

Directives and Actions
From
May 2006 NARSTO Executive Assembly

PM Modeling Workshops

1. Separate reports should be prepared for both the Processes and Applications workshops. If appropriate, an article or articles should be written for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
2. Workshop recommendations should consider health, air quality, and climate applications.

Multi-Pollutant Air Quality Management

1. The proposed Mini-Workshop will be critical for defining the scope of this effort. **This workshop is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 25-29, 2006 in RTP, NC.**
2. Choice of attendees is very important. The workshop must be as small as possible, but large enough to capture all the expertise needed.
3. Clear direction needs to be provided to the mini-workshop attendees. Additional work on the accountability proposal is needed before this direction can be provided. For example, it would be helpful to have a kick-off presentation on what an accountability assessment would look like.
4. Assessment co-chairs will need to be selected, and the final proposal will need ESC approval prior to the workshop.
5. A question to consider: In order to limit the scope, should this activity focus on a specific emission sector or class of emissions?
6. Advice and cautions
 - The proposed multi-pollutant accountability assessment might be considered as a project to create a research design for determining how accountability assessments should be conducted – how can one establish cause (emissions) to effect (health effects or ecosystem damage) relationships. Accountability might be thought of as being similar to the practice of total quality control, which is used in manufacturing to achieve a desired product. The current proposal provides a starting point for defining what accountability means in practice, but it still needs editing.
 - Anticipate significant difficulties in moving from single constituents to mixtures (but in dealing with the health effects of PM we are already dealing with mixtures).
 - There is not an established model of what accountability means.
 - Are there are similar activities going on in other fields that we can use as a model for this assessment?
 - Take a close look at EPA's 2006 Report on the Environment for guidance.

- Are there activities in Europe that might be applicable? (e.g., the European Environmental Agency's Ecoinformatics test bed – one in England one in Slovenia – Jim Vickery can supply more information).
- Should the Council on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) be Involved in this project?
- Lessons learned from the acid deposition assessment program should be incorporated into this new activity.

Quality Systems and Data Management

1. Provide access to the GoogleEarth files demonstrated at the Executive Assembly on the NARSTO Website.
2. Could NARSTO provide guidance on minimum detection limits for ambient concentrations of various atmospheric contaminants and how to report them?

Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS) and NARSTO

1. John Lyon will contact the NARSTO Management Coordinator with suggestions on specific steps NARSTO could take in support of GEOSS.
2. The Management coordinator will bring these suggestions to the ESC for consideration.

Air Quality and Health Effects

1. The PM modeling workshops and the proposed accountability assessment will be NARSTO's major contributions to these issues.
2. We still need to identify a collaboration partner in the health-effects research community.

Climate

1. The PM processes workshop will assess issues in modeling and evaluating the effects of atmospheric aerosols on radiative energy transfer and climate change.
2. The accountability assessment will address some of the technical relationships between air quality management and climate.

Other Issues

1. Regarding the health effects of fuel additives, Jim Vickery will review EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) fuel additives report. Based on this report, Jim will identify possible actions NARSTO might consider undertaking. These recommendations will be presented to the Executive Steering Committee for action.
2. A final summary report is needed from the Reactivity Research Working Group.
3. Regarding possible follow-up activities on the NARSTO emission inventory assessment, at some future date NARSTO could ask for a briefing on how these recommendations have been implemented in the

three NARSTO countries. In addition, NARSTO may want to consider discussing implementation of emission inventory improvements in the three countries with the CEC.