

-- D R A F T¹ --
August 14, 2019
WESTAR Council Meeting
Conference Call Summary

The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 1:00 pm PDT/2:00 pm MDT/3:00 pm CDT.
Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Molly Birnbaum
AZ-
CA-
CO-Mark McMillan
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Mary Anderson
MT-
NV-
NM-
ND-
OR-Ali Mirzakhali
SD-Brian Gustafson, Kyrik Rombaugh
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Kathy Taylor
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Bob Lebens, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Review fall business meeting agenda (attached, Mary Uhl)
2. Update and discussion on Residential Woodheating NSPS NPRM/ANPRM, EPA's cordwood testing method development, WHERA legislation (Bob Lebens)
3. Regional Haze analysis update (Tom Moore)
4. Other items as time and interest permits

Meeting Minutes:

¹ Draft will be considered final upon review and approval by a majority of the members, typically on the next monthly conference call.

1. Review fall business meeting agenda (attached, Mary Uhl)

Mary Uhl reviewed the draft fall business meeting agenda. There were no comments or questions.

2. Update and discussion on Residential Woodheating NSPS NPRM/ANPRM, EPA's cordwood testing method development, WHERA legislation (Bob Lebens)

Bob noted that WESTAR has been communicating with Mike Koerber at OAQPS about the RWH NPRM/ANPRM. The NPRM forecasted rulemaking in summer of 2019. Mike Koerber has told us that EPA has essentially abandoned the effort to modify the RWH NSPS, except for some rulemaking for the pellet fuel standards—likely EPA will remove the specifications for pellet fuels. WESTAR advocated against extension of the sell-through date.

Bob said that EPA is taking a leadership role on the cordwood test method. NESCAUM, WESTAR and HPBA had previously collaborated on development of a cordwood test method. EPA is looking for nominations for the cordwood test method roundtable. Alaska and Oregon are interested in nominations to this roundtable. Ali asked Bob to further clarify on changes that might be made to the test method. In the 2015 standard, EPA specified a cribwood method, but left the door open to the ASTM method. WESTAR has opposed the ASTM method as it appears to allow room for “gaming the results”, so it is important to engage in this method development.

On July 25, Senator Carper and Senator Murkowski introduced WHERA, which would grant \$75M for woodstove changeout. There is similar legislation in the house, but it is wrapped into an infrastructure bill. Program would ultimately be administered by OAQPS. The legislation allows for changeout from wood to gas-fired stoves.

3. Regional Haze analysis update (Tom Moore)

Tom Moore summarized a few items: State staff are doing a lot to drive the regional haze regional analysis. There is a communications framework that provides a roadmap for consultation activities. Working on oil and gas emissions projections, already have EGU projections. States are working on other source projections, aiming to have those completed over next 6-8 weeks. Air quality modeling and trends analysis work products will be available soon, including changes in prescribed and wildfire. Base year modeling will be completed in October. CENSARA has worked with EPA to organize a National Regional Haze meeting in late October in St. Louis. Agenda is in rough draft form right now; Tom will share the agenda with states when it is more complete.

4. Other items as time and interest permits

Mary Uhl noted:

The [State Plan Electronic Collaboration System \(SPeCS\) Project Team](#) is seeking additional members to provide feedback on Exceptional Events and Regional Haze plan submissions in SPeCS. New team members will join the current E-Enterprise team and participate in approximately one to two calls per month for the next three months, and will participate in user testing before the new plan submissions are made available for widespread use through the [Central Data Exchange](#).

SPeCS is a user-friendly, web-based system that enables state air agencies to submit and track State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for attaining the national ambient air quality standards, and related information, electronically to EPA for review and approval. Local air agencies may use the system as well. SPeCS is EPA's preferred method for receiving SIP submissions and is comprised of three main components: the State Plan Collection Interface; the EPA Clearinghouse; and the Public Dashboard.

If you are interested in joining the team and providing input as the Exceptional Events and Regional Haze plan submission systems are developed, please contact Kelly Poole of ECOS by August 23.

The first call is scheduled for **September 25 at 3 p.m.** Please reach out to Kelly Poole of ECOS (kpoole@ecos.org, 202-266-4939) or Mia South of EPA (south.mia@epa.gov, 919-541-5550) with any questions.

Nancy Vehr thanked everyone for information on permitting oversight. The committee she is serving on will meet next week in Dallas and she will bring the comments forward to EPA.

Bob Lebens noted that EPA will soon release 179B guidance for informal review in the next couple of weeks. WESTAR planning and technical committees will be reviewing and considering any necessary WESTAR comments.

The call duration was 30 minutes.