

Meeting Summary
**Regional Haze in Northern Class I Areas (Boundary Waters,
Voyageurs, Isle Royale and Seney)**

On Tuesday, May 24, 2005, representatives from the States of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, and from CENRAP, WRAP, and Midwest RPO met in Madison, Wisconsin to begin the coordination effort on addressing regional haze requirements for the four northern Class I areas: Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park in Minnesota, and Isle Royale National Park and Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan.¹

Lloyd Eagan (Wisconsin) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Madison and reviewing the purpose of the meeting.

Mike Koerber (LADCO) provided a little background on regional haze and summarized the results of the Midwest RPO's monitoring and modeling work. Key findings from this technical work include:

- Sulfate is the dominant PM_{2.5} species affecting visibility in these Class I areas. Nitrate and organic carbon also affect visibility, but to a lesser degree. Back trajectories provide possible information on the location of sources of these species.
- Preliminary modeling indicates that existing and new (e.g., CAIR) controls will improve visibility, but may not be enough to meet the 2018 reasonable progress goals. (Note, this modeling does not reflect BART.)

A draft technical summary report was prepared based on this work. The report will be updated based on additional analyses (e.g., CENRAP's causes of haze study, more back trajectories, and new RPO modeling).

An important policy question that needs to be answered is whether existing ("on the books") controls plus CAIR will be enough to meet the reasonable progress goals for these Class I areas. The Midwest RPO's modeling is being updated to reflect BART and to include all known existing controls (e.g., consent decrees for EGUs in Minnesota and Wisconsin). The new modeling will be available in September.

¹ This is not the first time that representatives from some of these states have gotten together to discuss regional haze in these northern Class I areas. Five conference calls have been held with technical contacts: July 8, 2004, September 16, 2004, December 1, 2004, March 15, 2004, and May 9, 2005. The purpose of these calls were to review a draft technical analysis protocol (July 8), discuss the progress of the modeling (September 16, December 1, and March 15), and review a draft technical summary report (May 9).

There was agreement to continue sharing technical information between states and RPOs and to continue working together. The RPOs will exchange their schedules of technical activities for the next year, and there will be further discussion on coordination of work products. Also, policy-level discussions need to continue. Given that states are facing tight deadlines for submitting SIPs for regional haze (and ozone and PM_{2.5}), a decision should be made on what controls are needed by spring 2006 in order to give states enough time to conduct their rulemaking.

Finally, it was also noted that Illinois is promoting a Regional Emissions Reduction Initiative, which considers beyond-CAIR reductions for EGUs, through the Midwest Governors Association. (The 13-state Midwest Governors Association includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.) Coordination of this Initiative with the inter-state efforts to address regional haze is desirable.

Action Items:

- (1) Midwest RPO, CENRAP, and WRAP will exchange their schedules of technical activities for the next year.
- (2) The draft technical summary report will be updated based on additional trajectory analyses, the Midwest RPO's latest modeling results, and information from CENRAP's causes of haze study.
- (3) A conference call with technical contacts will be held in late June/early July to discuss the RPO schedules, any new analyses (e.g., CENRAP's causes of haze study), updates to the draft technical summary report, and EPA's final BART rule, which is expected to be issued on June 15.
- (4) A conference call with Air Directors will be held in late September to review the new modeling and discuss next steps. Tribes, Federal Land Managers, and EPA should be invited to future calls and meetings.