



Update Regarding the 10th Conference on Air Quality Models

Richard Wayland to: Air Program Managers

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Sent by: **Debbie McGaha**

Cc: George Bridgers, Tyler Fox

History: This message has been forwarded.

Greetings:

At the 2011 Regional, State, and Local Modelers' Workshop in Atlanta, GA, we announced our intention to tentatively schedule the 10th Conference on Air Quality Models (10th Modeling Conference) for October 27-28, 2011, at the EPA Campus in RTP, NC. We initially chose these dates with the hope of dovetailing the timing of the Conference with the 2011 CMAS Conference to be held from October 24-26, 2011, in Chapel Hill, NC; as this would have allowed interested participants at the CMAS Conference to consolidate their travel plans.

As the summer has progressed, it has become apparent that more preparation time is needed throughout the dispersion modeling community in order to be adequately prepared for the 10th Modeling Conference. Therefore, we are rescheduling the 10th Modeling Conference to March 13-15, 2012, at the EPA Campus in RTP, NC. We intend to publish a *Federal Register* notice announcing the 10th Modeling Conference in the early fall.

The various recent revisions to national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) have raised a number of new issues for the dispersion modeling community, and we believe it is important that we take the time to develop the best possible technical analyses in preparing for this conference. The 10th Modeling Conference will provide a forum for the dispersion modeling community to engage in a constructive exchange so that near-term improvements in our dispersion models and techniques can be implemented and long-term plans to update Appendix W can be considered and moved forward.

In advance of the 10th Modeling Conference, the Air Quality Modeling Group in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) has been engaged with the EPA Regional Offices and numerous state, local, and tribal air agencies through a revised AERMOD Implementation Workgroup (AIWG) modeling numerous NO₂ and SO₂ sources through a variety of scenarios to better inform the modeling community's understanding of the treatment of these sources by AERMOD with respect to the revised NAAQS. At the same time, EPA continues to participate in numerous conversations and exchanges with industrial and private sector modeling groups that are also exploring various model improvements specific to challenges that they are encountering with PSD compliance demonstrations under new NAAQS. EPA is also working with the Federal Land Managers to reconvene the Interagency Workgroup on Air Quality Modeling (IWAQM) for Phase 3 effort to consider more advanced modeling techniques that better address the needs of the respective agencies in conducting air quality impact assessments. The outcome of these discussions and initiatives is very important to the success of the 10th Modeling Conference, and we believe that postponing the Conference until March will ensure a much more productive and successful conference.

We hope that this rescheduling does not cause any inconvenience, and we look forward to a very productive Conference in March.

Sincerely,

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