

## **Policy and Planning Subgroup DRAFT Work Plan 7/09/04**

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**Charge:** To examine and provide consensus recommendations where possible on short and long-term approaches for improving air quality management. This includes considering ways

- ! to develop a more integrated approach to air quality management;
- ! to assess the most appropriate roles for the different levels of government;
- ! to take action on a local, regional, and national level to improve the SIP process; and
- ! to address ecosystem protection in developing standards and control strategies.

### **Selected Recommendations of National Academy of Sciences Report**

- ! Transform the SIP process into a more dynamic and collaborative performance-oriented multi-pollutant air quality management plan process
- ! Expand national and multi-state performance-oriented control strategies to support local, state, and tribal efforts
- ! Develop an integrated program for criteria pollutants and hazardous air pollutants
- ! Enhance protection of ecosystems and other aspects of public welfare

### **Short Term Topics:**

There is a need for short term/critical relief as governments prepare nonattainment plans under current law for the next few years. A team led by STAPPA/State and Bill Baker, Region 2, will address the following issues related to SIP Processing:

#### **1. How can the SIP process be made more effective, more efficient, less burdensome? How can we facilitate state planning?**

- ! Identify what could be done to streamline the SIP process at the state and federal level.
- ! Identify more efficient ways for States to get EPA approval of SIP actions.
- ! Identify a more efficient way for EPA to be involved in the SIP process long-term.
- ! Coordinate with the Subcommittee on Economics and Innovation and the Rapid Response Team.
- ! See Concept Paper for ideas generated to date.

#### **2. What can be done on a regional/national basis in next 2-3 years to advance SIP processing?**

- ! Identify what could be done regionally and /or nationally to improve State/local/tribal planning.
- ! Identify ways that regional or national actions could help make the SIP process more efficient.

**3. What are the virtues of national consistency versus providing more flexibility at the State, local, and regional level?**

- ! Determine if more flexibility is desirable.
- ! Consider options for allowing more innovative approaches in the SIP process.
- ! Identify ways for the EPA Regional Offices and Headquarters to work together more effectively.
- ! Identify how to improve coordination between EPA and the States.

**4. What communication and education activities are needed from Federal and State governments to build support for control of newer pollutants such as fine particles and regional haze and some toxics?**

- ! Identify ways to create public support that will enable States to take action at the State and local level.

**Long-term Topics:**

**1. What is the best role for the federal government versus state/local/tribal governments?**

- ! Determine appropriate roles for each level of government of the development of SIPs.
- ! Identify actions that are best done at the state/local level versus federal level versus the regional level.

**2. What can be done on the regional and national level?**

- ! See attached for more specific issues

**3. What are possible broad changes to the SIP Process over the long-term?**

- ! Identify options for changing the SIP Process in the future.
- ! Identify opportunities for change.

**4. What are the virtues of national consistency versus providing more flexibility at the State, local, and regional level?**

- ! Determine if regional variation is desirable (OTC, WRAP).
- ! Identify how much flexibility the system can tolerate.

## **5. What roles are appropriate for multi-state organizations (e.g., RPOs)?**

- ! Identify ways to help build support within individual regions for region-wide controls.
- ! Identify technical analyses that would be useful for multi-State organizations to perform.
- ! Consider if the mandate for RPOs should be expanded to address more than regional haze.

## **6. How can the SIP process be designed to look at multiple pollutants?**

- ! Identify activities and/or analyses EPA/States should undertake to determine which controls on specific sources would get the most benefits for the most pollutants.
- ! Identify options for re-structuring the SIP process to focus on several pollutants.
- ! Identify the types of information that would be helpful.
  - " Sector-based approaches
  - " Rules
  - " CTGs that look at multiple benefits of controls
- ! Identify appropriate local control strategies versus regional and national control strategies.

## **7. What is the best way to provide ecosystem protection?**

- ! Consider ways to address ecosystem protection including the secondary NAAQS.
- ! Identify control strategies aimed at meeting the primary NAAQS that would also benefit ecosystems.

## **8. How can we allow for more innovative and voluntary approaches?**

- ! Consider approaches for encouraging voluntary programs (including ones that factor in energy efficiency) for groups that are difficult to regulate including market-based programs. How can we give special attention would be given to existing sources of emissions such as nonroad diesel equipment and innovative actions?

## **8. How can we address technology as it changes in the future?**

- ! Identify how current laws and regulations address technology.
- ! Consider ways to encourage the use of new technologies and non-regulatory incentives.
- ! Consider the feasibility of EPA updating existing RACT and CTG determinations.

