Federal/State/Tribal/Local Technical Work Collaboration Group Conference Call

March 15, 2019

Attendees: Julie McDill, Leiran Biton, Zac Adelman, Michael Vince, Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Sharon Phillips, OTAQ, Kristen Foley and Wyatt, ORD; Carol Bohnenkamp, Chet Wayland, Norm Possiel, John Hornback

1. Discuss 2016 platform modeling evaluation collaboration (see attached)

Chet thanked everyone for their patience and collaboration on the development of the platform. Beta version is ready to go, but needs evaluation and improvement. 2023 and 2028 projections will be released only to states because it is not complete. For example, it needs updated Mexico emissions inventories and some of the projection work for some sectors is not completed. Is everyone comfortable with this?

Julie McDill mentioned that there was a hope that v1 would be the last iteration. By holding back the beta inventory, we may be ensuring that there is a v2 if there are substantive comments once v1 is public. Chet agreed and noted that this process is new and we need to see what happens.

Zac Adelman said that since EPA cannot wait for v1 for the regional haze modeling, how does this reconcile with v1 being the public version of the platform. Chet said that the EPA RH modeling will not necessarily be “SIP-quality” modeling. If EPA can make improvements to the 2016 beta version, they will, but it won’t be v1 or a beta-prime version. EPA is locked in to producing RH modeling by August 2019. States will be free to take that modeling and move forward.

Chet noted that we have all learned a lot in the collaborative process and it has had a positive outcome. EPA appreciates everyone’s efforts.

Norm and Heather Simon reviewed the 2016 Platform Evaluation Forum attached document. If you would like to participate in the model evaluation process, contact Heather Simon. It is envisioned that EPA will share model outputs as well as statistics and plots. The forum would come up with key priorities for improvement and develop smaller teams to address. The forum would have an overall coordination call each quarter.

Zac noted that LADCO is happy to host plot statistic data; perhaps IWDW should also host since IWDW will host modeling platform data. Need to figure out expectations for this process; what do we do when we find deficiencies? Heather said EPA will take comments on the document until March 29.

Julie noted that we might reach out to Arlene Fiore and the HAQAST teams to learn about how we can use satellite data to evaluate modeling. Heather indicated that EPA would like to keep the forum to EPA/MJO/state participants.

Tom Moore asked if the forum purpose is to fulfill requirements of the regional haze roadmap. Heather said that this process is not aimed at supporting any particular regulatory action. Not envisioning a report that would indicate utility of the 2016 platform for specific purposes.

1. EPA mobile source initiatives-Cleaner Trucks Initiative (see attached)

Jessica Brakora reviewed the CTI powerpoint. Julie McDill noted that HDD trucks are not well-estimated in the MOVES model. She urged EPA to look at aspects like idling which are not in the MOVES model nor appropriately located in the model. Jessica noted that the MOVES model is being updated, including HDD emissions including workday idling.

Zac Adelman asked about information gathering and what is EPA hoping to get from states, locals and tribes. EPA wants to make sure they understand any particular issues and concerns as well as state/local/tribes’ perspective on the importance of reductions. What will the outreach process look like? EPA said that they have had a state/local presentation to NACAA, ECOS and AAPCA. EPA will check in with these groups every 6 months or so. Are there opportunities for smaller groups of states to engage EPA? Zac noted several states in LADCO are interested in dialogue on this issue.

1. Update on EPA's plans for AQ modeling to support regional haze SIP development

Brian Timin and Barron Henderson are working on updated RH modeling with the 2016 platform. Brian said results will be available later in the summer, including assessment of international contributions. 2016 V1 will not be available at the beginning of May when modeling must start. EPA will start with 2016 beta including any available updates. If there are updates made to 2016 beta, they will be “minor” improvements. Any updated beta run will be run through same statistics as evaluation forum.

Tom asked if EPA will use IPM and noted that western utility emissions will be available for 2016 v1. Tom suggested a regional haze modeling protocol might be helpful to document changes. Chet noted that as changes to 2016 beta are made, there should be discussions with the group.

John Hornback asked about why modeling must start May 1; EPA must stick to roadmap schedule. John noted that there are changes for utilities in the southeast that may not be included in the RH modeling. John noted that the southeastern states want to talk about modification of URP glide slopes for prescribed fire.