



NMS Document Released for Review

The National Monitoring Strategy Committee (NMSC) has released for review, the Draft National Monitoring Strategy Document. This Document was also announced by Stephen Page, OAQPS Director, on September 27. In the Director's announcement, the main changes outlined in the Document for the monitoring network were as follows:

- Move toward multi-pollutant monitoring under a new national design referred to as "NCore";
- Aggressive deployment of continuous monitoring and information transfer technologies for more timely reporting;
- Increase in hazardous air pollutant monitoring, and;

Revisions to existing monitoring regulations to initiate NCore and facilitate new technologies by moving to a performance-based system.

The Document also includes a comprehensive Executive Summary. Both the Summary and the Document can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/monitor.html> Comments are due to Brenda Millar at millar.brenda@epa.gov (or by letter to the address at the end of this newsletter) no later than December 1, 2002. All comments received will be reviewed by the NMSC prior to finalizing the Document.. (A listing of NMSC members can be found in the Summer 2002 newsletter.)

Workgroups Continue to Make Progress

The three NMSC working groups are making substantial headway toward changes needed to support the New Monitoring Strategy. The workgroups are comprised of representatives from both EPA and state and local agencies, and

have been meeting on a regular basis. The following summarizes their work to date:

Regulatory Reform

The Regulatory Review Group has completed their discussions about specific monitoring network design, and a draft text is being prepared this month. The agreed upon changes to 40 CFR 58 include the following: Replace the NAMS/SLAMS networks with the NCore Levels 2 and 3 networks, change the monitoring network requirements for each of the criteria pollutants, and modify the PAMS requirements. Within the criteria pollutants, a reduction of PM₁₀, SO₂, CO, and NO₂ requirements, modification of the O₃ and PM_{2.5} requirements, and the use of Pb and NO_y measurements to apply as indicators of trends, are being proposed. In addition, a re-write of the existing requirements so that they are more easily understood, will be accomplished. Monitoring issues related to the ongoing PM NAAQS review will not be addressed in this regulation, but will be addressed in later PM NAAQS proposals.

Details of the monitoring strategy regulatory changes will be made available to a wider audience of State, Local, and Tribal agencies shortly after the Regulatory Review Work Group reaches some closure on the draft. EPA estimates that a notice of proposed rule-making will be published in June 2003.

Quality Assurance

The QA Strategy Workgroup is addressing the need for criteria pollutant validation templates and has started working on changes to CFR part 58 Appendix A and B. Changes shall include update to current QA policy, providing language on adequate resource requirements, required participation in national audit programs, and adding fields to the Air Quality reporting system relative to defining "reporting organizations."

New Technology

A subworkgroup on information transfer technology (ITT) had their first meeting on November 18th, 2002. This workgroup was formed to identify and develop an initiative to support areas of ITT for the national monitoring strategy. The area of information technology has been examined within the larger Technology workgroup with initial performance specifications identified for NCore sites. The subworkgroup hopes to expand on that work with an initiative that can provide the specific information technology pieces for the strategy to be successful. More details on this work will be available in the coming months.

Outreach

Several NMSC members delivered key presentations over the last several months and are discussed below.

Bi-annual STAPPA/ALAPCO Air Directors' Meeting

Coinciding with the national release of the Draft National Monitoring Strategy Document, a presentation by NMSC members was given at the STAPPA/ALAPCO air directors' Fall Conference, held in Stowe, Vermont in October, 2002. Following the presentation, a panel session was held to address a variety of questions and concerns. In general, the basic tenets articulated in the strategy, were well received. Some questions regarding implementation and resources were raised. For example, some members described the problem of experiencing a financial drain due to redundant PM10/2.5 monitors. Other members endorsed the concept of using multi-pollutant approaches for measurement, and also discussed the need to sustain monitoring programs as critical to the new strategy. EPA assured the air directors that existing Section 105 funds were not a potential funding resource pool to support research grade, Level-1 NCore sites.

Meeting with the American Lung Association (ALA)

EPA and representatives from STAPPA/ALAPCO monitoring and communications committees met with the ALA and their consultants in mid-October, 2002 to provide details on the proposed Strategy and to solicit advice regarding communications to the public and other environmental organizations. The ALA appeared to

welcome enhanced dissemination of information to the public and continuous particulate matter monitoring. However, concerns were expressed with regard to potential problems caused by the removal of existing Federal Reference Methods, as well as complications resulting from attempting to accomplish too much under a near zero resource constraint. The eventual impact of these issues will remain as work proceeds in subsequent implementation stages. ALA clearly advocated for public involvement in network assessments and resulting recommendations, and provided suggestions for improving the communications approach.

Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)

A scientific peer review procedure using a new CASAC subcommittee is being established through EPA's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to review the Strategy. Fred Butterfield is EPA's designated Federal Official that will be handling the subcommittee's affairs. Phil Hopke of Clarkson University, who serves as the current CASAC chair, will also chair the new subcommittee, in addition to the established Particulate Matter Subcommittee which addresses several of the more technical components of the Strategy. The review process will begin in the last calendar quarter of 2002 to coincide with the public comment period on the Draft Strategy Document. EPA has requested that the CASAC subcommittee focus on design aspects of the Strategy, including NCore and the network assessment process.

For more information on the National Monitoring Strategy, please contact Sharon Nizich at 919/541-2825, or Rich Scheffe, at 919/541-4650.

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