



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

January 31, 2013
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 Q4</i>	<i>Year-to-date</i>
10 air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	2	9
2 business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	1	2
40 committee conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	6	32
1 specialty conference on a technical and/or policy topic	1	1
1 meetings held to address priority, emerging topics	1	2
2 trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	1	3
4 trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	2	5

b. Significant activities:

- WESTAR held a Technical Conference on Western Ozone Transport, involving EPA, states and the scientific community in an examination of the policy, regulatory and scientific aspects of ozone transport in the western U.S.
- WESTAR initiated discussions with EPA on the development of guidance for ozone exceedances resulting from wildfires.
- WESTAR formed an ad hoc Work Group to improve state responses to the health impacts posed by wildfires. The emphasis of the Work Group will be on preparing responses prior to smoke events rather than responding to the events.
- WESTAR staff attended the IMPROVE Steering Committee meeting and began work on developing alternative programmatic cuts to address a budget shortfall.
- WESTAR staff and committee representatives participated in a meeting with EPA regarding an update to the NSPS for wood burning devices.
- The 2012 fall business meeting was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. An interactive agenda with presentation is posted on WESTAR's website, along with a summary of 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>Oct/Nov/Dec</i>	<i>Year-to-date</i>
17 educational opportunities developed and delivered:	5	22
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring Compliance Testing & Source Test Observation (APTI 468) • Advanced Inspector • Fugitive Dust: Principles & Practices • Compliance Assurance & Title V Monitoring • Control of Gaseous Emissions (APTI 415) 		
400 students trained	113	507
1000 student training days	333	1168

Note: WESTAR is on schedule to offer 22 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 which 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 final letter to EPA:
 - Stating that WESTAR's member agencies will use higher interim SIL values in NO₂ permitting activities;
 - Asking EPA to consider a higher SIL in pending rulemaking, and;
 - Stating the need for EPA to conduct model accuracy field studies, and for EPA to assume all responsibilities for such studies.
- WESTAR staff continues to provide assistance and input in the continued development and refinements of the NACAA/EPA Training Committee's Learning Management Systems Project (LMS). The new system is titled APTI-Learn. The highlights and outcomes of the Project include:
 - APTI-Learn was "turned on" in November 2012.
 - WESTAR Council began using the system November 2012
 - WESTAR member agencies began using the system November 2012.
 - WESTAR staff has submitted numerous improvement comments to EPA since the inception of APTI-Learn.
- WESTAR staff actively participates on NACAA/EPA's Joint Training Committee.
- 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 12/31/2012	Percentage
Operations	840,000	560,000	67%
Training	1,102,500	735,000	67%
Ad hoc Travel	410,961	253,974	62%
Totals	2,353,461	804,484	66%

Cumulative Expenses by Project 12/1/2011 through 12/31/2012

Project Title	Total Awarded	Work Plan Budget*	Actual Expenses	Percent of Total Budget
Operations	453,155	670,851	312,106	47%
Training	594,765	880,493	351,977	40%
Ad hoc Travel	244,434	395,859	111,526	28%
Overhead	256,620	406,260	139,199	34%
Totals	1,548,974	2,353,461	914,808	39%

Cumulative Expenses by Object Class 12/1/2011 through 12/31/2012

Object Class	Budget	Actual	Percentage
1. Personnel	812,623	318,214	39%
2. Fringe Benefits	206,051	83,455	41%
3. Travel	439,487	195,283	44%
4. Equipment	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	
6. Contractual	54,037	92,383	171%
7. Construction	0	0	
8. Other	409,544	139,063	34%
9. Indirect Expenses	431,719	86,409	20%
Totals	2,353,461	914,807	39%

IV. Contracted Activities

- Assisted and facilitated interface with WRAP on regional technical support needs and regional haze:
 - Continued to track each states' progress on Regional Haze SIP approval and implementation and maintained periodic updates on the WRAP webpage;
 - Maintained contact with WRAP staff, providing guidance on state program needs.
- Provided support and assistance as needed on specific WESTAR initiatives:
 - Worked with EE drafting team to develop comments on Exceptional Events guidance;
 - Assisted with State needs survey, working with WRAP staff to relate WRAP work products to state needs.
- Continued to coordinate WESTAR activities and WRAP projects
- Participated in routine staff calls and WESTAR committee calls
- Researched and prepared a summary report on status of exceptional event concurrence for states in the WESTAR region
- Presented findings of EE at the Fall business meeting
- Assisted development of Fall business meeting agenda; Organized and moderated meeting sessions as requested at the October meeting
- Assisted in development of preliminary survey report on state program priorities, WRAP's role addressing some of them, and improving director understanding of pertinent WRAP technical projects