
Regulatory/Monitoring Work Group – July 20, 2018

In Attendance:

Voting Members

Dave Turbovsky
Clark Milne
Mark Oppe
Lee Hazen
Eric Dick
Kristina Smith
Kathy Stringham
John Burns
Chad Schumacher
Patrice Lee
Angela Speight
Jacob Howdeshell

Non-Voting Members

Dan Brown, EPA

Facilitation Team

Brian Rogers

Work Group Discussion

Regulatory changes to consider

- State
 - Enforcement of compliance with curtailment requires citation authority at the state level (legislative action)
- Borough
 - The borough assessor should impose a \$500 fee/property tax, with full credit if the heating source is registered, with a fine for false certification. This would register all combustion sources. Or a tax credit for registering would help understand the status of burning appliances
 - The borough needs clearer decision criteria on when to call stage 1 or stage 2 alerts
 - Building codes would make a difference, but are not the community culture. There is so much growth in North Pole, with no building permits. Should it be borough or state? A survey shows 40% of North Pole area buildings don't meet requirements for military families. A building code would be better received at the borough level; the state addresses commercial but not residential buildings. A building code protects transient (naïve) population; we can educate when building
 - How about a tax penalty for an inefficient residence? Require energy efficiency rating when sold or on listing. Or GVEA could require a building permit when filing a hookup application
- We need positive measures to improve public acceptance – we don't know what penalties or rewards work

Regulatory impact on point sources

- Aurora stack emissions could increase if district heat is expanded, but it would reduce other emissions

- GVEA Healy 1 consent decree requires retrofit of NO_x controls by 2024 (notification by 2021). If there were an extension of Healy 1 without retrofit, it would eliminate 25 Mw generation in the nonattainment area
- Are there methods to minimize MSM? There will need to be more ADEC staff for permitting, but there are lots of options (and lots of work to prepare them)
- Could there be an earned step process for an extension, a process like a consent decree? EPA would be interested, but the regulations don't allow it? What if it meant more expeditious attainment?

Monitoring

- There is a difference in results from filtering air versus the monitor: it shows wood to 80% of PM_{2.5} versus the inventory.
- There is concern over the credibility of the numbers. We need a consensus it's accurate data. We need to know sources and the difference in the inventory – must use best available data to enforce.
- The education group needs to work on helping people understand the inventory method and speciation method for estimating PM_{2.5}
- What matters is what happens during inversion events
- Should compliance be based on an input vs. output basis: the rate of emissions per btu, or the mass in number of tons of emissions. We should consider an energy approach – considering insulation and building efficiency

Separating North Pole and Fairbanks non-attainment areas

- Need maximum impact site for Fairbanks and 3-year data. Fairbanks is not at its worst location, would need to be if the non-attainment areas were split. Data to date indicates Dale Road and Hamilton Acres are likely, but that would increase the number of exceedances.
- ADEC is looking at special purpose monitoring equipment; could potentially relocate the State Office building site
- Monitoring dispersal in the area adds credibility for the public. There are new technology solutions; personal monitoring. CCA is working on personal monitoring and crowdsourcing results.
- State ADEC does baseline compliance monitoring. Borough AQ does enforcement monitoring
- The North Pole baseline is very representative of the area
- Fairbanks needs to pull together as a community; that argues against splitting. We need follow-through on gas and renewables

Timeline

- Timeline is an issue: regulations require a SIP 18 months after designation, or 2 years before attainment. The SIP was due in December 2017, now due in December 2018 and asking for an extension to sometime between 2019 and 2024.
- EPA regulations require that if there is an extension, MSM must be invoked.
- If there is no extension, that triggers a 5% per year emissions reduction requirement and starts the sanctions clock.

- EPA can sanction for failure to submit a complete SIP. If that happens, 18 months later (July 2020) a 2-to-1 offset is required for new source PM_{2.5} and precursors; 6 months after that (January 2021) further sanctions are invoked

Information needed

1. We need better speciation studies, recognizing that's expensive. We need to know how much sulfur comes from residential coal and oil, and from point sources. We would need more if North Pole were split into a separate non-attainment area.
2. We need a factual timeline for the public (and the AQ Stakeholders)