

NECA Environmental Committee Meeting, 4-18-12 Hosted by ERM

Co-Chair

Lysa Modica (lysa.modica@amec.com)

George Lipka (george.lipka@tetrattech.com)

Committee Members Attending

Liz Hendrick

Adam Shalapin

Peter Anderson

Mike Anderson

Judy Bourdon

Kathy Robertson

Tree Raine

Dorothy Austin

Mandy Garrahan

Don DiCristofaro

Bob Fraser

Joseph Sabato

Marc Wallace

(via teleconference)

Ted Guertin

Harold Blinerman

Committee Business

The committee discussed the program and ideas for speakers for the summer conference, to be held on July 18. We are filling in and inviting speakers. The committee is open to suggestions from the board. If anyone has contacts

Mike Anderson provided a presentation of key topics addressed at EPA's 10th Annual Modeling Conference held in March.

Technical Presentation: *Summary of 10th Conference on Air Quality Modeling March 13–15, 2012.*

Key topics discussed include changes to AERMOD and its preprocessors, PM_{2.5} and 1-hour SO₂ and NO₂ modeling, and emerging models and techniques. AERMOD presentations addressed changes in building downwash algorithms, treatment of low wind speeds and the use of hourly-averaged wind data derived from 1-minute wind data and the impacts of these changes on predicted results. Also discussed was AERMOD's handling of NO₂/NO_x ratios and the impact of these changes on predicted concentrations. (hint, they are typically higher). The modeling conference also discussed emerging models and techniques and secondary PM_{2.5} formation. At the conference, EPA also noted that they are revitalizing the model clearinghouse on EPA's website:

http://www.epa.gov/ttn/scram/guidance_clearinghouse.htm. Clarification and guidance memos can be found on the SCRAM website.

Regulatory Update

On June 7, 2012, the US EPA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) regarding proposed changes to the RICE NESHAP and NSPS. Comments are due July 23, 2012. Some of the proposed changes include: (1) a more refined definition of emergency demand response that is only triggered using NERC EEA Level 2; (2) a voltage/frequency reduction trigger; (3) allowing up to 100 hours of emergency demand response (this 100 hours includes testing/maintenance, emergency DR, and non-emergency use); (4) allowing up to 50 hours (as part of the 100 hours) of peak shaving through April 16, 2017; and (5) allowing Tier 2 and 3 rated engines installed prior to June 12, 2006 to operate under the NESHAP without upgrades.

On April 12, 2012, Gina McCarthy issued a letters to each State regarding EPA's draft guidance for implementing the 1-hour SO₂ standard. In the draft guidance, EPA had proposed revising its draft guidance based on stakeholder inputs. As a result of the delay in issuing the final guidance, states are no longer required to submit attainment modeling demonstrations by June 2013 for unclassified areas. EPA will continue with designation process focusing on ambient air quality data.

On March 27, 2012, EPA issued Carbon standards for **new** fossil fuel fired power plants. The proposed regulation allows future plants to burn any fossil fuel, including coal. Under this regulation, coal fired power plants would have to employ technologies to reduce carbon emissions (e.g., carbon capture and storage). Power plants employing carbon capture and storage have the option to use a 30 year average to comply with the standard allowing plants to install controls at a later date. The regulation would not apply to the combustion of biomass. The proposed standard is 1,000 pounds of CO₂ per megawatt-hour.