



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

July 31 , 2012
Grant No. XA –00T68001

I. Operations Project

The purpose of the Operations project is to develop, implement, and support the technical activities at WESTAR that benefit member states. Funding for this project comes entirely from member state contributions.

a. Status of work plan activities and expected results

<i>Expected Result for CY2012</i>	Results/Outcomes	
	<i>2012 Q2</i>	<i>Year-to-date</i>
10 air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	2	5
2 business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	1	1
40 committee conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	10	17
1 specialty conference on a technical and/or policy topic	0	0
1 meetings held to address priority, emerging topics	0	0
2 trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	1	1
4 trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	3	3

b. Significant activities:

- A Work Group of the Planning Committee, which includes EPA and FLM representation, continued its assessment of the Regional Haze Rule and discussed the 5-year review requirements with EPA decision makers.
- WESTAR hosted a second webinar to bring together NASA scientists and western air quality managers to discuss the use of satellite data in air quality planning.
- WESTAR, along with other regional organizations discussed strategies to advance revisions to the Wood Heater NSPS and met with Gina McCarthy, Janet McCabe, Steve Page and others about the proposal.
- WESTAR staff attended the spring NACAA membership meeting. A meeting summary was circulated to the directors shortly after the meeting.

II. Training Project

WESTAR's Training Program addresses the near-future training needs of western air quality agencies by identifying critical needs, and offering training courses and workshops that closely match these needs. To accomplish these tasks and responsibilities, WESTAR Training Manager works closely with Training, Planning, Sources, Mobile, and Technical Committee members, Air Directors, WESTAR's staff, western air agency staff, and reviews written comments/suggestions on course evaluations.

WESTAR's Training Program offers two types of educational opportunities:

1) State/Local Directed:

- a. Western state/local air agencies are asked to review agency business objectives for the upcoming year;
- b. Assist WESTAR's Training Manager in reviewing the objectives, agendas, and topics of numerous training courses to identify the education opportunity that most closely matches agency business objectives;
- c. Conducted as geographically close to the agency as possible in order to reduce barriers and enhance opportunity for staff cross training; and,
- d. These State/Local Directed educational opportunities generally utilize a standardized course format;

2) Specialty Courses:

- a. Subject matter for Specialty Courses are generally identified by Air Directors and WESTAR's committees;
- b. These specialty courses address new/emerging air quality issues requiring extensive course development activities.

a. Status of work plan activities and expected results

<i>Expected Result for CY2012</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2012 Q2</i>	<i>Year-to-date</i>
17 educational opportunities developed and delivered	8	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced NSR/PSD • QA/QC Control for A.P. Measurement Systems (APTI 470) • Air Dispersion Modeling • Combustion Evaluation (APTI 427) • Solvent Cleaning: Degreasing Operations (CARB 233) • Observing Source Tests (CARB 234) • Landfill Gas Control Facilities (CARB 285) • Fugitive VOC Emissions Inspections (CARB 262) 		
400 students trained	176	209
1000 student training days	439	587

Note: WESTAR is on schedule to offer 20+ training courses during CY2012.

Note: The continued economic downturn and slow recovery have forced state and local agencies to tighten fiscal budgets, and invoke tighter scrutiny on all expenses including travel. As such, out-of-state attendees who in past years accounted for ~50% of attendees at WESTAR training courses now account for less than 10% of attendees. One positive outcome of the current situation is that many of the agencies are expecting staff to be more proficient in other program areas. In order to gain the knowledge, skills and abilities agencies require staff to participate in cross-training activities including WESTAR's training programs.

b. Other Activities this Quarter

- WESTAR's staff manages WESTAR's 1-Hour NO2 Modeling Requirements subcommittee. The Committee recently received Air Director approval to:
 - Craft a letter to EPA asking for clarification on existing guidance, additional guidance on other types of sources portable/temporary sources, and more detailed criteria of operations that fall within scope of the guidance (with examples).
 - Write a letter to EPA confirming that they will accept responsibilities for developing a national database of NO2 and NOx in-stack ratios data, and developing class-specific default ratios;
 - Draft a letter to EPA seeking confirmation of their willingness to accept higher interim SIL values, and asking them to consider a higher SIL in pending rulemaking;
 - Investigate cost of conducting a model accuracy field study. Report cost findings to Air Directors. Pending outcome of cost study, additional director approval is necessary to seek partnerships to advance project.

- WESTAR staff continues to activity participate as a team member on for National Training Curriculum Project. The outcomes of the Project include the development of:
 - Professional Development Training Guide
 - Catalog of Public Air Quality Courses
 - Gap Analysis
 - Catalog of Public and Private Air Quality Courses
- WESTAR staff continues to provide assistance and input in the development of the NACAA/EPA’s Joint Training Committee Learning Management Systems Project (LMS). The outcomes of the Project include:
 - A national air quality LMS that will be beta tested September 2012, and is anticipated to be available to staff/local air quality staff late 2012.
- WESTAR staff actively participates on NACAA/EPA’s Joint Training Committee. During the quarter, the Committee held a face to face meeting in RTP, North Carolina
- WESTAR staff continue to be active leaders on NACAA’s National Training Strategy Project and are actively involved on numerous subcommittees including:
 - Curriculum Development
 - Administration
 - Communication
 - Needs Assessment
 - Course Development & Updates

III. Budget Summary and Status

The following tables summarize the status of WESTAR’s budget, comparing cumulative grant awards since the inception of the current grant (September 1, 2011) through the end of the most recent quarter. While authority to spend against the new grant began on September 1, 2011, WESTAR continued to spend down the prior grant until November 1, 2011. Thus expenditures for the first two months of the project period were paid out of the prior grant.

Cumulative Grant Awards by Project

Project Title	Total Anticipated Project Period Cost*	Total Awards Project Period to Date as of 6/30/2012	Percentage
Operations	840,000	560,000	67%
Training	1,102,500	735,000	67%
Ad hoc Travel	410,961	253,971	38%
Totals	2,353,461	1,548,971	62%

**Cumulative Expenses by Project
12/1/2011 through 6/30/2012**

Project Title	Total Awarded	Work Plan Budget*	Actual Expenses	Percent of Total Budget
Operations	223,617	670,851	189,486	28%
Training	293,497	880,493	181,695	21%
Ad hoc Travel	151,950	395,859	65,687	17%
Overhead	135,420	406,260	71,584	18%
Totals	804,484	2,353,461	508,452	22%

**Cumulative Expenses by Object Class
12/1/2011 through 6/30/2012**

Object Class	Budget	Actual	Percentage
1. Personnel	812,623	154,186	19%
2. Fringe Benefits	206,051	35,514	17%
3. Travel	439,487	99,860	23%
4. Equipment	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	
6. Contractual	54,037	88,172	163%
7. Construction	0	0	
8. Other	409,544	59,136	14%
9. Indirect Expenses	431,719	71,584	17%
Totals	2,353,461	508,452	22%

IV. Other

- WESTAR held its spring business meeting in Seattle during the quarter. The meeting was coordinated with a WRAP meeting which was held the day following the WESTAR meeting at the same facility. A meeting summary is posted on WESTAR's website.