of potential options, to act as a starting point and not as a comprehensive list. There are many other mitigation options available.

Rita Trujillo gave an overview of the Technical Background Information Fact Sheets Outline. Ms. Reynolds directed people with questions or comments on the outline to send them to Mark Jones, mark.jones@state.nm.us

Questions/Comments:

1. There was a question about background information on power plants and possible power plant (industry) presentations at Farmington meeting.

Action Item: Mark Jones to contact representatives from Four Corners Power Plant and San Juan Generating Station to invite them to give presentations on current emissions controls, future planned emissions controls, and basic information on power plant emissions at the upcoming May 9th task force meeting in Farmington. Representatives from the proposed Desert Rock Energy Project will also be contacted.

2. There was a question about possible field trips to the power plant sites in the Four Corners area.

Action Item: Mark Jones to contact representatives from Four Corners Power Plant and San Juan Generating Station to coordinate a work group field trip to one of the power plants in the area, if possible.

3. There was a question about a recent asthma study in collaboration with the 4 Corners Ozone Task Force. A study on the relationship between asthma emergency department visits and ozone levels in the Farmington area was completed by the Department of Health in partnership with the University of New Mexico and the results were presented at a public meeting in Farmington, NM September 15, 2005. Information on the study can be accessed online: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/aqb/ozonetf/index.html>
Consider later: Recommendations for further studies on health effects such as relationships between ozone and asthma.

4. Agenda for next meeting:

Action Item: Members of work group discuss background technical information fact sheets

Action Item: Members of work group discuss some proposed mitigation options

Action Item: Begin developing a power plant work group work plan

Action Item: Discuss coordination of power plant presentations and field trips for May 9 meeting

Action Item: Continue to consider and pursue possible ways to facilitate work group process and communication through internet-based resources

Next Meeting: The next conference call of the Power Plant work group is scheduled for, April 12 at 4:00 p.m. The next quarterly meeting of the task force will be held on Tuesday, May 9th at 3:00-7:00 p.m. in Farmington at the Courtyard by Marriott. Conference call and meeting information is posted on the 4CAQTF website.

Adjourn 5:00 PM MST