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-Molly Birnbaum
AZ-Daniel Czecholinski, Ryan Templeton
CA-Tina Suarez-Murias
CO-Mark McMillan
HI-
ID-Tiffany Floyd
MT-Dave Klemp
NV-
NM-Ted Schooley
ND-
OR-Phil Allen, Ali Mirzakhalili
SD-
UT-
WA-Kathy Taylor, Rob Dengel
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Bob Lebens, Jackie Gadret, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Review WESTAR/WRAP spring business meeting agenda, attached (Mary Uhl)
2. Report from 179B guidance review workgroup (Bob Lebens)
3. EPA's decision for woodheating certification methods (Bob Lebens)
4. Regional Haze analysis update and deadlines for state input (Tom Moore, Ryan Templeton)
5. Upcoming meetings-Woodheating workshop in New Orleans March 10-13 and Regional Haze results workshop in Seattle May 19-20 (Bob Lebens, Tom Moore)
6. Other items as time and interest permits

Meeting Minutes:

1 Draft will be considered final upon review and approval by a majority of the members, typically on the next monthly conference call.
1. Review WESTAR/WRAP spring business meeting agenda, attached (Mary Uhl)

Mary reviewed the draft agenda; there were no comments.

2. Report from 179B guidance review workgroup (Bob Lebens)

Bob noted that EPA issued guidance on 179B (international transport) of the CAA. WESTAR has been involved with western states in technical aspects of international transport analysis for many years. A subgroup from Alaska, Arizona, New Mexico, California and Denver air agencies were convened via conference call to discuss the EPA guidance. Prospective assessments and retrospective assessments are addressed in the guidance. The guidance has a technical focus. There is an emphasis on weight-of-evidence over prescribed technical methodologies. There is discussion about consultation with EPA and timing of submissions. CARB participants noted that the guidance reflected the process that CARB used for the recent Imperial Valley 179B demonstration. There were no areas of the guidance identified for comment by WESTAR. Oregon asked about the “but for” analysis; are we looking at episodes or background? Bob noted that the demonstration for border analyses are easier than demonstration for long-range international transport. Exceptional Events demonstrations deal with episodic events. Bob noted that 179B can benefit areas by avoiding the “bump-up”, but areas still need a fair amount of analysis and action for controllable emissions.

3. EPA's decision for woodheating certification methods (Bob Lebens)

Bob noted that EPA delivered to OMB in late January what we think is the final action on the NSPS for woodheating.

On the certification test method, WESTAR asked EPA to take on the review of certification test methods. EPA convened a meeting in January with states and MJOs; EPA announced that they will pursue a new method (IDC) for certifying woodstoves. The state regulators attending the meeting were generally happy with this decision as the current method (ASTM) has a number of associated uncertainties.

4. Regional Haze analysis update and deadlines for state input (Tom Moore, Ryan Templeton)

March 16 is the deadline for receiving information from states on additional controls. WRAP is currently conducting modeling for 2028 for rules-on-the-books controls. This will tell the states how much progress will be made at Class I areas without any additional controls that might come from the 4-factor analysis or other initiatives. The call for additional controls data is for the “what-if” emissions reductions beyond on-the-books to determine how much additional visibility improvement could be achieved with more controls. This will help states to make control measure decisions. Ryan Templeton noted that this modeling run will help states analyze controls; there will be a final model run with all SIP-implemented controls. The deadline has been extended to give states
more time. Some states like Arizona, Colorado and Washington have rule deadlines that will require getting this information by this spring.

5. Upcoming meetings-Woodheating workshop in New Orleans March 10-13 and Regional Haze results workshop in Seattle May 19-20 (Bob Lebens, Tom Moore)

Registration information for the NESCAUM/WESTAR/NTAA/EPA woodheating workshop is on the WESTAR website. Good opportunity for information sharing.

The regional haze results workshop draft agenda will be released soon; the first day will focus on workgroups. Day 2 will link the workgroup products to the state regional haze planning process. WESTAR will fund one participant from each state to travel to this meeting. There will be some follow-up outreach calls in June and July.

6. Other items as time and interest permits

There were no additional items for discussion put forth.

The call duration was 45 minutes.