EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Tribal Air News

July 2007
Volume 5, Issue 2

EPA Seeks Comment on Proposed Ozone Standard

On June 20, 2007, EPA proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone (the primary component of smog). The proposed revisions reflect new scientific evidence about ozone and its effects on people, public welfare, and the environment. EPA's proposal would revise both ozone standards: the *primary* standard (designed to protect human health) and the *secondary* standard (designed to protect welfare and the environment). EPA will issue final standards by March 12, 2008.

The existing primary and secondary ozone standards, set in 1997, are identical: an 8-hour standard of 0.08 parts per million (ppm). Because of rounding, an area meets the standard if ozone levels are 0.084 ppm or lower. EPA proposes to set the revised primary (health) standard to a level within the range of 0.070-0.075 ppm (70 -75 ppb). The Agency also requests comments on alternative levels of the 8-hour primary ozone standard, within a range from 0.060 ppm up to and including retention of the current standard (0.084 ppm). EPA is also proposing to specify the level of the primary standard to the third decimal place because today's monitors can detect ozone that accurately. For the secondary standard, one option under consideration would establish a new form of standard designed specifically to protect sensitive plants from damage caused by repeated ozone exposure throughout the growing season. The other option for the revised secondary standard is to follow the current practice of making the secondary standard identical to the proposed primary 8-hour standard. For more information about ground-level ozone, including information about the revisions to the ozone NAAQS, visit www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone.

EPA last updated the ozone standards in 1997. The decision to revise the standards was challenged in court by a number of parties and ultimately reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court unanimously upheld the constitutionality of the 1970 Clean Air Act provision that authorizes EPA to set NAAQS to protect public health and welfare. The Court also affirmed that the Clean Air Act requires EPA to set ambient air quality standards, at levels necessary to protect the public health and welfare, without considering the economic costs of implementing the standards.

EPA will accept public comments for 90 days after the proposed revisions to the ozone standards are published in the Federal Register. Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2005 -0172 and submitted by one of the following methods:

·Federal eRulemaking Portal (http://www.regulations.gov),
·E-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov),
·Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
·Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).

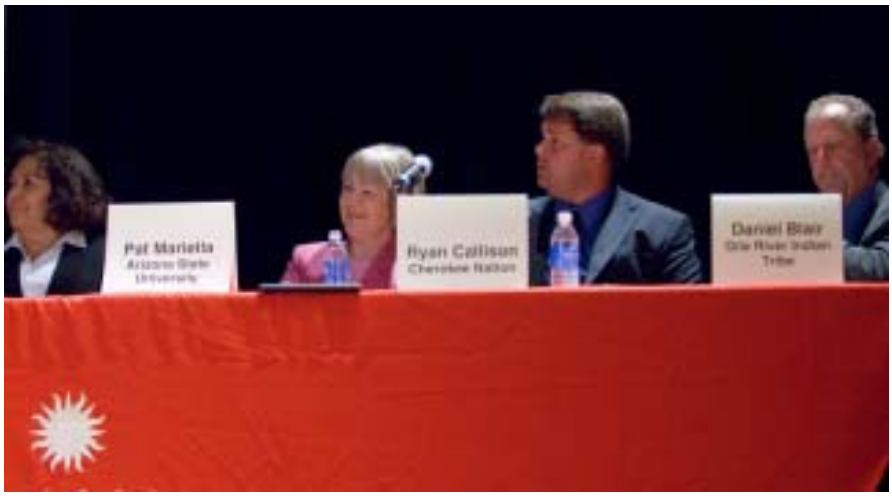
EPA will issue final ozone standards by March 12, 2008. Based on that date, EPA estimates the following implementation schedule:

- ***By June 2009*: States must make and Tribes may make recommendations for areas to be designated attainment and nonattainment.**
- ***By June 2010*: EPA makes final designations of attainment and nonattainment areas. Those designations would become effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.**
- ***2013*: State Implementation Plans, outlining how states will reduce pollution to meet the standards, are due to EPA (three years after designations). Tribal Implementation Plans are recommended but not required.**
- ***2013 to 2030:* States are required to meet the standard, with deadlines depending on the severity of the problem.**

Clean Air Act Advisory Committee Holds Tribal Issues Forum

Tribal air issues were the focus at the May 9-10 meeting of EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC). The CAAAC convened a tribal air issues forum at the Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. Representatives of the Cherokee, the Gila River Indian Community, and the St. Regis Mohawk participated in a panel focusing on technical capacities of tribes, pollution transport from neighboring communities, and other challenges tribes face in managing their air quality. Over 75 people attended the forum and applauded the efforts these tribes in exercising their sovereignty through effective air quality management.

