

### Cross-Cutting Issues (Tuesday 1:30-3:00)

There are some topics that are not specific to one monitoring program or one type of activity and for which it behooves us to bring together the monitoring, QA, and data analysis communities. This session will cover topics that cut across the different PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitoring programs (mass, continuous, and speciation) and cut across the various activities (monitoring, QA, and data analysis). This session will be led by a panel comprised of people representing the monitoring community, the QA community, and the data analysis community. Topics will include:

- C Flagging of PM<sub>2.5</sub> data. Including flagged data in AIRS is a new concept. In order to maximize the amount of data submitted to AIRS and to have that data used in an appropriate manner by data analysts, it is important to have an understanding between the flaggers and those people using the flagged data as to what the flags mean. Items to be discussed include:
  - S Philosophical reason for flags.
  - S How to assign meaningful flags?
  - S Where to draw the line between “invalid” data and data of “uncertain” quality?
  - S How do data analysts interpret flags?
  - S How large a flagging system do we need/want? The fewer the number and choices of flags, the easier to assign them consistently but data quality assessments can only be done at these high summary levels of the flags. The more the number of flags, the harder to assign them consistently but the assessments will be able to pull out more information.
  - S How to maintain a flagging system as new flags need to be introduced and obsolete flags deleted?
  - S How to summarize the flags to report an overall quality of the data in AIRS?
  - S How to communicate the meaning of the flags and the overall quality?
  
- C AIRS.
  - S What kind of PM<sub>2.5</sub> data is currently in AIRS? (Mass, PEP, L1 parameters, continuous, speciation)
  - S What kind of PM<sub>2.5</sub> data will be going into AIRS in the future (and what is the time table)?
  - S Issues with summary reports that AIRS is currently providing? (E.g., precision and accuracy calculations in current AIRS do not reflect the new Appendix A calculations for PM<sub>2.5</sub>.)
  - S AQS has been selected by Congress for a database assessment. Three items to be evaluated include timeliness, completeness, and accuracy. The report is to be finalized by the end of July 2000.
  
- C Archival of PM<sub>2.5</sub> FRM Filters. CFR requires one-year archival of PM<sub>2.5</sub> FRM filters, after which time the Region has the authority to determine whether the filters can be thrown away. What should be done with these filters after the one year mark? Throwing them away may be throwing away valuable information. Chemical analysis of a few filters may provide information useful for the design of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> speciation network, for basic characterization of low, medium,

and high particulate days, and for understanding the regionality of the components of  $PM_{2.5}$  mass.