



WESTAR QUARTERLY REPORT

Reporting Period: 3rd quarter 2023

Report Date: October 27, 2023

EPA Grant No. XA-99T67301-0

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:

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Contents

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

1. EPA CORE GRANT 2017-2023

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 from the current grant's inception (October 1, 2017) through the end of the most recent quarter.

**EPA Core Grant 2017-23
Expenses by Object Class through 9/30/23**

| Object Class | Budget | This Quarter | Cumulative Expenses | Percentage |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Personnel | 2,451,513 | 252,947 | 2,447,917 | 100% |
| 2. Fringe Benefits | 615,484 | 48,405 | 566,094 | 92% |
| 3. Travel | 675,505 | 38,795 | 492,165 | 73% |
| 4. Equipment | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 5. Supplies | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 6. Contractual | 1,044,710 | 34,854 | 1,310,529 | 125% |
| 7. Construction | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 8. Other | 798,105 | 21,322 | 860,717 | 108% |
| 9. Indirect Expenses | 1,642,158 | 113,709 | 1,550,053 | 94% |
| Totals | 7,227,475 | 510,033 | 7,227,475 | 100% |

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 Q3</i> | <i>Project Period Total</i> |
| 67 Air director conference calls, documented with minutes posted on WESTAR’s website | 3 | 59 |
| 14 Business meetings, documented with minutes and presentations posted on WESTAR’s website | 0 | 11 |
| 245 Committee and ad hoc workgroup conference calls | 6 | 187 |

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i> | <i>Results/Outcomes</i> | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | <i>2023 Q3</i> | <i>Project Period Total</i> |
| 28 Trips by committee chairs to brief air directors on committee activities | 0 | 21 |
| 6 Specialty conference on a high priority topic | 0 | 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 | 0 | 6 |

2) Other Activities this Quarter – Operations Project

* WESTAR continued participating in the National Residential Heating Task Force, including work groups formed to refine wood burning emission estimates and source classification codes, give input on how to revise the wood heating NSPS, and identify clean appliances for changeout programs.

* WESTAR staff are working with South Coast Air Quality Management District to create an online app to help air agencies create exceptional event demonstrations. Volunteers from air agencies across the Country are creating and reviewing the various parts of the app.

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

Results/Outcomes

| <i>Expected Result for Project Period</i> | <i>2023 Q3</i> | <i>Project Period Total</i> |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 100 Educational opportunities delivered: | 8 | 96 |
| * Basic Inspector Training (NACT350) - MT | | |
| * Air Dispersion Modeling (APTI 423) – AZ | | |
| * Control Equipment (BASC 107) - NV | | |
| * Compliance Assurance Monitoring (PERM 204) – NV | | |
| * Incinerators (TOXC 222) - NV | | |
| * Advanced Inspector Training (NACT 355) – WY | | |
| * Effective Permit Writing (PERM 302) – Online | | |
| * Monitoring Compliance Testing (SCRE 104) - CA | | |
| 3000 <i>Students trained</i> | 212 | 2540 |
| 5750 Student training days | 475 | 6277 |
| 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 FY2024.
- 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 develops the agenda and leads the monthly conference calls. The Steering Committee oversees the operations of four work groups by providing guidance, evaluating resource needs, identifying priorities, assigning projects, providing assessments, and fostering communication. The four work groups are: 1) Communications; 2) Curriculum; 3) Training Delivery; and 4) Learning Management Systems (LMS)
- WESTAR staff continues to work on the development of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) training course. The initial training course will be offered Tuesday, November 14 - Wednesday, November 15, 2023.
- WESTAR staff continues to work with the JTC training group to move classroom training courses to online training, when appropriate, to better serve the current needs of state, local, and tribal air quality professionals.
- 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 course 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 the 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 Q2</i> | <i>Project Period Total</i> |
| 175 Work Group and Subcommittee Conference calls | 5 | 394 |
| 70 Technical Steering Committee conference calls | 1 | 62 |
| 14 Face-to-face WRAP Board meetings | 0 | 8 |
| 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 | 53 |

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 into the Intermountain West Data Warehouse (IWDW). Linked to the IWDW is the Technical Support System v2 and v3, which support Regional Haze analysis for the WESTAR/WRAP region. Moving forward, the WRAP Regional Technical Center framework can support additional regional modeling tasks and deliverables from WESTAR contracts.
- . 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.
- The WRAP Technical Steering Committee meets regularly. The Fire and Smoke and Work Group Exceptional Event Support Team met twice , covering progress on the EE Demo App. Regional Technical Operations and Regional Haze Planning Work Groups held a combined kick-off call to begin planning RH SIP progress reports for the 2nd implementation period, including data needs for progress report completion. The meeting covered important budget considerations for future funding of the ADMS. The group also discussed potential needs and planning horizons for the 3rd implementation period. In September, the combined work groups met again to cover

in more detail the current suite of tools available for progress report development using the TSS3.0.

The Tribal Data WG did not meet this quarter

- The Technical Steering Committee and Co-Chairs of WRAP Work Groups meet twice on a Coordination call.
- The Oil and Gas WG co-chairs met twice to plan a presentation for EPA's Emissions Inventory Conference, held in Seattle in September.

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. The work topic list was revised this quarter with the help of the Technical Steering Committee members. The new format will be reviewed by the Technical Steering Committee in the 3rd quarter. The new format makes tracking, updating, and revising work topics in the WRAP easier.

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. On September 11, 2023, the necessary 2/3 vote of the membership was achieved, and the proposed amendments were accepted. The new charter is now in effect and posted to the WESTAR website as part of the WRAP organizational documents.

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.

A small group of WESTAR/WRAP members (MT, OR, USFWS) and WESTAR staff are developing a Desktop CAMx modeling approach that all WESTAR/WRAP members can use for multiple modeling projects.

WESTAR continues to assist in a lead role with the inventory collaborative group to develop the 2022 Emissions Modeling Platform.

3. CONSOLIDATED EXPENSE SUMMARY

Cumulative Expenses by Object Class and Funding Source through 09/30/2023 All Active Accounts

| Object Class | EPA | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Core Grant 2017-23 | Totals |
| 1. Personnel | 2,447,917 | 2,447,917 |
| 2. Fringe | 566,094 | 566,094 |
| 3. Travel | 492,165 | 492,165 |
| 4. Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Supplies | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Contractual | 1,310,529 | 1,310,529 |
| 7. Construction | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Other | 860,717 | 860,717 |
| 9. Indirect | 1,550,053 | 1,550,053 |
| Cumulative Expenses | 7,227,475 | 7,227,475 |
| Budget | 7,227,475 | 7,227,475 |
| Balance Avail | 0 | 0 |

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

| Object Class | EPA | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| | Core Grant 2017-2023 | Totals |
| 1. Personnel | 252,947 | 252,947 |
| 2. Fringe Benefits | 48,405 | 48,405 |
| 3. Travel | 38,795 | 38,795 |
| 4. Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Supplies | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Contractual | 34,854 | 34,854 |
| 7. Construction | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Other | 21,322 | 21,322 |
| 9. Indirect | 113,709 | 113,709 |
| Total Expenses | 510,033 | 510,033 |