

Future Directions of Air Quality Programs

CAPCA

October 21, 2005

National Research Council Report - 2004

- Review of Air Quality Management (AQM) in the United States
- Recommendations for improving the system

Success to date

- Since 1970, GDP has increased 151%, VMT – 140%, energy consumption – 42%, and population – 39% and emissions of criteria pollutants have decreased by 25%
- Clear improvements in ozone from Regional Multistate NO_x Strategy and in PM_{2.5} from SO₂ reductions under the acid rain program
- Federal measures on mobile sources (on-road and off-road) have been a success.

The Challenges Ahead

- Meeting NAAQS for O₃ and PM_{2.5} and Reducing Regional Haze
- Designing and Implementing Controls for Hazardous Air Pollutants
- Protecting Human Health and Welfare in the Absence of a Threshold Exposure
- Ensuring Environmental Justice
- Assessing and Protecting Ecosystem Health
- Mitigating Intercontinental and Cross-Border Transport
- Maintaining AQM System Efficiency in the face of Changing Climate

Long-Term Objectives for AQM System to Meet Future Challenges

- **AQM System Should Strive To:**
 - Identify and Assess Most Significant Exposures, Risks, and Uncertainties
 - Take an Integrated Multipollutant Approach to Mitigating Most Significant Risks
 - Take an Airshed-Based Approach to Controlling Emissions
 - Emphasize Results Over Process, Create Accountability, and Dynamically Adjust

Recommended Changes to the AQM System

- Strengthen Scientific and Technical Capacity
- Expand National and Multistate Control Strategies
- Transform the SIP Process
- Develop Integrated Program for Criteria and Hazardous Air Pollutants
- Enhance Protection of Ecosystems and Other Public Welfare

THE MAJOR CONCEPTS FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

- Encourage a multi-pollutant focus, rather than our current stove-piped split between criteria pollutants and air toxics
- Better develop expertise and leadership in multi-pollutant, sector-based approaches
- Maintain and enhance our expertise in health and ecosystem protection
- Expand our involvement in areas like voluntary, innovative and community-based programs that some might view as non-traditional for OAQPS
- Improve communication and outreach, both internally and externally
 - Easy to understand points of contacts for all outside parties
- Accommodate our existing programs and enable us to build on our strengths and maintain our leadership.

IN A NEW STRUCTURE

- All Divisions will be Multi-pollutant
- Sector Focus is Clear
- Maintains our Technical Leadership
- Builds on Our Strengths, e.g. health, information, benefits, and national or regional strategies
- Makes a Place for New Directions and Approaches (innovation and voluntary programs)
- NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL