

Northern Class I Areas Consultation

Minutes

October 19, 2006

2 - 3 pm CDT

Attendees	Minnesota	Gordon Andersson, Mary Jean Fenske, Heather Magee-Hill, Margaret McCourtney, Catherine Neuschler, John Seltz
	Michigan	Jim Haywood, Cindy Hodges, Teresa Walker
	Indiana	Lawrence Brown, Ken Ritter, Mark ?
	Iowa	Matthew Johnson
	North Dakota	Tom Bachman, Dana Mount
	Wisconsin	Larry Bruss, Bob Lopez
	Tribes	Brandy Toft – Leech Lake
	FLMs	Bruce Polkowsky - NPS Trent Wickman – USFS – Superior Ann Mebane, Chuck Sams – USFS
	RPOs	Mike Koerber – LADCO/MRPO Jeff Peltola – CENRAP

Agenda Items

Tribal and Other State Participation

Mike was on the EPA tribal call, and there was some interest among the tribes in being involved in the process. Mike is going to continue to be on the EPA call and keep the tribes apprised of what we are doing and how they can participate. Indiana was a new and welcome addition to this call. We need to get someone from Missouri (Calvin) on future calls.

Status of Technical Questions Document

People seem to generally be comfortable with the Technical Questions document. Mike expects some LADCO source apportionment work to be done next week and added. EPA has released some new modeling guidance that will slightly change some of the visibility metric numbers. A few more questions must be addressed, such as which states should be specifically identified as contributors to visibility impairment in the four Class I areas.

The group thought of other information that might be added if this is to be a document for policymakers at the state level– these include some context from the CAA, the uncertainty inherent in modeling and control strategies, and the ancillary benefits of visibility improvement. From a more technical side, there are questions about how we are going to deal with fire and international (Canadian) emissions that affect visibility in the N Class I areas. It was suggested that a position or method be agreed upon in this white paper for the Class I areas.

There was some disagreement about how much the document needs to expand, and whether it is an agreed on technical base or a pitch to upper level policy makers. It was generally agreed that some notes about uncertainty and the technical questions on fire and international emissions should be added. The executive summary could be followed with a summary of the regulatory/CAA requirements, and some mention of health benefits could be added to the document or as an appendix.

RFP Response and Contractor Work

Three proposals were received in response to the RFP for contractor work on control strategies. Two of the three were rated very highly by the eight reviewers and were essentially a tie. Both have done good work for LADCO in the past. After discussion, a contractor was chosen. Mike will notify the contractor and the kick-off call will hopefully happen next week.

IMPROVE Monitoring Cuts

The VIEWS staff have done a number of analyses looking at redundancy between IMP monitors in view of proposed EPA monitoring budget reductions. The last tests were used to develop “replaceable” and “non-replaceable” sites. Although the different tests have somewhat contradictory results for the N Class I areas, Voyageurs is listed as one of three “replaceable” monitors. This latest ranking was approved by the IMPROVE Steering Cmte. We should work towards having a comment letter ready to go to EPA when funding is officially proposed.

Administrative and Next Up

- Minutes from last meeting are approved and can be posted.
- Next call is currently set for Thursday, November 16 at 2 pm CST.