

Next Phase of the IWAQM Process

Interagency Workgroup on Air Quality Modeling (IWAQM)

- Originally formed in 1991 to provide a focus for development of technically sound regional air quality models for regulatory assessments of pollutant source impacts on Federal Class I areas
- Participating Federal agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Park Service (NPS)
- The original purpose was to review respective modeling programs, develop an organizational framework, and formulate reasonable objectives and plans that could be presented to management for support and commitment.

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- The IWAQM process largely concluded in 1998 with the publication of the Interagency Workgroup on Air Quality Modeling (IWAQM) Phase 2 Summary Report and Recommendations for Modeling Long Range Transport Impacts (EPA-454/R-98-019).
- The IWAQM Phase 2 report provided a series of recommendations concerning the application of the CALPUFF model for use in regulatory long range transport (LRT) modeling.
- Draft updates to the IWAQM Phase 2 report were released in 2009 to better reflect the state-of-the-practice of long range transport (LRT) modeling techniques.

IWAQM Phase III

- EPA granted Sierra Club petition with commitment to update Appendix W to address O3 and secondary PM2.5 impacts
- Comments received from the 10th Modeling Conference (March 2012) from stakeholders support this interagency and within-agency collaboration effort
 - comments also support the idea of this collaborative effort working in parallel with stakeholders to further model development and evaluation.
- The purpose here is to inform EPA's commitment to update Appendix W, as appropriate, to address chemically reactive pollutants in near field and long range transport applications.

IWAQM Phase III

- This phase will consist of 2 separate working groups, one focused on long-range transport of primary and secondary pollutants and the other on near-field single source impacts of secondary pollutants.
- In addition to the focused work groups, a steering committee will be established to more broadly coordinate across Federal partners and stakeholders

The primary objectives of this phase of IWAQM

- Identify appropriate air quality models or modeling technique(s), which may include reduced form models for primary and secondarily formed air pollutants under various transport conditions for use in PSD increment and NAAQS compliance analyses;
- Identify the process and methods for model/technique evaluation, the criteria by which the performance those modeling techniques shall be evaluated, and optionally provide example performance evaluations;
- Identify evaluation databases and existing evaluations and how these results will be used to support model performance evaluation and as appropriate model improvement;
- Ensure that all air quality models or modeling techniques and computer codes deemed acceptable by the IWAQM are peer reviewed, publicly available, and fully documented including user guides and other necessary guidance;
- Develop and update guidance documents and revisions to Appendix W where appropriate

Next Steps

- Currently organizing participants for the work groups and steering committee
- Once these preliminary groups have been established, opportunities will be pursued to engage with stakeholders including State/Local agencies and Tribes