The CAAAC also gave broad support to the Air Quality Management (AQM) Phase II Report. After a presentation on the recommendations in the Phase II report, the committee members discussed concepts in the report and agreed that the report should be forwarded to EPA. The AQM Phase II report urges EPA and its regulatory partners in multi-state, state, tribal, and local governments to move from single pollutant State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs) to multipollutant Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs). While the development of AQMPs will be voluntary, the report gives EPA some ideas on how incentives can be used to encourage the development of the plans.



Margaret Cook from the Gila River Indian Community, Pat Mariella from Northern Arizona University, Ryan Callison from the Cherokee Nation, and Daniel Blair from the Gila River Indian Community participated in the panel discussion at the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee's recent Tribal Issues Forum. The forum was held at the National Museum of the American Indian on May 9th.

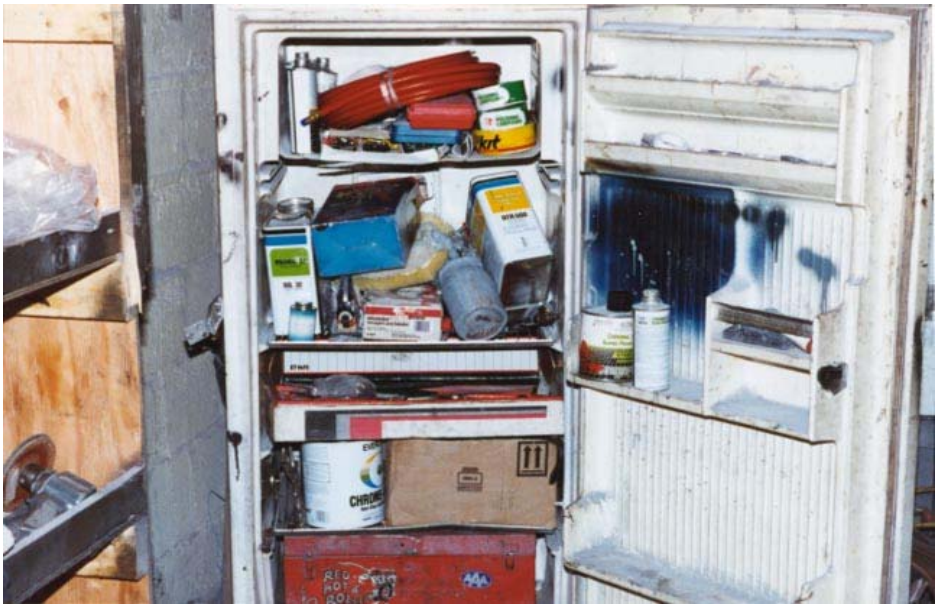
In addition the overarching recommendation of developing AQMPs, there are 12 supporting recommendations covering an array of topics including: improving the priority setting process to quickly react to new information; coordination with energy, land-use, and transportation planning; creating a multi-agency liaison group to explore issues and opportunities for coordination of energy, land-use, transportation planning and air quality goals; and, considering the interaction between climate change and air quality.

The AQM Subcommittee is comprised of representatives from multi-state and state agencies, tribal organizations, health and environmental organizations, industry, and EPA. The complete membership list and supporting documents can be found at the CAAAC website at www.epa.gov/air/caaac/aqm.html. The CAAAC is a senior-level policy committee that advises the EPA on issues related to implementing the Clean Air Act. The membership is approximately 60 senior managers and experts representing state and local government, environmental and rest groups, academic institutions, unions, trade associations, utilities, industry, and other experts. It provides advice and counsel to EPA on a variety of important air quality policy issues. The committee has formed several subcommittees, including the AQM Subcommittee, to provide more detailed discussion and advice on many technical issues.

EPA Launches Collision Repair Campaign

Auto body shops are fixtures in neighborhoods across America. From rural communities to densely populated urban communities, the total number of known shops across the United States has increased to over 40,000. These shops contribute to significant emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particle pollution (PM), and toxins each year. Most of the emissions are released at the ground level where people work, live and play. The potential effects of this pollution include respiratory illnesses, cancer, and asthma. EPA has created the Collision Repair Industry Campaign to address the impact of these emissions.

In 2006, EPA and community partners came together to design and plan a national campaign to reduce toxic emissions from auto body shops. To reduce the environmental and health impacts of the collision repair industry, EPA and its partners are working with community groups across the country to develop strategies for improving the practices of auto body painting and repair shops. The campaign will also develop tools and resources for local environmental and permitting agencies and trade schools,



Improper storage of solid waste in auto body shops, as pictured above, is one of the issues to be addressed through EPA's Collision Repair Industry Campaign.

