

The monthly WESTAR Council call began at 1:00 pm PDT/2:00 pm MDT/3:00 pm CDT. Council members and delegates present included:

AK-Jason Olds
AZ-Daniel Czecholinski
CA-Rebekka Fine
CO-Garry Kaufman
HI-Cathy Lopez
ID-Tiffany Floyd
MT-Liz Ulrich, Bo Wilkins
NV-Danilo Dragoni
NM-
ND-Jim Semerad
OR-Ali Mirzakhilili
SD-
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Rob Dengel
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jeff Gabler, Jay Baker, Tom Moore, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Reminder of fall WESTAR/WRAP meeting September 7-8 in Missoula, MT (Mary Uhl)
2. Mark your calendars: Spring business meeting April 25-27, 2023, in Portland, OR (Mary Uhl)
3. Review any edits and discuss draft WESTAR letter on EPA's proposed HD truck rule (Jay Baker)
4. Annual survey on training (Jeff Gabler)
5. WESTAR dues increase presentation (Mary Uhl, attached)
6. WRAP Oil and Gas Workgroup survey to states (Tom Moore, attached)
7. draft WESTAR letter requesting extension on Good Neighbor FIP comments (Tom Moore)
8. Ideas for fall meeting agenda (all)
9. Discussion/reaction to EPA announcement on EtO (all)
10. other items as time and interest permit

Minutes:

1. reminder of fall WESTAR/WRAP meeting September 7-8 in Missoula, MT (Mary Uhl)

2. Mark your calendars: Spring business meeting April 25-27, 2023, in Portland, OR (Mary Uhl)
3. Review any edits and discuss draft WESTAR letter on EPA's proposed HD truck rule (Jay Baker)

Jay reviewed the draft WESTAR comment letter, acknowledging the work of California, industry, and EPA in developing technologies to reduce HD diesel truck emissions. The letter notes the advantage of a national rule and that 75% of Class I areas are in the west. The letter cautions EPA that incentives for credits could be problematic, if ZEVs are allowed, EPA should not allow benefits of the rule to be watered down. The draft letter doesn't support either of the options EPA proposed in the rule. Ali noted that, given the letter implies support of option 1, should WESTAR explicitly support option 1 and comment that option 2 is not acceptable? Arizona and Wyoming suggested leaving the letter as is.

There was no objection to submittal of the WESTAR letter, so WESTAR will finalize with all recommended changes and submit to the docket.
4. Annual survey on training (Jeff Gabler)

Jeff said that he has started a training needs assessment for 2023. Jeff will work with each state to identify training needed. Jeff will try to coordinate each state's 1st choice for training courses. The information provided by WESTAR states informs EPA's training plan for 2025. Jeff would like to finalize survey results by June 24, 2022. He'll include each state's air director and training manager in his e-mail. Jeff confirmed that training will be delivered in CY2023.
5. WESTAR dues increase presentation (Mary Uhl, attached)

Mary reviewed the PowerPoint with dues increase options and clarified that the dues increase would go into effect in spring of 2023. The Council should discuss the issue this summer with a goal of finalizing the increase at the fall business meeting. Nancy indicated Wyoming's inclination to support the highest level of dues increase, as did Jason. Ali asked that Mary work with EPA to schedule a WESTAR Council call with Peter Tsirigotis to ask again for additional EPA support for western priorities. Jim asked about cost-cutting measures and other grant opportunities. WESTAR did not receive any grants through the recently concluded NASA ROSES process, although 3 grant applications were submitted. Danilo cautioned against cost-cutting measures that might save too much and supports the highest level of dues increase. Rebekka noted that California needs to consider the dues increase and will share the PowerPoint with Michael Benjamin and get back to us. Daniel noted that 2 in-person meetings per year was more effective than 1. Jim agreed that in-person meetings are more effective, and Tiffany agreed.

ACTION ITEM: Mary to contact Peter Tsirigotis to set up a meeting.
6. WRAP Oil and Gas Workgroup survey to states (Tom Moore, attached)

Tom explained the survey would be coming to states.

7. draft WESTAR letter requesting extension on Good Neighbor FIP comments (Tom Moore)

Tom Moore gave an overview of the draft WESTAR letter on the Good Neighbor FIP (ozone transport). EPA extended the comment period to June 21. The mix of western and eastern interconnects for trading is problematic. EPA has a deadline for litigation for eastern states that is shaping the process schedule. Under the regional haze rule, NO_x reductions have been analyzed and wildfire smoke is overwhelming. The draft letter asks for an extension in the comment period to early August; Mary noted the letter could be WESTAR's comment letter if members do not want to push for further comment period extension.

8. Ideas for fall meeting agenda (all)

Mary asked Council members to consider agenda ideas for the fall meeting.

9. Discussion/reaction to EPA announcement on EtO (all)

As it was nearly the top of the hour, we didn't have time for this discussion and will table til the June Council call. It was noted that EPA's proposal was peculiar in that they didn't engage states on the proposal and there are not many resources for the public.

10. other items as time and interest permit

There was no time for additional discussion.

The call duration was 60 minutes.