

-- D R A F T¹ --
June 10, 2020
WESTAR Council Meeting
Conference Call Summary

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-Daniel Czecholinski
CA-
CO-Garrison Kaufman
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Steve Miller
MT-Dave Klemp
NV-
NM-Elizabeth Kuehn
ND-
OR-Ali Mirzakhali
SD-
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Kathy Taylor, Rob Dengel
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Tom Moore, Bob Lebens, Jackie Gadret, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Fall Business Meeting--online or in-person (all)
2. Residential Wood Heating NPRM comments update (Bob Lebens)
3. Training update-new online learning opportunities (Jeff Gabler)
4. Regional Haze update (Tom Moore)
5. Other items as time and interest permit

Meeting Minutes:

1. Fall Business Meeting--online or in-person (all)

¹ Draft will be considered final upon review and approval by a majority of the members, typically on the next monthly conference call.

Most states believed it would be difficult to travel this fall. Mary suggested that we plan on a remote fall business meeting. The fall meeting hotel has offered to delay our meeting until fall 2021.

2. Residential Wood Heating NPRM comments update (Bob Lebens)

Bob noted that there was a public hearing Monday, June 8 on the RWH NSPS NPRM. California, Oregon, NESCAUM and Minnesota presented testimony at the hearing, as well as some manufacturers, retailers and HPBA. Minnesota took delegation of the NSPS and noted that they would now have a burden of enforcement and outreach if EPA extended the deadline.

Comments on the NPRM are due July 6. The replacement period allows retailers to sell woodstoves for a couple of months in fall of 2020 to clear out inventory. EPA had made a determination in April 2020 not to extend the sell-through date based on not having enough information. The 2018 NPRM indicated significant health costs without significant benefits to manufacturers and retailers for an extended sell through.

Last week, there was a briefing for states with OECA on the enforcement priority for the RWH NSPS. OECA said that RWH NSPS enforcement is a low priority.

Stoves-to-home donation program has seen about 65 stoves donated to non-profits. There is some question as to whether this program would be renewed if there is a replacement period for sales enacted.

Ali appreciated WESTAR's testimony. Ali noted that Oregon reached out to HPBA's Oregon affiliate and asked if there was concern about interstate transport of stoves and that could be a concern. Some retailers are hoping for the additional sell-through and that is why they did not participate in Stoves-to-homes. About ½ of retailers in Oregon have no step 1 stoves in stock.

3. Training update (Jeff Gabler)

Jeff has polled all the states on 2021 training needs, realizing that scheduling may be difficult in the coming year. EPA now has 12 employees working on training-updating, improving materials, putting training online, etc. Jeff would like state needs submitted by June 30.

Online effective permit writing training will be June 23-25 and June 30. There will be 50 attendees nationwide and 15 participants who will audit the course. NOWC is postponing all trainings through September 2020. These include the NACT trainings. There are 12 courses that EPA and the MJOs are working to put online.

4. Regional Haze update (Tom Moore)

Tom touched on regional analysis deliverables and mentioned state-to-state coordination that the RH Planning workgroup has been facilitating through state-only conference calls. There are conference calls scheduled for June and July on modeling results. Everyone interested in regional haze is welcome to attend.

Tom noted that some states are already receiving stakeholder comments; the states will exchange information about these external inputs. There will be additional similar calls in the future.

5. Other items as time and interest permits

Liz wondered if any states have conducted a virtual public hearing on a regulation or permit appeal. Garry noted that CO just completed a virtual hearing on GHG reporting

and reductions with 30 people in attendance. CO used Zoom and it worked well, there were a few glitches with getting folks to be able to provide comments; these were minor. Garry offered to connect Liz with the administrator of the CO commission. Liz asked if any states used a translator. Garry said CO did not use a translator as no one requested one. Garry said that their meeting allowed phone access. Kathy Taylor said WA has used WebEx for their hearings.

Call duration was 45 minutes.