



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting Period: 1st quarter 2023

Report Date: April 30, 2023

EPA Grants No. XA-99T67301-0

NPS Agreement No.

P19AC01205

Regardless of funding source, all of the projects and activities conducted by WESTAR are consistent with and intended to achieve the purposes of the organization spelled out in Article 2 of WESTAR's Articles of Association, including promoting the exchange of information related to air quality management, developing procedures to meet air quality objectives and to protect environmental resources, to establish workgroups to investigate specific topics, and to develop recommendations for the consideration of the membership. This report summarizes activities and outcomes for this reporting period.

Reporting Organization:

Name: Western States Air Resources (WESTAR)
DUNS#: 1460040020000
Address: 3 Caliente Road #8
Santa Fe, NM 87508
Telephone: (505) 954-1160

Contents

- 1) [EPA Core Grant 2017-23 \(XA-99T67301-0\)](#)
- 2) [Other Significant WESTAR Activities](#)
- 3) [Consolidated Expense Summary](#)

1. EPA CORE GRANT 2017-2019

Note: Work on activities and spending against this grant began December 2017.

a. Budget Summary and Status

The following tables summarize the status of WESTAR's Core Grant budget, comparing cumulative grant awards since the inception of the current grant (October 1, 2017) through the end of the most recent quarter.

**EPA Core Grant 2017-23
Expenses by Object Class through 3/31/23**

Object Class	Budget	This Quarter	Cumulative Expenses	Percentage
1. Personnel	2,451,513	119,026	2,194,969	90%
2. Fringe Benefits	615,484	21,876	517,689	84%
3. Travel	675,505	11,723	453,370	67%
4. Equipment	0	0	0	0%
5. Supplies	0	0	0	0%
6. Contractual	1,044,710	18,575	1,275,675	122%
7. Construction	0	0	0	0%
8. Other	798,105	36,091	839,395	105%
9. Indirect Expenses	1,642,158	59,257	1,436,344	87%
Totals	7,227,475	266,548	6,717,442	93%

a. Activity Summary: Operations Project

The purpose of the Operations project is to develop, implement, and support the policy and technical activities at WESTAR that benefit member states. Funding for this project comes entirely from member state contributions. In addition, personnel from member states and federal land management agencies contribute their time and expertise to many of the tasks performed under this project.

1) Status of work plan activities – Operations Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2023 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
67 Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website	3	54
14 Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website	0	10
245 Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls	18	176

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2023 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
28 Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities	0	19
6 Specialty conference on a high priority topic	2	5
6 Meetings held to address emerging topics	0	3
21 Trips by committee representatives to attend national meetings and report back to WESTAR membership	1	6

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

*WESTAR participated in the EPA Residential Woodsmoke Conference Calls, including work groups formed to refine wood burning emission estimates and identifying clean appliances for changeout programs.

*WESTAR staff and states finalized the Western Visibility Protection and Planning Initiative. In December and January, small work groups met to write draft areas of improvement. The Initiative resulted in the formation of Potential Areas of Improvement of the Regional Haze program. WESTAR is engaged EPA and Federal Land Management agencies in this effort.

*WESTAR staff coordinated with EPA to plan the National Wood Heating Workshop Training in Denver, Colorado.

b. Activity Summary: Training Project

The purpose of the Training Project is to: (1) deliver high quality training courses/workshops that meet the needs and expectations of state and local air agency staff within the fifteen-state WESTAR region; (2) develop needed, cost-effective, responsive, and western-states-focused training opportunities; and (3) act as the main point of contact for information and educational training opportunities related to air quality training.

1) Status of work plan activities – Training Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<i>Results/Outcomes</i>	
	<i>2023 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
100 Educational opportunities delivered:	4	82
* Stack Testing - AK		
* Intermediate NSR/PSD – AZ		
* Princ. of Env Comp - WA		
* QA for AP Measurement - UT		
3000 Students trained	109	2212
5750 Student training days	395	5524
1 Training course developed/updated	0	0

Other Activities this Quarter – Training Project

- WESTAR continues to work with state, local and tribal air quality government agencies in the fifteen Western United States to identify each agency’s most important training need(s) for FY2023.
- WESTAR continues its leadership role on the National Joint Training Committee (JTC) Steering Committee and will remain in this position until December 2023. In this capacity, WESTAR assists in the development of agenda topics and serves as moderator for the JTC’s annual face-to-face meeting in RTP. In this role, WESTAR staff develops the agenda for its monthly conference calls and leads the calls.
- WESTAR has worked closely with EPA on logistics for the beta test of the Continuous Monitoring Systems training course to be held on April 25-28, 2023 in RTP.
- WESTAR partnered with EPA on its Air Toxics e-learning training course, most recently reviewing the feedback from the beta testers.
- WESTAR staff has been working on development of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) training course.
- WESTAR staff worked with the JTC training group to move classroom training courses to online training to better serve the current needs of state, local and tribal air quality professionals.
- WESTAR staff serves as a member of the JTC Steering Committee. The Steering Committee oversees the operations of four work groups by providing guidance, evaluating resource needs, identifies priorities, assigns projects, provides assessments, and fosters communication. The four work groups are: 1) Communications; 2) Curriculum; 3) Training Delivery; and 4) Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- WESTAR staff is a co-lead for the Training Delivery work group, which is working on instructor recruitment, incorporating ADA/508 compliance, instructor evaluations, and self-instructional courses evaluation.

