

**Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium
Midwest Regional Planning Organization**

FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides several questions and answers with information about LADCO and the Midwest RPO.

Who is LADCO (and the Midwest RPO)?

The Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO) is a non-profit organization established by the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is a non-voting member of LADCO.

The Midwest Regional Planning Organization (RPO) is a similar entity led by the LADCO States, as well as the State of Ohio and the federally-recognized tribes in Michigan and Wisconsin. USEPA and Federal Land Managers (FLM) - e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Agency, and U.S. Forest Service - are non-voting members of the Midwest RPO.

What is LADCO's (and the Midwest RPO's) mission?

The main purpose of LADCO is to provide technical assessments for and assistance to its member states on regional air quality problems, including ozone, fine particles, regional haze, and air toxics; and to provide a forum for its member states to discuss regional air quality issues.

The Midwest RPO has a similar purpose, but is focused on visibility impairment due to regional haze in the Federal Class I areas located inside the borders of the five states, and the impact of emissions from the five states on visibility impairment due to regional haze in the Federal Class I areas located outside the borders of the five states.

How is LADCO (and the Midwest) organized?

LADCO consists of a Board of Directors (i.e., the State Air Directors), a technical staff, and various workgroups (i.e., monitoring, data analysis, emissions, modeling, public affairs, and training).

The Midwest RPO has a similar structure, but, as noted above, includes tribal and FLM representation.

When was LADCO (and Midwest RPO) formed?

In 1989, the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that established the Lake Michigan Ozone Study (LMOS) and identified LADCO as the organization to oversee that study. Additional MOAs were signed by the States in 1991 (to establish the Lake Michigan Ozone Control Program) and January 2000 (to broaden LADCO's responsibilities)

In October 2000, the LADCO States and the State of Ohio signed a MOA that established the Midwest RPO. In March 2001, the operating principles for the Midwest RPO, which describe the roles and responsibilities of states, tribes, federal agencies, and stakeholders, were agreed to.

What is LMOS?

LMOS, which included a major field program during the summer of 1991, was a comprehensive study of ozone in the Lake Michigan area. Among other things, LMOS demonstrated the importance of transport for

November 25, 2002

ozone. Stated simply, air moves. As it moves, ozone precursors react in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures to form ozone. Transport is evident on the local scale with different parts of the area experiencing high ozone depending on the wind direction, and on the larger regional scale with air entering the region being extremely polluted on some hot summer days (i.e., concentrations on the order of 60 – 90% of the 1-hour NAAQS).

control strategies that address the applicable attainment and reasonable progress requirements.

For additional information about LADCO or the Midwest RPO, see www.ladco.org or contact Michael Koerber, Executive Director, koerber@ladco.org, 847-296-2181.

How is LADCO (and the Midwest RPO) funded?

LADCO receives funding from USEPA and the States. During FY02, for example, LADCO received \$2.4M in federal funds (including \$1.5M for RPO activities) and \$0.7M in state funds. In addition, the LADCO member states contribute considerable in-kind resources to support various technical activities.

What has LADCO accomplished?

Among the more notable accomplishments of LADCO are: (1) Air Quality Improvements: Since the late 1980's, 1-hour ozone levels have improve dramatically. Currently, only a few monitoring sites are still in violation of the 1-hour NAAQS; (2) Regional Cooperation: The Lake Michigan States have established a framework for working together on regional air pollution problems; and (3) Technical Capabilities: The Lake Michigan States have developed the technical expertise to collect and analyze air quality data; develop multi-state emissions inventories; and apply regional air quality models.

What are LADCO's (and the Midwest RPO's) future challenges?

In 1997, the USEPA adopted a new, more stringent 8-hour ozone NAAQS and a new fine particulate (PM_{2.5}) NAAQS. In 1999, the USEPA finalized a comprehensive rule (Regional Haze Rule) to address visibility impairment in federal Class I areas. Given the relationship between regional haze, fine particles, and ozone, LADCO (and the Midwest RPO) intends to conduct integrated assessments for PM_{2.5}, regional haze, and O₃ (8-hour) to support the development of