



**WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013  
 October 28, 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 CY2013</i>	Results/Outcomes	
	<i>2013 Q3</i>	<i>Year-to-date</i>
<b>10</b> air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b> business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>24</b> Committee conference calls	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>16</b> Ad hoc Work Group conference calls	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>1</b> specialty conference on a technical and/or policy topic	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>1</b> meetings held to address priority, emerging topics	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

b. Significant activities:

- The WESTAR Council adopted final recommendations of the Regional Haze Work Group to improve implementation of the Regional Haze Rule. WESTAR and member state staff briefed OAQPS on the recommendations.
- WESTAR staff supported an ad hoc work group charged with defining the steps and developing a timeline and resource assessment of the 2018 Regional Haze SIP.
- WESTAR coordinated a meeting on the Residential Woodheater NSPS at OMB with representatives from across the country.

**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 CY2013</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>April/May/June</i>	<i>Year-to-date</i>
<b>22</b> educational opportunities developed and delivered:	4	15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 9-11: Advanced Inspector Training (NACT 355)</li> <li>• July 22- 24: Source Sampling for Pollutants (APTI 450)</li> <li>• July 25-26: Monitoring Compliance Testing &amp; Source Test Observation (APTI 468)</li> <li>• Sept. 25-26: Principles &amp; Practice of Air Pollution Control (APTI 452)</li> </ul>		
<b>500</b> students trained	117	389
<b>1100</b> student training days	321	862

Note: WESTAR will offer 28 training courses during CY2013, to over 800 students, and totaling over 1500 student days.  
 Note: The continued economic downturn and slow recovery forced state and local agencies to tighten fiscal budgets, and invoke tighter scrutiny on all expenses including travel. Although there has been some improvement, out-of-state attendees who in past years accounted for ~50% of attendees at WESTAR training courses still only account for ~10% of attendees. An outcome of the situation is that many agencies expect current staff to be proficient in other program areas, and in order to gain the knowledge, skills and abilities agencies are asking staff to participate in cross-training activities including WESTAR's training programs.

b. Other Activities this Quarter

- WESTAR staff is the main representative for the National Association for Clean Air Agency's (NACAA) training committee (representing state and local air quality agencies) in working with EPA and its contractor to improve the overall experience of EPA's APTI-Learn.net learning management system (LMS) for the end-user by identifying updates, enhancements, and maintenance issues, and identifying workable and resource-wise solutions.
- WESTAR staff has devoted time to understanding EPA's new Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants. Air agencies will be required to submit 111(d) plans. WESTAR is striving to help them understand the requirements, timing and program elements.
- WESTAR staff chaired a committee that:
  - Reviewed all aspects of APTI-Learn.net (a Learning Management System (LMS) that serves as the center point for all national air quality training). The committee reviewed the tasks, activities and deliverables found in EPA's Performance Work Statement (PWS) and crosschecked against actual products, tasks, activities and deliverables found in APTI-Learn. Findings were communicated to EPA and contractor.
  - Reviewed all aspects of APTI-Learn.net in order to be able to identify important maintenance and enhancement recommendations. The committee created a "national" prioritize list of issues and presented the findings to EPA.
- WESTAR staff actively participates on NACAA Joint Training Committee.

### 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 CY2011-2013**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Total Anticipated Project Period Cost</b>	<b>Total Awards Project Period to Date as of 9/30/2013</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Operations	840,000	830,312	99%
Training	1,102,500	1,102,500	100%
Regional Tech Support	0	147,208	%
State Travel Support	410,961	348,627	85%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,353,461</b>	<b>2,428,647</b>	<b>103%</b>

#### **Cumulative Expenses by Project 12/1/2011 through 9/30/2013**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Total Awarded<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Work Plan Budget</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Percent of Total Budget<sup>1</sup></b>
Operations			493,177	74%
Training			570,376	64%
Regional Tech Support				%
State Travel Support			176,243	45%
Overhead			236,515	58%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,428,647</b>	<b>2,353,461</b>	<b>1,476,310</b>	<b>63%</b>

<sup>1</sup>WESTAR is currently working with EPA Region 9 on budget revisions in light of sequestration reductions, proposed revisions to the cost allocation plan, and the expectation of additional awards from the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. Percent of total budget figures are based on original work plan budget.

**Cumulative Expenses by Object Class  
12/1/2011 through 9/30/2013**

<b>Object Class</b>	<b>Budget<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Personnel	652,436	483,589	74%
2. Fringe Benefits	151,350	115,215	76%
3. Travel	762,784	309,930	41%
4. Equipment	0	0	
5. Supplies	0	0	
6. Contractual	109,305	99,305	91%
7. Construction	0	0	
8. Other	338,412	231,647	68%
9. Indirect Expenses	414,336	236,624	57%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,428,647</b>	<b>1,476,310</b>	<b>61%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Proposed revised budget pending approval by EPA Region 9.

**IV. Other Activities**

- The WESTAR Council voted in favor of the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) joining WESTAR, to be implemented as soon as practical. Over the summer, staff worked with the Western Governors' Association (WRAP's long-time home) to design and implement a transition plan to ensure continuity of the work currently underway at WRAP through as series of grants and contracts. WGA has contracted with WESTAR to fund a new staff position for the remainder of calendar year 2013, during which time WESTAR will establish grants with the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management. EPA funding for partial funding of the added staff position has been secured.
- Staff established a new leadership group, made up of the Executive Directors of each of the multi-jurisdictional/regional planning organizations (MJO/RPO). The purpose of the group is to coordinate on common topics of mutual interest, and to avoid duplication of effort where possible.