

AGENDA

WESTAR Planning Committee Conference Call June 4, 2026

10:00 AM HST; 12:00 PM AKDT; 1:00 PM PDT; 2:00 PM MDT; 3:00 PM CDT

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

Call in by phone at (audio only) (323) 676-6261 Access Code: 102 828 383#

Participants

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

Local Air Agencies: Clark County, Albuquerque, Yolo-Solano, Pima County, Regional Air Quality Council, South Coast AQMD, San Joaquin APCD

Tribal Air Agencies:

Federal Land Managers: NPS, USFS, NWFS

1. Call to Order- Zac Dorn (AZ)

a. Notes for this call: Washington

2. Discussion Items

a. Air Curtain Incinerators (Amber Ortega (USDA) and Seth Morphis (NPS))

Seth and Amber presented information about air curtain incinerator (ACI) use and permitting for forest treatments. Seth showed information about emissions and operating. ACIs burn more efficiently with significantly reduced PM_{2.5} and CO emissions. Some pros of ACIs include very little nuisance smoke, you can burn green vegetation, and lowered risk for Federal agencies because they are not considered prescribed fires. The cons to using ACIs include a much higher cost than pile burning, getting an air permit is often complicated. Amber reviewed the process for getting a permit using examples from some state agencies.

Rhonda and Jay followed Seth's and Amber's presentation with a discussion of forming a subcommittee to discuss the permitting process of ACIs. The purpose of the committee is to discuss potential ways that permitting ACIs, specifically for forest treatments, might be streamlined or simplified to make it a more feasible alternative to pile burning or prescribed fires. The subcommittee can include people from state, Tribal, local, and Federal land management agencies. EPA representatives are also welcome to join. The subcommittee will start meeting in July.

b. Federal update (Zac)

i. EPA's Begin Actual Construction proposal –

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/13/2026-09524/begin-actual-construction-in-the-new-source-review-nsr-preconstruction-permitting-program>

3. Actions/Updates

a. Any new actions for discussion or awareness?

i. June 18, 2026 - Workshop Series for Air Quality Planning Professionals (9:30 HST; 11:30 AKDT; 12:30 PDT; 1:30 MDT; 2:30 CDT)

ii. [Begin Actual Construction \(Close of Comment Period: June 29, 2026\)](#)

iii. June 24, 2026 - [Rule Writing Training](#) (8:30-8:30 – 11:00 am (Pacific))

iv. [ERG Free Data Center Air Quality Compliance Webinar Series](#)

1. Check your spam filters!

v. September 9-11, 2026 – [AAPCA 2026 Fall Business Meeting](#)

vi. November 10-13, 2026 - Air & Waste Management Association

[Atmospheric Optics: Aerosols, Visibility, and the Radiative Balance](#)

b. [WESTAR Planning Committee Contact Spreadsheet](#)

i. Please add your/your group members roles for future contact reference.

c. [Topic Suggestion Form](#): Please use this form to submit any topic suggestions you would like us to cover in future meetings.

4. **Next Call**

a. July 9, 2026, 10:00 AM HST; 12:00 PM AKDT; 1:00 PM PDT; 2:00 PM MDT; 3:00 PM CDT