

Multi-pollutant emphasis in the reorganization of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS)

The following pages contain excerpts from a briefing presented to the Air Research Coordination team on March 1, 2006. This presentation outlined the changes in organizational structure of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) under the office reorganization as well as the implications of the reorganization for an increased focus on a multi-pollutant-based approach to air quality management.

OAQPS Reorganization

(Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards)

Excerpts from a Briefing for the Air Research Coordination Team

March 1, 2006

Reorganization Precepts:

- Encourage a **multi-pollutant focus**, rather than our former “stove-piped” split between criteria pollutants and air toxics,
- Better develop expertise and leadership **in multi-pollutant, sector-based approaches**,
- Maintain and enhance our expertise **in health and ecosystem protection**,
- Expand our involvement in areas like **voluntary, innovative and community-based programs** that some might view as non-traditional for OAQPS,
- Improve **communication and outreach**, both internally and externally,
- Accommodate our existing programs and enable us to **build on our strengths and maintain our leadership**.

What the New Structure Accomplishes:

- All divisions are multi-pollutant
- Sector focus is clear
- Maintains our technical leadership
- Builds on our strengths, e.g. health, information, benefits
- Makes a place for new directions

OAQPS Functional Summary Guide

OFFICE OF AIR QUALITY PLANNING AND STANDARDS

Central Operations and Resources

Manages development of program goals, objectives & plans, systems for tracking & assessing program progress; manages program resources (budget, contracts, & HR), & coordinates cross-cutting information resources mgmt. & admin. support services. Leads OAQPS international activities.

Policy Analysis & Communications Staff

Responsible for advice on political/AQ policy, Congressional, press & other communications matters.

Health & Environmental Impacts Division (C504-02)

Provides expertise on health & eco effects & analysis of exposure/risks assoc. with criteria & toxic pollution. Sets NAAQS & emission stnds & works with exposure/risk models, benefits & costs, climate change, transboundary strategies, multi-media issues & co-chairs CAAC Subcommittee on AQ Mgmt.

Air Benefit and Cost Group

Provides scientifically defensible & transparent econ. assessments in a policy-relevant timeframe.

Ambient Standards Group

Reviews & revises existing NAAQS and/or establishes new NAAQS.

Sector Based Assessment Grp.

Conducts human & ecological exposure/risk assessments in support of the hazardous air pollutant progr. & the dev. of sector-based standards.

Climate, International and Multi-Media Group

Manage activities & develops strategies to address linkages between conventional air pollutants & climate; responsible for multi-media & international activities.

Sector Policies and Programs Division (D205-01)

Responsible for developing comprehensive & cost-effective emission reduction strategies & regs. governing emissions from stationary sources, incl. technology & health-based stnds & voluntary or non-regulatory initiatives.

Program Design Group

Responsible for designing regulatory & non-regulatory mechanisms to implement control strategies based on comprehensive info. & understanding of key industrial sectors, operations, econ. profiles & capital planning cycles, plus opportunities market-based mechanisms.

Measurement Policy Group

Responsible for directing a nat'l program that improves emissions quantifications.

Metals and Minerals Group

Develops & implements control strategies & regs governing primary & secondary metals prod. & minerals processing opns, incl. innovative strategies to reduce hazardous & criteria pollutant emissions, incl. use of market-based mechanisms, alt. technologies, processes, & compliance options plus reg. & econ. incentives.

Coatings and Chemicals Group

Responsible for directing the nat'l program to reduce emissions assoc. with sectors such as petroleum prod., refining, & marketing & chemical prod./application. Identifies opportunities for cost-effective strategies to reduce emissions of both toxic & criteria pollutants.

Natural Resources and Commerce Group

Responsible for directing a nat'l program to reduce emissions assoc. w/sectors incl. consumer prods., forest prods., ag., naval shipyards, & airports.

Energy Strategies Group

Responsible for developing & implementing regs for stationary combustion sources under §§ 111 (NSPS), 112 (NESHAP) & 129 (Solid Waste Incineration) & for reviewing, evaluating, & adopting new & innovative technologies/energy strategies to reduce dependence on foreign oil, increase overall energy system efficiency & provide fuel diversity/stability for the future.

Air Quality Assessment Division (C304-02)

Drives sound AQ mgmt. policy, decision making & accountability assessment via application of technical/analytical leadership using collaboration with other offices & agencies, etc., & promotes multi-pollutant approaches to AQ mgmt. via comprehensive integrated evaluations of multiple sectors, spatial scales, & pollutants, meteorology, climate, etc.; and by advancing the state of the art in emissions, modeling, ambient & source measurements, & data analysis techniques.

Air Quality Modeling Group

Provides leadership/direction on the full range of atmospheric chemistry simulation models, dispersion models & other mathematical simulation techniques for assessing source impacts & control strategies. Collaborates on the development of new models, conducts analyses & modeling, & supports the nat'l distribution of AQ forecasts.

Measurement Technology Group

Demonstrates & evaluates emerging measurement & monitoring technologies integrating the characterization of source emissions & ambient air quality measurement & monitoring technologies into a single framework; Proposes & promulgates federal reference test methods & performance

Air Quality Analysis Group

Tracks/analyzes air quality data for policy & program development; program evaluation/accountability, informs the public about the status of the nation's AQ, including trends.

Ambient Air Monitoring Group

Plans/manages the nation's ambient air monitoring networks including QA.

Emission Inventory and Analysis Group

Develops/maintains the national emissions inventory (NEI). Provides analysis/interpretation of emissions data & trends to inform AQ & risk mgmt. decisions, etc.

Outreach and Information Division (C304-01)

Serves as the focus for transfer of air pollution control info; outreach to States/Local gov., Tribes, industry, small business, & the public; & voluntary and innovative approaches to reduce pollution.

Tribal, Community and Urban Programs Group

Facilitates planning & development of Tribal/Local community programs. Manages grant programs to reduce toxics and other pollutants & directs the Urban Air Toxics Strategy, environ. justice activities, & smart growth and urban sustainability programs.

Voluntary and Innovative Programs Group

Works with industry & State/Local agencies to develop innovative emission reduction strategies incl. the adoption of new, voluntary programs and approaches, & the development of more flexible ways of implementing air regs & programs. Serves as focus for developing pollution prevention & sustainable development principles for industry.

Outreach Group

Serves as focal point for communicating programs & environmental education. Develops OAQPS-wide communication strategy & programs to market & better implement identified programs and projects.

Information Transfer Group

Evaluates current/future internal & external info. transfer needs, & manages info. transfer activities.

National Air Data Group

Manages design, operation, maintenance, & improvement of wide-scale data bases & info. system platforms. Assesses info. system technologies & defines & develops new program info. management tools & strategies to improve info. mgmt. systems.