

# Northwest Indiana Air Quality Steering Committee

Charlotte J Read—Save the Dunes  
Council, Inc.

Thomas W Easterly—Environmental  
Business Strategies, Inc.

## 3 Counties—2 Areas

- Lake and Porter Counties (2 western most)
  - Part of the Chicago Metropolitan Area
  - Designated Non-Attainment “forever.”
  - Air Quality has continuously attained the 1 Hr standard since the 89-91 period.
  - Before the 1989-1991 period, the area continuously exceeded the 1-hr ozone standard.
  - Measured Air Quality attains the 8-hr standard for the 2002-2004 period.
  - “Moderate” nonattainment area for the 8-Hr Standard.

# 3 Counties—2 Areas

- LaPorte County (eastern most)
  - Not part of the Chicago Metropolitan Area, but contains the highest reading ozone monitor in NWI.
  - Designated Attainment for 1 Hr Standard.
  - Air Quality has routinely exceeded the 1-Hr standard and is above that standard for any three year period which includes 2002.
  - Measured ozone Air Quality for the 2002-2004 period is apparently .086 ppm.
  - EPA has approved a “bump-down” request for LaPorte County from “moderate” to “marginal” with an attainment date of 2007

# NIRPC EMPC AQSC

- The Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) has had an Environmental Management Policy Committee (EMPC) since before 1994.
- The EMPC is an open committee which includes representatives of:
  - Environmental Organizations
  - Business and Industry
  - State and Local governments (NIRPC is a council of governments).
  - Educators and Researchers.

# NIRPC EMPC AQSC

- The EMPC has always been engaged in regional air quality issues.
- In 1998, the EMPC formally established an Air Quality Steering Committee (AQSC) to address the new 8-hour ozone standard.
- The AQSC's current role is as the regional 8-hour ozone advisory committee. IDEM serves as the technical experts for the current ozone planning effort.

# Current Status

- We have just recently received the preliminary 2002 base year inventory.
- We would like to know the emission reduction target.
- We believe that very little emissions reductions can be achieved by additional controls on currently regulated sources.
- We are interested in the feasibility of region-wide efforts (all LADCO States)

# Possible Region Wide Efforts

- Currently unregulated sources including:
  - Unregistered off-road industrial and construction vehicles.
  - Boats and personal water craft, including marinas.
  - Cleaner vehicle Fuels—biodiesel, e-85, others
  - Cleaner New Vehicles—California Standards?
  - A Regional Certified Emissions Credit Registration program with a bank and trading (as in the OTR).
  - Roadside emission monitoring to identify and abate high emissions vehicles.
  - “Area Source” Industrial complexes (Ports & Industrial Parks) & other “missed” sources.

# Other Strategies Under Study

- Area-wide Ridesharing--Park & Ride facilities
- Early Vehicle Retirement Program.
- Enhanced Transit.
- Increased Permit Compliance & Rule Effectiveness.
- Traffic Flow Improvements
- Gas Can Exchange & Sales Regulations.
- Long Term Idling Reductions (Truck Stops)
- Lawn Mower Exchange Programs
- Positive Incentive Programs