- WESTAR staff is a committee member on the Communications workgroup, Learning Management System (LMS) workgroup, and the Curriculum workgroup.

c. Activity Summary: Regional Technical Support Project

The purpose of the Regional Technical Support project is to provide technical support to member agencies related to analysis of monitoring data, analysis and preparation of emissions inventories, regional modeling analyses, and operation and maintenance of web databases – all for member agencies to use in their air quality management and planning activities.

1) Status of work plan activities – Regional Technical Support Project

<i>Expected Result for Project Period</i>	<u>Results/Outcomes</u>	
	<i>2023 Q1</i>	<i>Project Period Total</i>
175 Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls	2	384
70 Technical Steering Committee conference calls	3	59
14 Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings	0	7
72 Travel support provided to local agency and tribal WRAP Board members	0	37
7 Technical Steering Committee Face-to-face meetings	0	5
70 WRAP Board calls	3	49

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Regional Technical Support Project

- The WRAP Regional Technical Center provides access to all types of air quality data, made possible through the storage and dissemination capabilities built in to the Intermountain West Data Warehouse (IWDW). Linked to the IWDW is the Technical Support System v2, which supports Regional Haze analysis for the WESTAR/WRAP region. Moving forward, additional regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts can be supported using the WRAP Regional Technical Center framework.
- Planning for budget and scopes of work through the end of 2023 continues. Staff continued to work with state and federal agencies, including regional EPA offices, to discuss and collect input on regional technical analysis needs in the western U.S.
- Migration from the current WRAP website to the new WESTAR/WRAP website was completed in the 4th quarter. The new WESTAR/WRAP page went live in the 1st quarter of 2023. The new website tracks Work Groups and Technical Steering Committee products, including disseminating reports from projects, meetings, and

calls, as well as data and summary results ... The WRAP membership will continue to explore options to simplify data sharing within the new website's framework.

- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee meets regularly. The Fire and Smoke and Work Group met twice and the remaining four Work Groups (Oil & Gas, Regional Technical Operations, Tribal Data, and Regional Haze Planning) did not meet this past quarter.
- The Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups meet monthly on a Coordination call.

The Technical Steering Committee and Work Groups continue to implement the WRAP Board-approved “Future project prioritization topics” from the Board’s December 2, 2020, meeting. In September 2021, the Technical Steering Committee updated the Board-approved topics with a status report to track progress on those topics going forward and reported progress at the WRAP Board and TSC meeting on December 9, 2021. The TSC provided another update to the WRAP Board in December 2022 and January 2023.

In February 2022, the WRAP Board approved proposed amendments to the WRAP charter. The proposed amended Charter was sent to the membership for approval on January 20, 2023, and is still acquiring the necessary 2/3 vote of the membership to pass the amendments.

2. OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

WESTAR co-chairs the Federal/State Technical Work Collaboration Group and organizes monthly and quarterly conference calls to share information about EPA and MJO technical work.

WESTAR is working with its members to develop an application for exceptional events demonstrations.

WESTAR drafted an article describing the western region’s issues with PM2.5, wildfire smoke, and exceptional events for the May 2023 issue of EM Magazine.

3. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 03/31/2023 All Active Accounts

Object Class	EPA	
	Core Grant 2017-23	Totals
1. Personnel	2,194,969	2,194,969
2. Fringe	517,689	517,689
3. Travel	453,370	453,370

4. Equipment	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0
6. Contractual	1,275,675	1,275,675
7. Construction	0	0
8. Other	839,395	839,395
9. Indirect	1,436,344	1,436,344
Cumulative Expenses	6,717,442	6,717,442
Budget	7,227,475	7,227,475
Balance Avail	510,033	510,033

Current Quarter Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source – All Active Accounts

	EPA	
Object Class	Core Grant 2017-2023	Totals
1. Personnel	119,026	119,026
2. Fringe Benefits	21,876	21,876
3. Travel	11,723	11,723
4. Equipment	0	0
5. Supplies	0	0
6. Contractual	18,575	18,575
7. Construction	0	0
8. Other	36,091	36,091
9. Indirect	59,257	59,257
Total Expenses	266,548	266,548