

The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 1:00 pm PST/2:00 pm MST/3:00 pm CST. Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Alice Edwards  
AZ-  
CA-  
CO-Garry Kaufman  
HI-Marianne Rossio  
ID-Steve Miller  
MT-Liz Ulrich  
NV-Danilo Dragoni  
NM-  
ND-Jim Semerad  
OR-Ali Mirzakhilili  
SD-Barb Regynski  
UT-Jay Baker, Bryce Bird  
WA-Kathy Taylor, Rob Dengel  
WY-Nancy Vehr  
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Jeff Gabler, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Welcome Jay Baker as WESTAR's senior policy analyst starting February 22 (Mary Uhl)
2. draft agenda for spring business meeting (attached) - and checking for interest in a session on FLAG (Mary Uhl)
3. WESTAR member input needed--top two issues states want to hear from EPA about in 2021 (Mary Uhl)
4. Regional Haze update plus letter (attached) explaining delays (Tom Moore)
5. ORD wildfire listening session summary (Mary Uhl, Tom Moore)
6. new FSWG/smoke management reformulation (Tom Moore)
7. state travel fund updates (Mary Uhl)
8. other items as time and interest permits

Minutes:

1. Welcome Jay Baker as WESTAR's senior policy analyst starting February 22 (Mary Uhl)
2. draft agenda for spring business meeting (attached) - and checking for interest in a session on FLAG (Mary Uhl)

3. WESTAR member input needed--top two issues states want to hear from EPA about in 2021 (Mary Uhl)

Issues of interest include:

- 111D/PPP/ACE-type rule priority
- Woodheater certifications update
- All rule reconsiderations—what is the plan and what is the schedule?
- SAFE rule reconsideration—what is the schedule and priority
- Ozone standards and implementation, background ozone and high-altitude ozone impacts
- Regional haze rule changes
- Permitting changes
- Incorporating equity considerations
- How will EPA engage with the states? How will EPA engage with other stakeholders?
- PM NAAQS standards and implementation
- Funding
- GAO report on monitoring-how can states engage? New ozone absorption cross-section technology reads 2-3 ppb higher; converting legacy monitors to FEMs.

4. **Regional Haze update plus letter (attached) explaining delays (Tom Moore)**

2028 projections data has been provided to states as well as source apportionment data. RH results webinar will occur on February 18. Glidepath adjustments will be completed this month; results will be presented around the beginning of March and again in mid-March.

Ramboll prepared a detailed letter of the 3-year Regional Haze technical analysis. Many problems were well beyond Ramboll's control; the letter is designed to document the delays in detail. The transmittal memo summarizes the delays; problems began in the fall of 2019. WESTAR/WRAP tried to collaborate in national modeling platform development at the same time as regional haze process, and that created some problems. Ali asked about glidepath changes in response to EPA guidance. The regional haze rule allows states to add international and prescribed fire contributions to the 2064 endpoint. Will unadjusted glidepaths also be available? Tom said yes, these will be available. The adjusted glidepaths are just options.

Nancy thanked WESTAR for getting the explanation from Ramboll and suggested that the letter be shared with EPA.

5. ORD wildfire listening session summary (Mary Uhl, Tom Moore)

Mary summarized key points from state/local listening session she and Tom attended on February 2.

- 1.) Emissions inventory and modeling improvements needed for exceptional events demonstrations, regional haze modeling and NAAQS demonstrations
  - 2.) Risk communication data and information need improvement. More research is needed on the effectiveness of interventions and indoor air monitoring. Tools and training for state and locals are needed. There is a need for thresholds less than 24-hours, for example, 1-, 3-, and 6-hour thresholds. There is a need for research on improving community resilience and a need for research focusing on EJ communities.
  - 3.) There is a need for expansion of monitoring technology to include monitoring for toxic air pollutants. We need to research monitoring gaps and ensuring monitoring is located at sensitive receptors such as EJ communities and Class I areas. There is a need to understand smoke chemistry.
  - 4.) Research is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of prescribed fire and alternatives to prescribed fire.
  - 5.) More funding is needed in light of climate change for forecasting and modeling wildfire smoke impacts. Future scenarios for wildfire emissions are needed for shorter timeframes than 30 years out.
6. **new FSWG/smoke management reformulation (Tom Moore)**  
Tom talked about the need to work on fire and smoke and leverage work occurring on fire and smoke. The committee will integrate the Fire and Smoke Workgroup as well as participants in the WESTAR smoke management workgroup. Bob Kotchenruther (EPA R10), Rhonda Payne (MT) and Paul Corrigan (FS) will co-chair the group. Working on
- 1.) smoke emissions and modeling
  - 2.) smoke management planning
  - 3.) EE demonstrations
- Focus on collaboration and sharing of information.
7. state travel fund updates (Mary Uhl)  
Mary suggested that WESTAR will not send quarterly state travel fund updates until states begin to use travel funds at WESTAR. Danilo and Jim agreed.
8. other items as time and interest permits  
Mary noted that WESTAR has issued an RFP for web redesign and WESTAR will likely issue a contract in March. Additional updates will follow.

The call duration was 51 minutes.