

Meeting Summary

Consultation for Regional Haze Planning in Northern Class I Areas

On August 20-21, 2007, the Midwest RPO met with its member states and the State of Minnesota to review the results of new modeling and determine next steps in control strategy planning. Part of this meeting included a discussion on regional haze in the northern Class I areas. A summary of this discussion is provided below.

August 20, Project Team Meeting

Participants included the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, along with USEPA, U.S. Forest Service, and LADCO staff.

Kirk Baker (LADCO) began the regional haze session with a review of LADCO's new (Base M/Round 5) modeling results. It was noted that these results are preliminary. Further review and analysis are needed before the results are finalized.

Mike Koerber (LADCO) reviewed the recent report by EC/R on the five factors to be considered in setting reasonable progress goals:

- costs of compliance,
- time required for compliance,
- energy and non air quality environmental impacts,
- remaining useful life, and
- uniform rate of visibility improvement.

Key findings of the report include the following:

- cost per deciview values for most candidate measures are within the range of values for "on the books" controls,
- visibility impacts for EGU and ICI boiler controls are higher than those for other controls, and
- examination of the other factors suggests that they are either manageable or not likely to affect selection of control measures.

John Seltz (Minnesota) discussed Minnesota's approach for their regional haze SIP. Elements of the SIP include:

- 30% reduction in combined SO₂ and NO_x emissions for sources in the 6-county area adjacent to Voyageurs and Boundary Waters
- voluntary EGU reductions of about 50% for SO₂ and NO_x,
- analysis and possible regulation of large ICI boilers, and
- analysis and possible regulation of large turbines and IC engines for NO_x.

Minnesota will also be asking contributing states (i.e., those shown to have $\geq 5\%$ contribution to Voyageurs or Boundary Waters) to do at least what Minnesota will commit to in its SIP. Specifically, Minnesota will ask the States of Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, and Wisconsin to do the following:

- attain an EGU emission rate of less than 0.25 lb/MMBTU for both SO₂ and NO_x,
- review large ICI boilers and adopt emission limitations, if there are significant cost effective reductions,
- review large turbines and IC engines for NO_x control and adopt emission limitations, if there are significant cost effective reductions, and
- report on progress in 2012/2013 SIP assessment.

The “ask” will be formalized in a letter that will be sent from the Commissioner in Minnesota to the Commissioners in the contributing states.

Bob Irvine (Michigan) discussed Michigan’s approach for their regional haze SIP. He noted that Michigan is currently reviewing the EC/R report and has not made a final decision on additional control requirements for haze. Also, Michigan expects to make a decision soon on whether CAIR equals BART for EGUs. Michigan will not ask other states to do more than it commits to in its haze SIP.

Mike Koerber (LADCO) presented a summary of the MANE-VU “ask”, which was the subject of a meeting on August 6. Specifically, MANE-VU has asked the Midwest RPO and VISTAS’ states for reductions in SO₂ emissions from certain EGUs and from non-EGU sources. Discussions with MANE-VU are on-going and it was noted that the Midwest RPO will need to consider (and respond) to both the Minnesota and MANE-VU “asks”.

August 21, Air Directors Meeting

Participants included the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, along with USEPA, National Park Service, and LADCO staff.

Mike Koerber (LADCO) began the meeting with an overview of LADCO’s new (Base M/Round 5) modeling results, including the regional haze results, and a summary of EC/R report. (In particular, it was noted that the visibility impacts predicted by the modeling are just one of five factors that need to be considered in setting reasonable progress goals.) The modeling results are preliminary, and further review and analysis are needed before the results are finalized

John Seltz (Minnesota) discussed Minnesota’s approach for their regional haze SIP (see summary above). He said that a letter would be forthcoming from the Minnesota Commissioner to the Commissioners in the contributing states outlining their “ask” for emission reductions. He noted that the new LADCO modeling will not affect the “ask”, given that other modeling analyses (e.g., CENRAP modeling and previous LADCO modeling) shows that the Minnesota Class I areas are projected to be above the glide path in 2018, and the requirement to consider four other factors in setting reasonable progress goals.