 

draft of Oil & Gas Work Group workplan scope

September 24, 2021

**Overview**

Oil and gas exploration and production activities are significant air pollution sources in the western United States. There is wide variation by basin, in terms of the types of wells and equipment operated and quantities of hydrocarbons produced, the number of wells to be maintained and to be newly drilled, the extraction practices and emission control technology applied in the drilling-completion-maintenance-production activities. Taxes on produced hydrocarbon resources fund state, tribal, and federal governments, and the commodity prices are subject to wide variation affecting both existing production and emissions, as well as development of new and/or replacement wells.

With the oil and gas sector continuing to experience rapid change and innovation over time, air regulatory agencies are responding to health and welfare issues under the federal Clean Air Act as well as through state and tribal authorities. These include jurisdiction-wide reporting and emission control requirements, linked to efforts to address local issues and impacts. In the WESTAR-WRAP region, California, Alaska, and the Intermountain Region are especially impacted in terms of air quality and climate change by exploration and production emissions from the oil and gas industry, and impacts occur across the West more broadly caused by emissions from the transport and ubiquitous use of those fuels. Studies point to improvements in the emissions inventory as being one of the most needed products to fully and more accurately characterize individual processes and the super-emitter phenomena across the many types of production and differing geographic areas, to improve reported data quality and performance of air quality models and exposure estimates. Those will be key topics for this work group.

The Oil and Gas Work Group (OGWG) also has an important role to coordinate regional communication and knowledge-sharing among WESTAR-WRAP members. The OGWG will address the members’ programs and data collection. The OGWG will provide oversight and coordinate efforts with projects and activities for WESTAR-WRAP and with other groups related to Oil and Gas.

**Responsibilities and Deliverables**

The Oil and Gas Work Group (OGWG) will focus on, address, organize work, and report on:

* Air Quality management needs:
* Ozone Nonattainment Area SIPs/FIPs​
* Regional Haze​ progress tracking
* Emissions Inventories
* Greenhouse gas control initiatives (federal, tribal, state) and carbon management​
* ​Develop Emission Inventories and Track Control Strategies​
* emissions methodology development & trends​
* forecasting future emissions ​
* industry-specific data to include in regional / national modeling platform databases​
* public or inter-agency data requests​
* resolving differences and aligning top-down research findings with bottom-up inventories​
* triennial NEI reporting​
* unified inventory to EPA for the western states​
* support capacity-building for robust tribal O&G emissions inventories​
* federal and state emissions reporting requirements (Annual Major Source)
* demonstrating representativeness for research results ​
* evaluating data gaps to direct research funds
* Discuss Rules/Tracking/Enforcement/Compliance
	+ emission credit banking​
	+ legislative/regulatory requirements​
	+ track rule effectiveness​
	+ discuss jurisdiction-specific (non-SIP) rules and track emissions reductions related to​
	implementation​
	+ maximizing productivity/efficiencies of compliance evaluations​
	+ report periodically on state and tribal O&G management programs across the region

This work must take into consideration differing levels of expertise, programmatic approaches, cultural necessities, and needs by agency. Several of these activities involve close coordination, facilitated by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC), as is done with other WRAP Work Groups.

**Operations and Reporting**

The Co-Chairs will provide a summary report to the TSC at each TSC/WG Co-Chairs meeting, about the status of activities, findings, and work products for the topics described above. The Co-Chairs, with support from WESTAR-WRAP staff, will maintain an active open membership composed of interested state, tribal, local, and federal air agency and land manager experts, and publish the OGWG membership list and track participation on the [Oil & Gas Work Group webpage](http://www.wrapair2.org/OGWG.aspx). No formal detailed workplan is required but welcome.

The OGWG will have regular virtual or in-person meetings (*preferred interval?*) to manage activities and provide oversight to projects. Subcommittees or Teams to be defined by the OGWG will execute, track, and provide oversight for both in-kind and/or contractor-supported OGWG projects and will meet at self-defined separate intervals. The task-oriented topics and responsibilities for a Subcommittee or Team will be a subset of the bulleted topics above from this Responsibilities and Deliverables section. The leads for Teams and Subcommittees will meet monthly with the OGWG Co-Chairs to note progress. The topics above will need additional clarification and definition in the process of defining a Subcommittee’s or a Team’s scopes, assignments, and intended deliverables in writing. Any Teams and Subcommittees will report regularly to the OGWG. The OGWG Co-Chairs will plan and direct the regular calls and meetings, and with assistance from WESTAR-WRAP staff, take the lead in communications and other necessary TSC and Board interaction.

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On the [Oil & Gas Work Group webpage](http://www.wrapair2.org/OGWG.aspx), continue display of the existing OGWG webpage’s posted materials and add relevant and currently useful files from the [WRAP website Emissions tab](http://www.wrapair2.org/emissions.aspx) labeled in the Resources column as “Oil & Gas Projects”.