

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-Jason Olds
AZ-Daniel Czecholinski
CA-Rebekka Fine
CO-
HI-
ID-Aislinn Johns
MT-Liz Ulrich, Bo Wilkins
NV-Danilo Dragoni
NM-
ND-Jim Semerad
OR-Michael Orman, Ali Mirzakhilili, Kristen Martin
SD-
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Rob Dengel
WY-Nancy Vehr
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jackie Gadret, Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Summary of Western Visibility Initiative/Fire and Smoke Collaborative meetings (Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne)
2. Update on WESTAR letter to EPA on use of IRA funding for residential wood heating device testing and other program needs (Jay Baker)
3. Update on Exceptional Events app development (Mary Uhl)
4. WESTAR input to EPA on [IRA implementation questions](#) (Mary Uhl)
5. Review mural board from Executive Session (attached), prioritize WESTAR tasks (attached) (Mary Uhl)
6. December states/EPA CAERS call rescheduled to January (Mary Uhl)
7. Other items as time and interest permit

Minutes:

1. Summary of Western Visibility Initiative/Fire and Smoke Collaborative meetings

Rhonda and Jay provided a summary of both meetings. Presentations and a linked agenda for the Fire and Smoke meeting are posted on the WESTAR website. The Fire and Smoke meeting discussions focused on smoke management plans and

exceptional events. The meeting served to provide communications channels between states, locals, tribes and FLMs.

There was convergence on ideas for the third planning period from states and FLMs. EPA listened to the entire conference. Four workgroups will be convened to draft recommendations:

- a. Monitoring, modeling, and determining progress
- b. Emissions in/around Class I areas
- c. Emissions reductions from other programs
- d. Timeline and milestones

A question was asked what it might mean for tracking progress if the glidepath was eliminated. Jay mentioned that using the glidepath as a bright line might be problematic as it is then used to justify no controls (even though current guidelines emphasize there the glidepath is not a safe harbor). This is problematic and creates a point of confusion for the program.

2. Update on WESTAR letter to EPA on use of IRA funding for residential wood heating device testing and other program needs

Jay is working with Nick Czarnecki on a draft letter for Council review.

3. Update on Exceptional Events app development

Mary noted that the app has been presented to EPA and EPA is studying it. In the meantime, EPA has encouraged WESTAR to present the concept to NACAA and AAPCA.

4. WESTAR input to EPA on [IRA implementation questions](#)

The Council members present indicated it would be helpful for WESTAR to draft some comments to the RFIs issued on the EPA's IRA funding. WESTAR will work on drafting something for review of the Council in early January.

5. Review mural board from Executive Session, prioritize WESTAR tasks

The Council provided agreement with the tasks that came from the fall business meeting executive session. Comments were made that WESTAR's efforts to assist with recruitment would be helpful if products were customizable. A question was asked about the curriculum for positions. Jeff Gabler said it is important to keep this updated, but EPA is now modularizing training, which has complicated the curriculum needs. A catalogue must be prepared for position needs; a February in-person meeting in Raleigh will work on this.

6. December states/EPA CAERS call rescheduled to January

Mary noted that this call has been moved to January 10; anyone with an interest in the call can email Mary for the call information.

7. Other items as time and interest permit

Mary noted that there is a December 20 Fed/State Technical Work Collaboration call covering the 2022 ozone season nationally. It was noted that EPA should conduct more studies on background ozone. Wyoming noted that there were no wintertime ozone occurrences this year.

Liz Ulrich asked if WESTAR would draft comments on the Oil and Gas Methane rules. WESTAR will work towards a draft.

The call duration was 54 minutes.