

AGENDA

WESTAR Planning Committee Conference Call August 7, 2025

11:00 AM HST; 12:00 PM AKST; 1:00 PM PST; 2:00 PM MST; 3:00 PM CST

Microsoft Teams meeting: [Click here](#) to join the meeting

Call in by phone at (audio only) (323) 676-6261 Access Code: 115 437 451#

Participants (attendance is marked by **bolding**)

States: AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, ND, NM, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY

Local Air Agencies: Clark County, Albuquerque, Yolo-Solano, Pima County

Tribal Air Agencies:

Federal Land Managers: BLM, FWS, NPS, USFS

1. Call to Order- Zac Dorn (AZ)

- a. Notes for this call: Idaho

2. Discussion Items

- a. Oregon Smoke Forecasts and Advisories During Wildfire Season (Russell Graham)
- b. EPA Deregulatory Agenda priority of actions (Zac)
 - [Oil & Gas Methane Rules Interim Final Rule](#)
 - [Endangerment Finding Repeal](#)

3. Actions/Updates

- a. Any new actions for discussion or awareness?
 - [Colorado Regional Haze action](#)
- b. [WESTAR Planning Committee Contact Spreadsheet](#)
 - Please add your/your group members roles for future contact reference.
- c. [Topic Suggestion Google Form](#)
 - Please use this form to submit any topic suggestions you would like us to cover in future meetings.

4. Next Call

- a. September 4, 2025, 11:00 AM HST; 12:00 PM AKST; 1:00 PM PST; 2:00 PM MST; 3:00 PM CST

January	Washington
February	Wyoming
March	Pima County, AZ
April	Arizona
May	California
June	Colorado
July	Hawaii
August	Idaho
September	Montana
October	North Dakota
November	New Mexico
December	Nevada

Idaho DEQ's Notes:

Oregon Smoke Forecasts and Advisories During Wildfire Season (Russell Graham)

- OR DEQ has put together a multidisciplinary tool to aid in smoke calls called the “Wildfire Smoke Response Protocol”
- This smoke protocol was developed in 2013 by Oregon DEQ and has gone through more than 6 iterations
- The following Advisory Call Agenda has been used the last two seasons for their emergency alert process

Advisory Call Agenda

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Topic	Anticipated Discussion Leader
Opening/Intro	Host
Statewide Weather Briefing	NWS
The current fire situation (location, size, etc.) and maps showing fire locations and detail as available	Incident Command PIO, ARA, USFS staff
Smoke and Air Quality Forecast (Location, duration, and concentration)	DEQ
Current Epidemiological Report (Focus on Impact Area)	OHA
Community needs and any emergency issues for all to be aware of	OEM/ODOT/OHA/OSHA/Tribes/LPHA Note that local entities (e.g. - schools) are asked to route updates or questions through their local public health agency for health concerns and county emergency management for other concerns.
Air Quality Advisory Development and Public Health & Safety Message Coordination (yes/no, impacted area, duration, etc.). Plan for issuing advisory and news release. Supplemental information for smoke blog, Tribes and local public health authority press releases.	DEQ with additional on-the ground input from: tribal governments and LPHA DEQ PIO with OHA PIO, ODOT PIO if issuing jointly
Set date and time of next call as needed	Host



- Depending on the size of fire there may be air source advisors, Incident command, or local FS staff on the call
- ARAs are considered to create leverage in large wildfire assessment over the course of the season and have been particularly helpful and effective
- **Tools that are used for the smoke and air quality forecast determination:**
 - First, they look at Oregon DEQ monitors to check AQI (DEQ AQI page)
 - Then, they look at the AirNow monitoring network for AQI from smaller sensors and nearby states (EPA Fire and Smoke Map)
 - Following that they look at smoke forecasts (firesmoke.ca)
 - Next, they look at the NWS HRRR modelling and weather forecasting (NWS)
 - They use “Watch Duty” wildfire maps as a reference point for Exceptional Events and wildfire names (Watch Duty)
 - Finally, www.windy.com has been used to emulate near-surface level smoke conditions by adding a HRRR model (Windy)
- Smoke Advisories last for multiple days at a time because there can be no forecasting and advisories over the weekends due to funding and budgets
- Advisory Threshold (PM2.5 only)
 - AQI 25-hour average is forecasted to be at or above “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups”
 - That would be a daily PM2.5 value of 35.5 ug/m3 or higher

