

Northern Class I Area Conference Call Minutes
Sept. 28, 2006

Participants on the call

- Minnesota: John Seltz, Mary Jean Fenske, Margaret McCourtney, Catherine Neuschler, Gordon Andersson
- Michigan: Bob Irvine, Teresa Walker, Jim Haywood
- Wisconsin: Larry Bruss, Bob Lopez
- Iowa: Matt Johnson, Wendy Rains, Jim McGraw
- North Dakota: Tom Bachman, Dana Mount
- Illinois: Rob Kaleel
- Tribes: Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs), Joy Wiecks (Fond du Lac), Shannon Judd (Grand Portage)
- Ontario: Mary Kirby
- LADCO: Mike Koerber
- CENRAP: Jeff Peltola
- NPS: Bruce Polkowky
- FS: Trent Wickman, Chuck Sams
- EPA: Julie Henning

1. Follow-ups from last call and news

Tribal involvement – Mike Koerber was on the agenda for the Region V tribal call to discuss this, but the call was canceled. He had sent an email to the tribes in August but did not hear from anyone.

WRAP RFP plan – Dana Mount reported that the reasonable progress assessment will be done on a species basis. Updated versions of the assessment will be out in the future.

2. Update on technical memo

Revisions to the document include adding of an executive summary, data added to the appendix, Boundary Waters '02-'04 data included, and modeling results from MRPO based on new equation.

Additional suggestions include adding Missouri and Indiana, re-reviewing Boundary Waters data, comparing PSAT and back trajectory information, and reviewing discrepancies in Canada data.

Mike Koerber would like to receive any additional comments and questions in the next couple weeks.

3. BART status from each state

Minnesota – the taconite process engineering analysis were submitted and are available now.

North Dakota – 5 BART analysis have been posted for review with comments due by November 1.

Wisconsin – nothing new to report

Michigan – Jim Haywood continues to provide data to several facilities who are doing their own modeling; nothing new on the engineering analysis front.

4. Progress on Request for Proposal

Mike Koerber reported that only one proposal came in, probably because of a problem with others receiving his original email. A new date of October 11 for others to provide proposals was agreed upon by the group. Mike will distribute the Requests for Proposals to the group electronically.

Minnesota noted that they should have approval to spend their contribution to the contractor work in a month or so.

5. Should base year be 2002 or 2005 for RH modeling?

Mike Koerber explained that the LADCO states and some stakeholders are pursuing this change for ozone because of the lowered ozone design values based on more recent years monitoring data. It seems reasonable to be consistent for PM2.5 and haze modeling and also use the 2005 base year. Baseline haze values won't change much (i.e. 2002-2004 values and 2005 values are similar.) Existing modeling will continue to be used as weight of evidence. LADCO will revise non-LADCO state inventory info with contractor work. Mike has discussed this with other RPO directors recently. The group asks Mike to keep the group apprised of the status of the project.

6. Messages from the RPO directors meeting of 9/20-21

The '07 allocation for RPOs likely to be 2.5-5 million nationally; EPA won't know for sure until '07. The '08 allocation may be zero funds, and the RPOs will need to determine what forum will exist for continued multi-state collaboration.

Mike discussed this groups activities (i.e. consultation with northern Class I areas) and encouraged other RPOs to initiate their consultation process as soon as possible.

The status of the IMPROVE and VIEWS monitoring networks were also discussed.

7. Next steps/next call

The IMPROVE Steering Committee (chaired by Mark Pitchford) has analyzed the IMP network looking at redundancy between monitors in case of cuts in the EPA monitoring budget. A cut may be recommended for a monitor in the Minnesota or Michigan Class I areas. This should be discussed by the group.

Discuss the scope and scale of the September 26 Technical Memo on the next call.

Discuss and agree on contractor on next call.

Discuss other questions/issues that arise on next call.