

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-
HI-
ID-Tiffany Floyd, Aislinn Johns
MT-Bo Wilkins, Liz Ulrich
NV-Andrew Tucker
NM-
ND-Jim Semerad
OR-Michael Orman
SD-
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Rob Dengel
WY-Amber Potts
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne, Jackie Gadret

Agenda:

1. Fall business meeting agenda and logistics (Mary Uhl)
2. WESTAR staff exchange update (Daniel Czecholinski, Ali Mirzakhali, Bo Wilkins, Jason Olds)
3. WESTAR Regional Haze Letter update (Jay Baker, Mary Uhl)
4. EPA's proposed AERR rule and WESTAR comments (Jay Baker)
5. IWDW revisioning update (Rhonda Payne)
6. Executive Session agenda items for Anchorage (all)
7. Exceptional Events Workshop and WESTAR Leadership Training updates (Mary Uhl)
8. Other items as time and interest permit

Minutes:

1. Fall business meeting agenda and logistics (Mary Uhl)

It was noted that most cruise options (for those arriving early) end September 30. There were no questions about the meeting agenda.

2. WESTAR staff exchange update (Daniel Czecholinski, Ali Mirzakhali, Bo Wilkins, Jason Olds)

Interested states may meet to flesh out details further in the future. It was noted that there are increasing challenges to recruitment that make this interesting. The exchange would allow states to share experiences and state staff to mentor within other states. Utah can participate as long as exchanges are less than 30 days. It was noted that it might be good to add EPA to the program to provide EPA staff hands-on experience working in a state. WA is interested and supportive; the question is what areas are best leveraged by the exchange. ID is interested. AK believes that building relationships and networking are important for staff. NV is still talking about it; HR could be an obstacle. This could also be an opportunity to survey WESTAR member staff to find out how effective the committees are.

3. WESTAR Regional Haze Letter update (Jay Baker, Mary Uhl)

There was a lengthy discussion of the draft RH letters to EPA. No version has garnered support of all state members. The original draft will be circulated with additional language describing the complexity of the RH rule.

4. EPA's proposed AERR rule and WESTAR comments (Jay Baker)

Jay has reached out to WESTAR EI staff to meet to review the proposed AERR.

5. IWDW revisioning update (Rhonda Payne)

Pinned for next call.

6. Executive Session agenda items for Anchorage (all)

It was suggested an SOP for exceptions to WESTAR letters should be discussed.

7. Exceptional Events Workshop and WESTAR Leadership Training updates (Mary Uhl)

Mary noted that both were in the works.

8. Other items as time and interest permit

The hour expired and there was no time for additional agenda items.

The call duration was 61 minutes.