

WESTAR Planning Committee Meeting - December 4, 2025

Debrief on Fall Business Meeting:

-Zac thanked the WESTAR and WRAP staff for a successful event.

-Jay also thanked the folks from Wyoming on their welcome, as well as their sing-along.

-Ali from CARB brought up that IMPROVE monitor exercises regarding the closures and are thinking about the next planning period. Are they going to supplement data? A few people thumbs upped and agreed that it would be a good topic of discussion.

-Ryan from Oregon commented on the IMPROVE data and the dust analysis. He said it was a good topic and it is worth digging into a bit more in the future. Jay discussed bringing in Daniel for a future discussion. Zac provided a link to the [Dust Alliance for North America](#).

-Dr. Arden Pope was the “keynote speaker” that gave a discussion on the history of air quality research and health impacts. Jay recommends for those who missed it to check it out. <https://westar.org/westar-wrap-2025-fall-business-meeting/>

-OSAP updates from Scott and Karen at EPA; specifically, the Exceptional Events rule with prescribed fires and Regional Haze.

-Michael from Oregon brought up the re-organization of EPA and suggested that for a future planning committee meeting.

-Other shoutouts include ozone presentations.

2. Discuss Regional Haze ANPRM Comments:

- WESTAR submitted comments and have seen comments from other NGOs, environmental advocacy groups. MANEVU and VISTAS did submit comments, LADCO did not submit comments, stating that they would rather comment on a proposed rule rather than a notice of proposed rule. MANEVU objected to using visibility as reasonable progress determination because it isn't in the CAA, as EPA has been using in their 2nd round of approvals. MANEVU stated they are in favor of ten-year planning periods, as well as not requiring a SIP every planning period. A four-factor analysis should continue to contribute to the regional haze plan. A comment made by the environmental organizations that stood out to Jay was that EPA “must reevaluate BART in each SIP”. Multiple planning committee members agreed with BART being in the rearview.

-J. Lee from Montana submitted a letter. Importance of the IMPROVE network, and advocated for tracking visibility impairments by deciviews. Montana was also supportive of

using the URP for safe harbor and does not think SIP revisions should be required if they are under their projected visibility.

-Melanie Peters, NPS, did not submit comments. They seriously considered it, but the shutdown timing did not allow that to happen. Michael from Oregon asked how EPA involves FLMs in the rulemaking progress. FLMs are invited to comment as other NGOs have previously been. Tom Moore brought up the parallel agency review that had been used for rulemaking proposals, which Melanie stated is not particularly engaging. Currently the communication with NGOs is more of a “heads up”.

3. EPA Updates (Jay):

-Recent transport SIP approvals and actions in the FR. Specifically the [11/19 proposed approval for the 179\(b\) demonstration](#).

-EPA is requesting that the DC Circuit Court vacate the 2024 PM2.5 NAAQS. There is an argument that EPA illegally acted on the NAAQS to lower the standard. Zac stated that the rule could be vacated and erased by the court. Jay brought up that other parties are joining with EPA in this process. If it doesn't go their way, it will appeal to SCOTUS.

-EPA approved Montana’s RH SIP.

-There is the extension of deadlines for OOOOb/OOOOc.

4. Roundtable – Projects to share for next year:

-Ryan from Oregon brought up a woodstove task force, specifically related to the NSPS, and asked if other states would be interested in that. Nick from Alaska brought up the issues that it is a timing suit, and that a new NSPS would have to be proposed by the end of 2026, without data from the independent assessment. Functionally, EPA would need to be done working on it by April 2026. The independent assessment project that NESCAUM is working on is not in line with EPA’s timeline and NESCAUM’s data would not be included in on that.

-Tom Moore dropped [this article](#) in the chat, saying that emission reductions will still occur despite the removal of the endangerment finding. Tom also said that [RAQC](#) finished a control strategy blueprint for ozone.

-Michael from Oregon is working on anti-backsliding with emissions banking.

5. Topics for Next Year? Homework item! Bring it back to January 2026! Next meeting, 1/8/2026!