Building awareness of health impacts and beneficial changes in auto body shop practices is an important component for reducing or eliminating emissions of toxic air pollutants. A fundamental strategy to changing auto body shop behavior is clearly demonstrating the link between healthy business practices and financial success. Best practices such as installing spray booths and High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP) spray guns into auto body repair shops have proven to drastically decrease the output of emissions, reduce the volume of paints used, and save significant money for shops over time. By taking early actions, shops also have the opportunity to insure compliance with the upcoming auto body area source rule.

The Campaign's success depends on experimentation with new strategies, identifying community champions that can spearhead the effort, and sharing lessons learned. The goals of the campaign are focused on measurable results, which are eminently achievable through focused teamwork, good planning, and organization.

For more information, contact Holly Wilson at wilson.holly@epa.gov or at 919-541-5624.

Air Monitoring Guidance On the Way

Two important guidance documents are being reviewed and should be completed within the next few months. The first document titled *Technical Guidance for the Development of Tribal Air Monitoring Programs* provides tribes more information on the ambient air monitoring process and information on resources and tools that help build and sustain air monitoring programs. Included in the document are:

· Steps for identifying goals and objectives for conducting air monitoring

· Information for planning and selecting the appropriate type of monitoring network including discussions of staffing, network design, monitor selection, quality system development and training

· Costs for operating a monitoring network, funding sources and tips and resources for writing a grant proposal and work plan

· Implementation of monitoring networks

· Data acquisition, management, and reporting

· Data analysis and interpretation, including information on modeling techniques.

The document is not intended to provide the details of each specific monitoring program but it provides the key attributes and web addresses. The first draft of this document was distributed on EPA's Tribal Air Website (http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal/). EPA received comments from tribes on the draft through a series of conference calls. The document is being revised by EPA staff and the final release is anticipated in July 2007. Due to the constant changes and improvements in monitoring methods and networks, the document is expected to undergo a review in 5 years. Comments on ways to improve this document are always encouraged and will be incorporated in the next review cycle.

A draft of a second document titled *Guidance and Policy for Implementation of Tribal Air Monitoring Programs* was completed in June 2007. This document is intended for EPA staff involved in resource allocations, tribal air grant management, program evaluation, strategic planning of monitoring networks, technical support to monitoring programs, and using ambient air data collected from tribal monitoring programs. This document provides consistency between EPA offices on the policies used to provide resources to the tribes for ambient air monitoring. This document focuses particularly on ambient air monitoring programs and is currently undergoing internal review. Distribution and review by tribal environmental professionals should begin by July 2007.

If you have any questions on either of these documents please contact Mike Papp via email at papp.michael@epa.gov or by calling 919-541-2408.

ITEP's Data Toolbox Offers Data Management Solution

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)'s Tribal Data Toolbox offers tribes a comprehensive database for air monitoring operations. The Toolbox is ideal as a stand-alone data management system or in conjunction with other software. The Toolbox stores administrative, operational, analytical and reporting data. The Toolbox can be a repository for all the tribe's air data, enabling queries such as parameter-to-parameter comparisons by date, site, or other factors. The Toolbox is form-driven, so users do not need special programming skills. Existing databases, text files, or spreadsheets can be imported.

The Toolbox was tested with two tribal programs using a wide variety of instruments, methods, and dataloggers. The Toolbox accommodates and applies data from tapered element oscillating microbalances (TEOMs), beta attenuation monitors (BAMs), gas analyzers, meteorological sensors, and filter data. Results of quality control (QC) checks are entered into the database to validate data.

Three phases of data review and validation are incorporated into the Toolbox, so that data is sent through a "pipeline" of:

1. Data review and flagging (qualification) at the time of initial import
2. Quarterly data flagging based on logbooks and audit reports
3. Final data validation to determine data acceptability for AQS data entry, final report generation, and the assignment of AQS null value codes.

The Toolbox provides functions for backing up and archiving data. All data tables, charts, and reports are easily exportable to Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF. Hyperlinked user manuals within the Toolbox provide over 100 pages of operation-specific help.

An online training course is under development and will be ready for students by the end of July 2007. The course will provide example data from met sensors, gas analyzers, PM continuous instruments, and PM filter data. It also provides specific exercises for each function. ITEP staff can, as resources allow, come to tribal offices, import existing data and train new users. As ITEP continues to improve the Toolbox, new versions will include an import-previous-version function that will prevent data loss.

