

Recap of the January 22, 2008 -- NW-AIRQUEST Conference Call

On the call:

- Washington State University (Joe)
- Washington Department of Ecology (Clint, Sally, & Ranil)
- Oregon DEQ (Phil)
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (Bruce, Rick, Wei, Yayi, & Chris)
- EPA (Bob)
- British Columbia (Steve)
- Nez Perce Tribe (Julie)

■ Conference Call Agenda Items:

Annual Meeting and November 15 Conference Call Minutes Approval -

- Agreed the minutes from the October 2007 Annual Meeting and call held November 15, 2007 were OK - They were sent to WSU and posted to the Web

Project List for Air Directors (November 15 Call) - Discussion of PowerPoint presented to Air Directors:

- According to Bruce Louks, the PowerPoint presentation was based on the previously shared whitepaper that was disseminated before the November 15 conference call we held on the projects NW-AIRQUEST proposes to continue and tackle in 2008.
- It felt to him that the Air Directors were OK with what was presented, that NW-AIRQUEST is to conduct business as usual and to do with the existing projects any changes and updates we see fit.
- How do we get help with funding?
 - o Users of products need to step-up
 - o Should we change what we do in the way of products, we'll need to get funding from users of those products
- AIRPACT3 may be used in the future for O3 SIPs and eventually for PM2.5 SIPs, so the Air Directors like this product
- Speciation Work Group was discussed without direction coming from the Air Directors. They liked our direction, but no additional funds were provided
- Some interest was shown for regional mercury deposition work too; possible modeling (funded at the state level)
- Joe: Please discuss field burning issues in Idaho -- Bruce responded with the following:
 - o Idaho to establish a field burning program like Washington Ecology has in place; need to establish budget and fee system regulators and burners can agree on; there probably will be a push to consolidate Clearsky and BlueSky; and more monitoring data is desired in northern Idaho for smoke management purposes.

Work Group Activities -

- *Data Sharing (for AIRPACT Update)* --

- Emissions data is beginning to come in now; primarily mobile sources
- Next call: January 30th at 8:30 a.m. PST

- *Speciation* --

- Bob's previously-shared comparison data is being integrated with GIS right now
- A call will be scheduled when the integration is done to discuss the data comparisons further

- *QA/QC* --

- Working up some ideas for quality control and assurance on the emissions data gathered by the Data Sharing Work Group for us in AIRPACT3 update

- Joe attended SMOKE training recently and it gave him some new ideas about what needs to be done

Project Updates -

- Joe: - Jen is making progress on interactive querying of AIRPACT results

WRF Changeover -

- Are we ready for the move from MM5 to WRF?
 - o We don't have WRF-to-CALMET conversion program for the Idaho Incident Model
- Are we comfortable with CMAQ performance with WRF?
 - o Some testing is complete and AIRPACT3 operation is moving to new cluster where WSU will do WRF comparison - probably in parallel with MM5
- Some of the "little guys" that use MM5 for AQI forecasting have commented on the move to WRF. They want to know how transparent the new product change will be
 - o The WRF output looks to be the same so far, quite similar products with some behavioral changes within them (such as the 12-km products in WRF handling terrain better so they are more like 4-km MM5 products)
 - o Some side discussion took place on USFS smoke management use of MM5 and their ability to adapt to WRF products without knowing the "fudge factors" for surface winds like they have these corrections down now when using the MM5 products. Possibly NW-AIRQUEST can help with this and maybe provide training or guidance. E-mail on this issue was sent out by Rick Hardy just after the call ended. The Nez Perce Tribe is interested in WRF training or guidance for their uses too.

Next Call -

- o None was set, but Chris will set-up another Doodle poll for a time about six weeks from now.