

Adv. Coal Tech. Action Team Progress Report

Note: While this Progress Report should be as brief as possible, please write it with enough explanation so that someone who is totally unfamiliar with the work of your Action Team will be able to easily understand what is going on. As part of this, please only use acronyms after fully spelling out what they stand for.

Date: 7.3.2008

Name of Action Team: Advanced Coal Technologies

Team Leader(s):

Anna Marie Wood, Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Office of Policy Analysis and Review (OPAR)

Bob Wayland, OAR, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards

Champion: Rob Brenner, Director, OPAR/OAR

Current Team Members:

Environmental Problem: Reducing the environmental impacts of coal use, with a focus on air emissions.

Name of ESTE or Other Priority Project: Advanced Coal Technology Work Group, a work group formed under the auspices of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee, a Federal Advisory Committee.

Technology Challenges:

- High costs associated with both conventional and new control technologies for use with coal-based energy systems
- Unproven technologies in some areas (e.g. carbon capture and sequestration from coal-combusting facilities)
- Perceived lack of reliability or technological development for some technologies (e.g., Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle power generation facilities).

Stakeholder and Partner Involvement: The Advanced Coal Technology (ACT) Work

Group is a multistakeholder group with approximately 33 participants, including members who represent environmental, industrial, state/local/tribal, and federal organizations. A full list can be found on the ACT Work Group's website at <http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac/coaltech.html>.

FY07 Accomplishments: The Work Group formed in January 2007, and issued its Interim Report in June 2007. The report is posted on our website at <http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac/coaltech.html>.

FY08 Objectives and Accomplishments: Finalize a Work Group report by January 2008, with recommendations to a set of stakeholder organizations. The Work Group issued its Final Report in January 2008, which is posted on our website at <http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac/coaltech.html>. EPA provided a response to the Work Group's recommendation in May 2008 and is continuing its efforts to follow-up on the recommendations, as appropriate.

Current Funding and Additional Resources Required: NA

Issues: Difficult environment for compromise, given polarizing substantive topics.

Performance Measures: Recommendations from the ACT Work Group have the potential to provide further momentum for a transformation in the coal-based sector towards lower-carbon power production.

Lessons Learned:

When establishing a work group it is important to: (1) provide a specific charge to the Work Group; (1) define the timeframe for the work group to complete its work; and (3) identify the work products to be produced.

Set up each meeting so that work group members sit in round tables of eight people (as opposed to the impersonal large square table configuration typically used). For each meeting, rotate the seating so that work group members can get to know each other and learn one another's perspectives on the issues being discussed.

A wide spectrum of stakeholders on the work group largely agrees that the following elements would be helpful to accelerate the development and deployment of advanced coal technologies:

- large, sustained R&D funding
- some type of regulatory certainty that would 'price' carbon dioxide (e.g., a national trading system or carbon tax)
- expanded education and outreach efforts with regard to the costs and benefits of ACTs and their deployment, along with the consequences of not deploying them