



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting Period: July and August 2024
Report Date: October 31, 2024 (final report)
EPA Grant No. XA-99T67301-0

Regardless of funding source, all of the projects and activities conducted by WESTAR are consistent with and intended to achieve the purposes of the organization spelled out in Article 2 of WESTAR's Articles of Association, including promoting the exchange of information related to air quality management, developing procedures to meet air quality objectives and to protect environmental resources, to establish workgroups to investigate specific topics, and to develop recommendations for the consideration of the membership. This report summarizes activities and outcomes for this reporting period.

Reporting Organization:

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1. EPA CORE GRANT 2017-2023

Note: Work on activities and spending against this grant began December 2017.

a. Budget Summary and Status

The following tables summarize the status of WESTAR's Core Grant budget, comparing cumulative grant awards from the current grant's inception (September 1, 2017) through the end of the most recent quarter.

**EPA Core Grant 2017-23
Expenses by Object Class through 8/31/24**

Object Class	Budget	This Quarter	Cumulative Expenses	Percentage
1. Personnel	3,005,769	78,924	2,901,211	97%
2. Fringe Benefits	728,002	17,657	662,987	91%
3. Travel	772,232	19,948	644,547	83%
4. Equipment	0	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	0	
6. Contractual	1,044,711	0	1,314,740	126%
7. Construction	0	0	0	
8. Other	1,053,973	39,676	1,110,375	105%
9. Indirect Expenses	1,830,594	37875	1,801,422	98%
Totals	8,435,281	353,952	8,435,281	100%

a. Activity Summary: Operations Project

The purpose of the Operations project is to develop, implement, and support the policy and technical activities at WESTAR that benefit member states. Funding for this project comes entirely from member-state contributions. In addition, personnel from member states and federal land management agencies contribute their time and expertise to many of the tasks performed under this project.

1) Status of work plan activities – Operations Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2024 July and August</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
67 Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	2	68
14 Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	0	14
245 Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls	5	217
28 Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	0	27

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2024 July and August</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
6 Specialty conference on a high priority topic	0	6
6 Meetings held to address emerging topics	0	3
21 Trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	0	7

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

* WESTAR staff, states, and Tribal air agencies are meeting together as an ad hoc committee to exchange information about implementing EPA’s oil and gas rules for methane. The discussion has centered around getting clarification from EPA on various aspects of implementation and on states’ plans to address existing sources.

* WESTAR continued participating in the National Residential Heating Task Force, including work groups formed to refine wood burning emission estimates and source classification codes, give input on how to revise the wood heating NSPS, and identify clean appliances for changeout programs. WESTAR is also participating with NESCAUM in the independent wood heater testing project.

* WESTAR staff continue to work with South Coast Air Quality Management District to create an online app to help air agencies create exceptional event demonstrations. Volunteers from air agencies across the Country are creating and reviewing the various parts of the app. Several agencies are actively using the app.

b. Activity Summary: Training Project

The purpose of the Training Project is to: (1) deliver high-quality training courses/workshops that meet the needs and expectations of state and local air agency staff within the fifteen-state WESTAR region; (2) develop needed, cost-effective, responsive, and western-states-focused training opportunities; and (3) act as the main point of contact for information and educational training opportunities related to air quality training.

1) Status of work plan activities – Training Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2024 July and August</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
106 Educational opportunities delivered:	9	115

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2024 July and August</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
* Agg, HMA, Concrete – ID cancelled by EPA		
* Observing Source Test – ID cancelled by EPA		
* Surface Coatings – ID cancelled by EPA		
* Agg, HMA, Concrete – NV cancelled by EPA		
* Principles of Ambient Monitoring – NV cancelled by EPA		
* Baghouses – NV cancelled by EPA		
* Advanced Inspector Training – UT		
* Petroleum Refining – MT		
* Industrial Boilers – MT		
* VOC Control Devices – MT		
* Basic Permitting – NV		
* Agg, HMA, Concrete – WA		
* Industrial Boilers – WA		
* Poly Resin – WA		
* Effective Permit Writing - Online		
3000 <i>Students trained</i>	353	3200
5750 <i>Student training days</i>	493	7366
1 <i>Training course developed/updated</i>	0	1

Other Activities this Quarter – Training Project

- WESTAR is working with state, local and tribal air quality government agencies in the fifteen Western United States on the logistics of the training priorities that agencies identified as important training need(s) for FY2025.
- WESTAR continues its leadership role on the National Joint Training Committee (JTC) Steering Committee. The Steering Committee oversees the operations of four work groups by providing guidance, evaluating resource needs, identifying priorities, assigning projects, providing assessments, and fostering communication. The four work groups are: 1) Communications; 2) Curriculum; 3) Training Delivery; and 4) Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- WESTAR staff continues to work with the JTC to move classroom training courses to online training, when appropriate, to serve better the current needs of state, local, and tribal air quality professionals.
- WESTAR staff is a committee member on the Communications workgroup, Learning Management System (LMS) workgroup, and the Curriculum workgroup.

c. Activity Summary: Regional Technical Support Project

The purpose of the Regional Technical Support project is to provide technical support to member agencies related to the analysis of monitoring data, analysis, and preparation of emissions inventories, regional modeling analyses, and operation and maintenance of web databases – all for member agencies to use in their air quality management and planning activities.