ITEP's Tribal Data Toolbox Can Support Many Types of Data including:

Administrative - site, sampler, QC equipment, and personnel data,
Operational - importing and flagging continuous met and pollutant data and PM filter data,
Analytical - QC reports, summary reports, and charts, ozone NAAQS calculations; and,
Reporting - AQS-format file generation for all pollutant and met data

Coming This Month: Turbo-QAPP

All organizations who receive EPA funds, including tribes, are required to develop quality assurance project plans (QAPPs) for ambient air monitoring data collection activities. Organizations not familiar with EPA terms, or with little experience in the development of quality systems, can have difficulty developing the documents and receiving approval from EPA. EPA and the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS) have assembled generic QAPPs to assist tribes in developing project specific QAPPs. In order to make the development of QAPPs as simple as possible, EPA, in cooperation with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), funded the development of a software product, Turbo-QAPP, to lead tribal monitoring personnel through the development of their project specific ambient air monitoring QAPPs. Turbo-QAPP should help Tribes by providing most of EPA's ambient air monitoring guidance within a click of a mouse. Turbo-QAPP was developed under a contract to Lakes Environmental, a software development company in Canada. Beta versions of the program have been developed and tested with very positive comments by tribes, states, and local monitoring organizations. It is anticipated that the first version would be available, free to tribes in July 2007.

Tribes, as well as any organization who may be interested in using or evaluating the software, are encouraged to download a free trial version. To obtain a copy, please email melinda.ronca-battista@nau.edu to obtain a user name and password for downloading the evaluation version from a website, or obtaining an installation CD.

Cherokee Nation Receives Award

At the recent Clean Air Excellence Awards, the Cherokee Nation was recognized for their leadership in providing a strong model for improving ambient air quality applicable to tribal communities across the United States. They were also acknowledeged for being a forerunner in protecting the health and natural resources for Tribal communities. The members of the delegation representing the Cherokee at the award ceremony are pictured with former Acting Assistant Administrator Bill Wehrum.

Tribal Participation in PM2.5 Designations

EPA promulgated a new 24-hour PM2.5 national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) on October 17, 2006 to provide increased protection of public health and the environment from fine particle pollution. The new standard became effective on December 18, 2006. When EPA promulgates a new NAAQS, it is required to designate all geographic areas within the United States as being in attainment, unclassifiable, or nonattainment under section 107 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Designating an area is accomplished through a formal rulemaking process outlined in section 107(d) of the CAA. If an area does not meet the NAAQS for PM2.5, an area will be designated as nonattainment. EPA issued guidance on the designation process on June 8, 2007 which you can find at this website: http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1pgm.html

Under the designation process, states are required to submit recommendations for designations to EPA by December 18, 2007. A state may recommend a designation of attainment, unclassifiable, or nonattainment for areas surrounding or adjacent to an area of Indian country based on available PM2.5 monitoring data. Unlike states, tribes are not obligated to participate in the process, but are invited to do so. EPA is sending letters to all the tribal leaders with information about the designation process including the guidance documents. The guidance document is designed to assist tribes in formulating their own recommendations and in understanding the criteria for designating and drawing attainment boundaries.

By participating in the designation process, tribes will have a greater role in the designations in Indian Country rather than deferring to a State's recommendations concerning attainment designations of areas that may surround or be adjacent to tribal lands. Tribes may also provide relevant information to EPA regarding appropriate designations for tribal lands. EPA will make designations for the new 24-hour PM2.5 NAAQS by December 18, 2008. The CAA requires that EPA complete the designations process within 2 years of the effective date of the standard (December 18, 2006) unless the EPA determines there is insufficient information to make final designations. For additional information on PM2.5 designations, please contact Barbara Driscoll at (919) 541-1051 or driscoll.barbara@epa.gov.

Upcoming Conference...

2007 Environmental Justice and Air Pollution Workshop
Best Practices in Collaboration, Tools and Resources

Reserve your place now!

When: Thursday, September 6 and Friday, September 7, 2007

Who: Communities, advocates, agencies, Tribes, business and other stakeholders interested in reducing ambient air pollution in disproportionately burdened communities are encouraged to attend.

Where: U.S. EPA Region 9 Office
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Cost: Free (no registration fee)

Hotel: Marriott Courtyard San Francisco Downtown. The hotel is 0.29 miles from the workshop location. Call 800-321-2211 by **August 6** to reserve your room at the Government rate of $140 + 14% tax

RSVP: Register online by **August 6**.
The registration website is located at: http://projects.pechan.com/epa/ejat

Contact: Phyllis Wright, Workshop Coordinator
Phone: 919-541-5369
Email: wright.phyllis@epa.gov

Sponsored by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) and co-hosted by the Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice (SNEEJ) and the EPA Region 9, Pacific Southwest Office

The Tribal Air News

The Tribal Air News is produced by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The newsletter is produced quarterly and is distributed electronically.

For more information about the newsletter, or to contribute stories and pictures contact:
Jeff Whitlow
Community and Tribal Programs
US EPA/OAQPS
email: whitlow.jeff@epa.gov
phone: (919) 541-5523