

Notes of September 3, 2015, Call of the AERMOD Model Evaluation Workgroup

The AERMOD Model Evaluation Workgroup (WG) conducted a conference call on September 3, 2015. Following are notes that track the agenda for the call.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review (John Bunyak)

Call participants were:

- John Bunyak—Consultant to WESTAR
- Tom Moore—WESTAR
- Chris Owen—EPA, OAQPS
- Rebecca Matichuk—EPA, Region 8
- Mary Uhl—BLM
- Craig Nicholls—BLM
- Tom Coulter—BLM
- John Notar—NPS
- Doris Jung, Colorado DPHE
- Darla Potter—Wyoming DEQ
- Nathan Henschel—Wyoming DEQ
- Clint Bowman—Washington Dept. of Ecology
- Cathe Kaliz—API
- Doug Blewitt—Consultant to API
- Tom Damiana—AECOM
- Ralph Morris--Environ

2. Summary of kick-off meeting (John Bunyak)

John indicated that the kick-off meeting for the Model Evaluation Workgroup was held in RTP on August 14, 2015, after EPA's modeling conference. Folks participated in-person and by phone. John included a summary of the meeting with the call reminder e-mail that he sent to WG participants. The meeting summary and all of the PowerPoint Presentations are also include on the WRAP Drill Rig Study Site at: <http://www.wrapair2.org/DrillRig.aspx>.

The meeting presentations provided WG participants some good background information, and included:

- Summaries of the CO and AK Field Studies that took place during the Fall of 2014
- Summary of the contractor initial review at the study data
- Discussion of some recommendations for further data analysis

One significant announcement at the meeting was that API is able to contribute some additional funding to continue the data analysis work. This funding is much appreciated. The Study Management Team will discuss and decide how best to spend these additional funds.

3. Relationship of Study Management Team and Workgroup (John Bunyak)

The Study Management Team (SMT) includes:

- Mary Uhl
- Chris Owen
- Darla Potter
- Cathe Kaliz
- Doug Blewitt

In addition, WESTAR (Tom Moore and John Bunyak) assists the SMT.

All SMT members were on the WG call. The SMT role is to provide direction and guidance, and set priorities, for the WG. The SMT will also help decide how available contract funds are best utilized for the study.

4. Review of the required tasks (Doug Blewitt)

Doug made a presentation that outlined the required tasks for the study. John e-mailed a copy of Doug's presentation to WG members prior to the call. Topics pertained to both the CO and AK data and included discussion of the emissions data, analysis of ambient NO_x and ozone, impact analysis and building a modelers' database, etc. Please refer to Doug's PowerPoint presentation for more details.

5. Discussion of how to group the tasks and prioritize the groups/tasks (Chris Owen).

Chris indicated that he is working on ways to "compartmentalize" the needed work based on the skills and expertise of WG participants. He envisions breaking out separate groups that can focus on the AK and CO data sets, and forming some subgroups that can focus on specific topics (i.e., downwash issues, NO₂ chemistry, dispersion of total NO_x, surface roughness, etc.). The intent is to form these subgroups and establish subgroup chairs to coordinate subgroup activities. Once these subgroups are identified and formed it will be very important for WG participants to sign up and be willing to do the needed work. It will also be important for the subgroups to communicate among themselves and share information. Regarding information sharing, Chris indicated he will establish a Google public site, and a separate data-sharing site that would be limited to those people actually doing the work.

6. Status of efforts to recruit more workgroup participants (John Bunyak)

John indicated that there is a large amount of work that needs to be done. He indicated that the SMT will continue to search for available money for contract help, but there is no guarantee that additional contract funding will become available. Therefore, the WG will need to rely on in-kind services of its members. John reached out to the WESTAR Technical and Planning Committees in an attempt to solicit WG participants. Tom Moore mentioned that two other groups we might want to reach out to are the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) and the Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA). Tom said that he would provide contact information for these groups, and John will follow-up.

7. Action Items (John Bunyak)

Some action items identified during the call were:

- The SMT will decide how best to spend the additional funding provided by API
- Chris Owen will group the needed tasks and provide his recommendations on WG subgroups
- John will follow-up with NACAA and AAPCA (Note that before these notes could be finalized, Tom Moore already made initial contact with these groups and John will follow-up)

8. Next Call

The next call of the WG is scheduled for October 8, at 11:30 MDT. Call-in number: 800-768-2983; Access Code: 4918837.