1) Status of work plan activities – Regional Technical Support Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2024 July and August</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
175 Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls	1	401
70 Technical Steering Committee conference calls	0	68
14 Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings	0	9
72 Travel support provided to local agency and tribal WRAP Board members	0	38
7 Technical Steering Committee Face-to-face meetings	0	5
70 WRAP Board calls	1	60

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Regional Technical Support Project

- The WRAP Regional Technical Center provides access to all types of air quality data, made possible through the storage and dissemination capabilities built into the Air Data Management System (ADMS). Linked to the ADMS are the Technical Support System v2 and v3, which support Regional Haze analysis for the WESTAR/WRAP region. Moving forward, the WRAP Regional Technical Center framework can support additional regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts.
- Staff continued to work with state and federal agencies, including regional EPA offices, to discuss and collect input on regional technical analysis needs in the western U.S.
- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups did not meet in July or August.
- The Fire and Smoke Work Group met on July 15. The Fire and Smoke Work Group’s Exceptional Event Support Team did not meet in July or August. The EE Demo App volunteer group met biweekly for 15 minutes to discuss any issues/questions, with follow-up meetings always an option if needed.
- The Tribal Data WG did not meet in July or August
- The Oil and Gas WG did not meet in July or August
- The Regional Haze Planning WG did not meet in July or August
- The Regional Technical Operations WG did not meet in July or August.

The Technical Steering Committee and Work Groups continue to implement the WRAP Board-approved “Future project prioritization topics” from the Board’s December 2, 2020, meeting. In September 2021, the Technical Steering Committee updated the Board-approved topics with a status report to track progress on those topics going forward and reported progress at the WRAP Board and TSC meeting on December 9, 2021. The TSC provided another update to the WRAP Board in December 2022 and January 2023. The work topic list was revised the 1st quarter of 2024 with the help of a few Technical Steering Committee members. The Technical Steering Committee reviewed the new format. The new format makes tracking, updating, and revising work topics in the WRAP easier. The revised format and updated topic tracking was presented to the WRAP Board in Q1 2024.

In February 2022, the WRAP Board approved proposed amendments to the WRAP charter. The proposed amended Charter was sent to the membership for approval on January 20, 2023. On September 11, 2023, the necessary 2/3 vote of the membership was achieved, and the proposed amendments were accepted. The new charter is now in effect and posted to the WESTAR website as part of the WRAP organizational documents.

2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

WESTAR co-chairs the Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group and organizes monthly and quarterly conference calls to share information about EPA and MJO technical work.

WESTAR is working with its members to develop an application for exceptional events demonstrations.

A small group of WESTAR/WRAP members (MT, OR, USFWS) and WESTAR staff are developing a Desktop CAMx modeling approach that all WESTAR/WRAP members can use for multiple modeling projects.

WESTAR continues to assist in a lead role with the inventory collaborative group to develop the 2022 Emissions Modeling Platform.

WESTAR organized an Air Data Management System (ADMS) Steering Committee for agencies that are funding and/or supporting the ongoing development of the ADMS. This group meets quarterly. This first meeting was in May 2024. WESTAR/WRAP facilitated an ADMS workshop for members of the Steering Committee to learn more about the structure, data flows, websites, and products that make up the ADMS.

3. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 8/31/2024 All Active Accounts

Object Class	EPA	
	Core Grant 2017-23	Totals
1. Personnel	2,901,211	2,901,211
2. Fringe	662,987	662,987
3. Travel	644,547	644,547
4. Equipment	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0
6. Contractual	1,314,740	1,314,740
7. Construction	0	0
8. Other	1,110,375	1,110,375
9. Indirect	1,801,422	1,801,422
Cumulative Expenses	8,435,281	8,435,281
Budget	8,435,281	8,435,281
Balance Avail	0	0

Current Quarter Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source – All Active Accounts

Object Class	EPA	
	Core Grant 2017-23	Totals
1. Personnel	78,924	78,924
2. Fringe Benefits	17,657	17,657
3. Travel	19,948	19,948
4. Equipment	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0
6. Contractual	0	0
7. Construction	0	0
8. Other	39,676	39,676
9. Indirect	37,875	37,875
Total Expenses	194,080	194,080