- The Advisories are often bundled with “intermittent smoke” advisories
- Call out for community needs: opportunity for tribes, LRAPA, OROSHA, OR Emergency management, to speak about their needs for resources. Then the groups can collaborate to get supplies to those areas in need quickly.
- Meeting minimum ADA requirements allows for the smoke advisories to be available to the public in multiple languages
- In 2024 – 26 wildfire smoke coordination calls were held, 24 AQA were posted on the Oregon Smoke Blog, 61 days were under advisory for the state. This was the worst on record for number of advisories and fires from OR DEQ

2024 Wildfire Smoke Coordination Call Summary



- The Wildfire Smoke Response team hosted 26 wildfire smoke coordination calls
- 24 air quality advisories were posted on the Oregon Smoke Blog.
- 61 days under advisory across the state

Questions for Russel Graham and OR DEQ on their presentation:

- How long after the smoke alert would you anticipate an ozone alert to follow? Zac Dorn
 - It can be within an hour that ozone sensors begin to see elevated pollutant levels
 - Hermiston (by Pendleton) has increases in Sox and Nox from agriculture and that combination with wildfire smoke can cause a quick alert as well
- Is there any overlap between county boundaries that affects advisories? Ryan Porter
 - Oregon DEQ would like to go down to the advisory level of airsheds, but with the limitations of how the NWS reports and how county health laws act it is hard to make an advisory for an area smaller than a county
 - Model agreement is a challenge they are aiming to fix because they do not want to put out false alarms or miss any large events – that is one of Oregon DEQ’s goals for future improvements
- Are there any community safe areas for extreme smoke events? Anya Caudill
 - Oregon DEQ collaborates with local health departments and works with areas that have been designated as clean air designations
 - Those are published with OHA and the local public health committees
 - Oregon Emergency Management will place on their “RAPTOR map” clean air shelter locations
 - Oregon DEQ and OHA have duty officers that rotate between the two agencies to work in tandem at putting out information for clean air resources and locations during wildfire season
 - <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/WFresponse.pdf>

EPA Deregulatory Agenda priority of actions (Zac)

Oil & Gas Methane Rules Interim Final Rule

Endangerment Finding Repeal

Oil and Gas:

- On July 31st, primarily extended deadlines for the NSPS and EG (OOOOb and c) now January 2027 for state plans.
- AZ is paused work with 111d state plan requirement but restarting engagement with stakeholders
- Are other state continuing to work on their state plans as well? (no response)

Endangerment Finding Repeal

- Section 202A of the CAA is what is being specifically targeted
- Part of the argument is that air pollution should be narrowly targeting pollutants that are dangerous only at a local level aka the criteria pollutants
- Goes against the WV vs EPA ruling from 2022
- Another argument is that EPA doesn't have the discretion to issue endangerment finding and rely on it, they would have to issue a new endangerment finding with each new emission standard
- EPA is arguing that models from IPCC and US specific climate change models are not accurate and do not investigate the benefits of increased GHGs
- It looks like it will be up for supreme court review and can be unclear at what the consequences of this will look like for the power sector rule or other existing fossil fuel rules that have been previously put into place
- There has not been any mention of what repealing the endangerment finding will look like for criteria pollutants
- Modelling data is being evaluated by an economic lens over a scientific lens
- If standards are repealed will that impact transportation conformity rules for nonattainment areas?

Colorado Regional Haze action

- They are proposing partial disapproval for Colorado RH because of the evaluation of emission reductions. Proposing to approve- except for the inclusion of retirement dates for coal fired EGUs
- EPA claims the don't need to issue a FIP nor does CO need to fix it in their SIP,
- They claim the retirement dates are "forced closures" when in reality they were voluntarily done by the facilities
- EPA said that the glidepath could have been adjusted over putting in more controls
- If anyone is interested in providing supportive comments of the SIP reach out to Weston Carlloss of CO APCD
- "Our primary utility company in HI has already sent us a letter asking us to revise our RH-SIP and remove equipment shutdown requirements, based on what EPA said on Colorado's RH-SIP. So we're following this closely" Colin Erickson Hawaii
- "We've been asked by our legislature to remove EGU shutdown requirements, but this really pre-dated the CO proposal" Glade Sowers Utah DEQ