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Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group

April 11, 2016, Conference Call Summary

1. Roll call –

EPA OAQPS, OAP, WESTAR-WRAP, MARAMA, NESCAUM, OTC, SESARM, LADCO, CenSARA, Maryland, Georgia, Utah, Nez Perce Tribe, Texas, Missouri

1. Overview of Baseyear Options Chart

Theresa walked through the chart and input received to date. Rationale for using 2011 for emissions and met base years included the readiness of the data, though would be out of date for some categories (ex: oil and gas). Neither 2012 and 2013 for emissions and met base years received support. Using 2014 for both is underway by the West, though is not a representative meteorologic year for other regions. 2015 for both could also work for the West. Using 2014 for emissions and 2015 for met, EGUs and non-EGUs would mean starting as soon as possible. 2016 for both emissions and met may be desirable because of the significant emission reductions expected between 2014 and 2016.

1. Roundtable discussions of Options and next steps

OTC is unified on using the 2011 NEI and updating EGUs, then states can do their own updates for their SIPs. Do plan to project for 2016.

WRAP – if can get 2016 emissions done in a year, then maybe think about doing.

LADCO – for SIPs due in 2018, it seems the base year will need to be 2011; however, for 2015 Ozone Attainment Demonstration SIPs there’s time to use updated data. There’s no “best” year for meteorology as 2015’s not good either.

OTC – perhaps can rely on a 2011 base year, but conduct episodic modeling runs that would include updated data?

EPA – ambient data needs to consider representative data – the newer, the better. If emissions inventories have been updated, but the current air quality is not representative, it may be better to work from the older EI. Methodology changes also impact emissions numbers – there were methodology improvements for the 2014 NEI that were not reflected in the 2011 NEI. WRAP agreed, citing oil and gas changes from 2011 to 2014 because of knowledge gained, resulting in improved methodologies (though not perfect). Julie mentioned it would be helpful to know what improvements EPA made, including what pollutants were impacted and the % of changes. It was agreed EPA would prepare a summary for the next call.

SESARM – 2011 may serve the purpose for regional haze and may be the best starting point for 2015 Ozone SIPs. Jim (GA) agreed, as undertaking a non-NEI inventory is a major undertaking. Also agree it’s not a good idea to mix different NEI and met years; for one reason model performance needs to be done using the same for both, doubling the amount of work that would need to be done.

Norm – at this point, EPA is planning on a 2015 Ozone Transport modeling platform using 2011 to be done by the end of this year, but it’s not necessarily what will be used for a transport FIP. What future year is still open for discussion and may be a topic for the June meeting.

Julie (MARAMA) suggested IPM is not needed since ERTAC now exists – Theresa (CenSARA) added discussing how the two can be merged/complemented, etc., should be a topic for June.

Tom (WRAP) noted stratospheric intrusion is something that needs to be included somehow in model performance.

Mark (LADCO) noted it’s usually meteorology that “wags the tail” with emissions inventories needing to be adjusted to fit the best met year (ex: will have 2014 NEI, but if 2016 is best met year, emissions will be projected to 2016).

Jim (Texas) – will EPA use the modeling for the PM2.5 annual standard transport work? Jeb (CAMD) – CSAPR looked at only ozone season NOx; have not looked at more broadly for transport yet.

4) Planning for the June 20th meeting in St. Louis

If interested in participating in the planning group, contact Theresa, who’ll be setting up a call for the next couple of weeks.

1. Next call

Sometime in mid-to-late May to allow EPA time to prepare for the methodology changes topic.