



## ***This Week in Review – November 8-12, 2004***

(1) **STAPPA and ALAPCO Named One of Scientific American's Top 50 Policy Leaders of the Year (November 8, 2004)** – The State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO) have been named by *Scientific American* magazine as a Policy Leader within the 2004 *Scientific American* 50 – the magazine's prestigious annual list recognizing outstanding acts of leadership in science and technology over the past year. STAPPA and ALAPCO were named Policy Leader in the Automotive Category because of their work to "push EPA to limit emissions from off-road diesel engines." The *Scientific American* 50 will appear in the magazine's December issue, arriving on newsstands November 23. [For further information: [www.sciam.com](http://www.sciam.com)]

(2) **STAPPA and ALAPCO Send Letter to Congressional Committee on Appropriations Report Language (November 12, 2004)** – STAPPA and ALAPCO transmitted a letter to the leadership of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies recommending the removal of language regarding grant funds for state associations, which is contained in the report accompanying the FY 2005 Senate appropriations bill. As reported in previous *Washington Updates*, the report language would call for associations receiving grant funds from EPA to first obtain written approval from member states before receiving those funds. Additionally, the language describes how EPA should calculate how much grant money should be withheld from the associations and, instead, provided to states not wishing to participate in state associations. During the recent STAPPA/ALAPCO Fall Membership Meeting, the members discussed their concerns with the language and recommended that the associations send a letter requesting that it be removed. In their letter to the Committee leadership, STAPPA and ALAPCO note that, while the associations have a system in place that complies with the requirements of the language, it could still be troublesome. Because it is vague, it could be subject to future interpretation that could be cumbersome and problematic (e.g., Who must provide written approval? How are direct-funded local agency contributions maintained if a state withdraws?). STAPPA and ALAPCO members with Senators and Representatives on the Senate and House Appropriations Committees may wish to express their concerns to their delegations. [For further information: Air Web – Program Funding Committee page]

**(3) Arctic Region Warming Twice as Fast as Rest of the World (November 8, 2004)** – A report commissioned by an eight-nation group warns that global warming is heating the Arctic almost twice as fast as the rest of the planet and this threatens the livelihoods of millions of people and could wipe out the polar bear species by 2100. This report, the work of almost 300 scientists, was commissioned by the Arctic Council, which is comprised of the eight Arctic nations (including the U.S.) and six Indigenous Peoples organizations. The report projects that temperatures in the Arctic will rise by 8 to 14 degrees Fahrenheit in the next 100 years. If temperatures were then to stabilize, the Greenland icecap would melt altogether in 1,000 years and raise global sea levels by about 23 feet. Sea ice around the North Pole could almost disappear in summer by the end of the century, according to the report, and polar bears are unlikely to survive as a species if there is an almost complete loss of summer sea-ice cover. Scientists met in Iceland this past week to discuss the report, and foreign ministers from the Arctic nations are due to meet in Iceland on November 24. [For further information: Air Web – Global Warming Committee page]

**(4) Report Charts Changes in U.S. Ecosystems Due to Global Warming (November 9, 2004)** – Global warming has already caused significant changes to the ecosystems and wildlife of the U.S., according to a report commissioned by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. *Observed Impacts of Global Climate Change in the U.S.* reviews more than 40 studies that associate climate change with observed ecological impacts in the U.S.; using objective evaluation criteria, the report finds that more than half of these studies provides strong evidence of a direct link. For example, because of global warming, geographic ranges of plants and animals have changed, shifting upward in elevation or northward. The ability of many species to adapt in response to climate change is impeded because they are already stressed by habitat destruction or fragmentation, introduction of invasive species and contamination. [For further information: Air Web – Global Warming Committee page]

**(5) CDC Lowers Estimate of Mercury Blood Levels in Women (November 5, 2004)** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a report updating estimates of blood levels of mercury in women of childbearing age (16-49) during 1999-2002. The new estimates indicate that 6 percent of women of childbearing age had mercury levels above the level of concern (the reference dose), which compares to the 8 percent level that that CDC estimated based on 1999-2000 data. The report indicates that at least two additional years of data are necessary to see if the decrease is part of a trend. [For further information: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5343a5.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5343a5.htm)]

**(6) EPA Solicits Information for Lead Air Quality Criteria Document (November 9, 2004)** – EPA invited the public to assist in developing and refining the scientific information base for updating the Air Quality Criteria for Lead by submitting research studies that have been published, accepted for publication or presented at a public scientific meeting. The Air Quality Criteria Document (AQCD) forms the scientific basis for EPA decisions on the adequacy of a current NAAQS and the appropriateness of new or revised standards. According to the notice, one or more drafts of the lead AQCD are expected to be made available by EPA for public

comment during 2005 and/or possibly 2006. Information must be submitted to EPA by January 15, 2005. [For further information: 69 *Federal Register* 64926]

### ***The Week Ahead***

- U.S. House of Representatives Government Reform Subcommittee on Energy Policy, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs Hearing on the Administration's Record in Regulatory Reform, in Washington, DC – November 17, 2004

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