

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force Meeting
Wednesday November 7, 2007, 1:00 – 5:30pm
Durango, Colorado

Attendees: see separate list on Meetings page

PLENARY SESSION

Welcome

Paul Tourangeau, Director of the Colorado Air Pollution Control District, thanked everyone for their attendance, their continued contribution to the Task Force, and for their concern for air quality in the Four Corners. Participants with perfect attendance were recognized.

Agenda Review

Rebecca Reynolds, facilitator and project manager, welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. She then introduced the work group presenters who gave an overview of the group make-up, the work performed, and the contributions to the Task Force Report.

Work Group Presentations: (PPTs posted separately)

Oil and Gas Work Group: Presented by Dave Brown (BP) and Jan Rees (Citizen)

D Brown: Things that made the work group successful: openness, constructive exchange, consistent attendance.

The process of putting such broadly mixed groups together to do this work meant that most of us were out of our comfort zone, and this made for learning. It forced us to roll up our sleeves and work together and learn. I learned a whole lot from this process, which surprised me since I do this for a living. There was no pride of authorship, the drafters wrote the papers and then were open to all comments. And the process allowed for plenty of time for writing and reviewing papers.

The time of the drafters and reviewers was significant. In total we developed 64 mitigation option papers. We had 7 meetings and 11 conference calls.

J Rees: Ideas for summer meetings? We would like to have more presentations on new techniques and controls, from experts when possible. E.g. members of manufacturers.

We could have used more technical experts on midstream operations.

We would like follow-up on the success of options that are implemented.

We would have liked more general citizen involvement. How can we get citizens more involved? Do we need more educational efforts? Do we need to help people understand how they can, as individuals, make a difference? Also, meeting times could alternate between evening and day to accommodate different schedules.

Learnings /Findings:

The nature of process encouraged learning from each other and in the end we had a stronger product. Being out of our comfort zones would not have worked if we had not

had a safe environment – no one needed to defend their positions since the process was open to all viewpoints, even if they disagreed. This meant that we could talk about anything and had permission to kick things out. Differing opinions were perfectly fine – we had healthy discussion that helped us find the solutions that made sense.

Power Plants Work Group: Presented by Marilyn Brown (League of Women Voters) & Maureen Gannon (PNM – Public Service Company of New Mexico)

M Gannon: In total we wrote 54 mitigation option papers! Most of them focused on technology – this will be the key. Policy and Regulation were also addressed, e.g., cap & trade, tax incentives, etc.

I learned a lot. One of the things I learned is that we all have the same goal: to protect our air quality with a sense of urgency.

We need to get better at providing good information to the community in layman's terms by someone who can really speak to the consumer. Also, we would like to see more studies on mercury impacts, etc.

M Brown:

Lessons learned:

We sent a work group survey to all members: seven returned (about half the work group) representing all sectors. The surveys showed that this process increased their technical knowledge – monitoring, regulatory process, etc. Everyone learned something. There was an appreciation of the incredible commitment of ALL stakeholders to clean air. And we discovered the power of collective thinking by a diverse group!

We have a desire for more consistent representation from AZ, UT and tribes other than SUIT and also public citizens.

We noted the value of a good process – it worked for us because we were not required to come to consensus or to prioritize.

Other applications for this model: anywhere where there are numerous stakeholders and complex decisions involved and multiple jurisdictions. Also, this could be used as an ongoing effort to bridge between industry and public.

Important aspects of the process: effective facilitation, good organization, sticking to the schedule, everyone having a voice. Representatives of all groups in fair proportion was also important. Use of website for consistent communication. Review our guiding principles –we could act as mentors to other groups.

In conclusion: the proof is in the pudding! How the Task Force Report will be used.

Other Sources: Presented by Bev Warburton (Citizen) & Ethan Hinkley (SUIT)

We had lots of discussion among a small but very diverse group.

In total we developed 12 papers and 18 recommendations.

We noted that with multi jurisdictions there is a tendency for lots of duplication of effort, wasting money, and a need for better communication among the agencies.

Overall, there is a need for better public education.

Controlling radioactive dust – White Mesa area – we decided that this was beyond our scope.

Next Steps/Future: agencies get to see what they will do individually.

August Task Force meeting: we hope to find out what has happened.

Cumulative Effects: Doug Blewitt, BP

It has been a very useful exercise, and I have been proud to be involved.

I am struck by how we all share the same goal: clean air and reduced emissions.

We need to develop cause and effects relationship between emissions and air quality impacts. Quantify benefits.

We had a very important task with a very small group.

The CE group saw that the O&G inventory was not that good for our scope area, so we took on the task of creating one. That took a tremendous amount of effort but in the end was successful. Very interesting finds: engines in excess of 500 HP are well controlled.

We had a lot of good communication with other groups. This was critical since we were essentially taking other groups products as our starting point. This good communication should continue in to the future.

Recommendations:

- Need to use modeling to analyze the options
- We need better emission inventories – actual and to help us describe our future
- Need more robust reporting
- Also need more monitoring and study of monitoring trends

Monitoring: Presented by Erich Fowler (Citizen) & Koren Nydick (Ft. Lewis College)

We found that there is very little monitoring in AZ and UT – would like more participation from them for the Four Corners region.

Recommendations: more monitoring needed: 2-3 long term sites – where? Need to perform passive ozone to determine. etc. (see PPT)

Mercury – not enough data, but Mesa Verde site is registering some of the highest concentrations in the country. So need to know more.

Four Corners Modeling Presentation (see PPT posted separately)

Presented by Environ – Till Stoeckenius

Carl Daly, EPA, Reg 8

Kevin Golden, EPA, Reg 8

Till presented on how Environ will approach the modeling project for the Four Corners.

Carl Daly gave an overview of the mitigation option scenarios that will be used by Environ and that were selected with the input of Task Force members. Kevin Golden gave an update on the timeline for the project.

The Path Forward (see PPT posted separately)

Mike Silverstein (CDPHE), Mary Uhl (NMED/AQB)

Mike and Mary jointly discussed how the agencies will proceed in the coming months with the Task Force report. An initial meeting will be held in mid-December in Santa Fe

to begin to review the options and discuss timeframes, opportunities for collaboration among the agencies and other issues. A follow-up meeting with the Task Force will be held next summer:

Wednesday, August 6, 2008, 11am – 6 pm
San Juan College, Farmington, NM

Koren Nydick is starting an outreach effort in the local area, she is looking for partners. Please contact her if you are interested in helping: 970.247.7071.

Mark McMillan (CDPHE) is starting up a mercury effort in the Four Corners. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact him at mark.mcmillan@state.co.us

MEETING ADJOURNED 5:30 pm

Task Force members were invited to a buffet supper generously sponsored by Chevron to celebrate the two-year long effort and accomplishment of the Task Force Report.