Integrated Energy-Environmental Modeling for Regional Scenario Analysis

Timothy Johnson U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development Research Triangle Park, NC

EPA CNS Progress Review Workshop 18 October 2005

# NRMRL's Integrated Strategic Assessment Workgroup (ISA-W)

- Support ORD Global Change Program (MARKAL modeling)
  - Develop and assess scenarios of future technologies thru 2050
  - Focus on transportation and electricity sector
  - Better understand how technological evolution could impact future regional air emissions
  - Transition program from emissions to adaptation focus
- Provide useful analyses and tools to states and regions that are trying to make energy/technology decisions

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

# **EPA Energy System Analysis**

- Origins in EPA's *Global Change Research Program*
- How might global climate change affect regional weather and (in turn) atmospheric pollution?
- Drivers of atmospheric pollution:
  - Chemical reaction and transport
  - Biogenic emissions
  - Anthropogenic emissions
- Technological change is fundamental to the latter
- The analysis requires an *integrated* modeling framework

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

#### EPA Global Climate Change Program's Air Quality Assessment



### **ISA-W Modeling Goals**

- Develop and assess scenarios of energy technology evolution in emissions-intensive sectors of the U.S. economy (transportation and electricity) and calculate associated emissions trajectories
- Scenario analysis NOT prediction
- Focus on 2000 to 2050 timeframe
- Take into account driving forces:
  - Technological change
  - Energy supply, demand, and price dynamics
  - Environmental, energy, and land use policies
  - Region-specific factors (demand patterns, technology preferences, fuel availability)

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

#### **MARKAL Modeling of Energy System**



**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** 

## **Regional MARKAL: Motivation Behind New England Pilot Effort**

- Decisions about technology and impacts from technology choice occur at regional and local scales
- Policy actions relevant to climate and air quality are being taken at regional and local scales
  - e.g., Criteria pollutant mitigation, technology portfolio standards, systems benefits charges, climate considerations
- States and local entities need tools to assess energy-technology-environment policies

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

## New England MARKAL Project

- Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) is developing, hosting, and running the model
- Six states, each modeled as its own region (now adding NY, NJ, DE; later MD, DC, PA)
- EPA has sponsored model development – not analysis



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

# Outcomes: The New England MARKAL Project Is Helping EPA . . .

- Determine what data are readily available at state and regional levels and what gaps must be filled
- Prepare structures for handling regional model data
- Test the model development and utilization process
- Demonstrate the value of a regional modeling framework

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

### **Specific Projects**

- Assess regional differences in technology suitability (wind, solar, biomass, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration, distributed generation, H<sub>2</sub> infrastructure)
- Compare emission trading schemes
- Examine smart growth proposals in the context of their environmental benefits
- Analyze benefits of region-specific policy levers (renewable portfolio standards, systems benefits charges, green power purchases)

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



## Broader EPA Regional Research Questions

- What are the multimedia implications of global change (e.g., climate variability, population growth, economic development, and technology adoption) on future regional-scale environmental quality?
- What are the relative economic costs and environmental benefits of adaptation options?
- What strategies are available to decision-makers to adapt to global change and improve environmental quality?
- What information, analyses, and tools do decision makers actually need? How should it be packaged?

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** 

#### Linkage to OAQPS Response Surface Model for Air Quality Screening



**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** 

### Decision Support Tool Design and Development

**Decision-maker/Analyst** 



**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** 

### For More Information Please Contact:

Tim Johnson (919) 541-0575 johnson.tim@epa.gov

US EPA Mail Drop E305-02 109 T.W. Alexander Drive Research Triangle Park, NC 27711

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**