

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-
CA-Michael Benjamin, Rebekka Fine
CO-Weston Carloss
HI-Marianne Rossio
ID-Steve Miller, Aislinn Johns
MT-Bo Wilkins, Liz Ulrich
NV-Andrew Tucker
NM-
ND-Jim Semerad
OR-Michael Orman, Ali Mirzakhali
SD-Kyrik Rombough
UT-Bryce Bird
WA-Rob Dengel
WY-Amber Potts
WESTAR-Mary Uhl, Jay Baker, Rhonda Payne, Jeff Gabler

Agenda:

1. Draft WESTAR Spring 2024 business meeting agenda, attached (Mary Uhl)
2. Possible WESTAR comment letters on EPA's proposed changes to modeling guidance and meaningful engagement policy (Jay Baker)
3. Initial reactions/comments on EPA's Final Oil and Gas Rule (all)
4. Prescribed fire EE demonstration for Northern Sierra AQMD and EPA's docket for comments on EE (Steve Miller, all)
5. WESTAR 2024 Workplan review, attached (Mary Uhl)
6. Executive Session for air directors only: WESTAR Executive Director annual evaluation

Minutes:

1. Draft WESTAR Spring 2024 business meeting agenda, attached

Mary Uhl presented a draft agenda for the 2024 Spring Business meeting. It was noted that in the business portion of the meeting, Mary should change “welcome to Oregon” to “welcome to California.”

2. Possible WESTAR comment letters on EPA's proposed changes to modeling guidance and meaningful engagement policy

Jay noted that the modeling proposal changes cumulative impact analysis. EPA's policy on meaningful engagement includes states as public. Staff at states are not inclined to develop comments on either. The appendix to the policy on meaningful engagement discusses cooperative federalism, so some on the call felt there wasn't any need to comment on “states as public.”

3. Initial reactions/comments on EPA's Final Oil and Gas Rule

No one brought forth any concerns comments with the final rule.

4. Prescribed fire EE demonstration for Northern Sierra AQMD and EPA's docket for comments on EE

Steve Miller led a discussion of the Northern Sierra Demonstration that is open for comments. The demonstration is not regulatorily significant, so it is more like a public template. At the same time, EPA has opened a docket to take comments on the EE rule. The example demonstration was a result of CARB discussions with EPA Region 9 for several years. CARM wanted EPA to develop a prescribed fire EE template in advance of a push for more prescribed fire in California. There is a concern that the PM2.5 NAAQS could hinder the application of prescribed fire. CARB was involved in an initial review of the draft EE demonstration. The EPA docket asks for comments on the prescribed fire EE template, the data visualization tool (not yet released) and the PM2.5 wildfire smoke EE tiering guideline (not yet released).

5. WESTAR 2024 Workplan review, attached

Mary asked that states review the work plan and send comments back to her.

6. Executive Session for air directors only: WESTAR Executive Director annual evaluation

The call duration was 60 minutes.