

Update on Visibility Milestone #3 Modeling and Future Actions for Ozone Modeling to Meet Pinedale Anticline SEIS ROD Requirements

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Overview

- **ROD Requirements for Air Quality Modeling**
- **Visibility Modeling for Milestone #3**
- **Ozone Modeling**
- **Tentative Schedules for Both Modeling Efforts**
- **Questions?**



ROD Requirements for Air Quality Modeling

- **Visibility**: The final goal for visibility is defined as Milestone #3 in Section 4.1.1 of the ROD:

Within 78 months [or by March 12, 2015] after signing of this ROD modeled project related visibility impacts will be no greater than 0 days of visibility impairment over 1 dv at the Bridger Wilderness Area.

- **Ozone**: Per Section 3.3 of the ROD:

WDEQ-AQD will develop the technical capability to model the formation of ozone in the Upper Green River Basin. When that capability is in place, WDEQ-AQD will establish emission control strategies for VOCs and NO_x which are sufficient (with an adequate margin of safety) to prevent unhealthy ozone levels.



ROD Requirements for Air Quality Modeling

- **Ozone (continued)**: Per Section 4.1.2 of the ROD:

BLM, in consultation with WDEQ-AQD and EPA, will ensure that new modeling conducted and funded by the Operators, includes all WDEQ BACT requirements and a sensitivity analysis to determine appropriate reductions in ozone precursor emissions.



Visibility Modeling

- The BLM held two meetings with the Operators, WDEQ-AQD, and EPA to begin the planning phase of the visibility (and ozone) modeling:
 - February 23, 2012
 - March 20, 2012
- **February 23, 2012 meeting discussed the following key topics:**
 - Visibility and ozone modeling would be conducted separately but would be concurrent.
 - The CALPUFF model would be used for visibility, which is consistent with the model used in the SEIS.
 - Due to firm schedule for Milestone #3 (5th annual planning meeting, August 2013), visibility modeling would be high priority.
 - Scheduled protocol planning meeting, which occurred on March 20, 2012.



Visibility Modeling

March 20, 2012 meeting discussed the following key topics:

- An updated version of the CALPUFF model would be evaluated that corrects known bugs in the model and employs updated science used to estimate visibility impacts
- Based on this evaluation, a decision will be made regarding the version of CALPUFF to use for the ROD modeling
- The latest Federal Land Manager guidance will be followed for calculating visibility impacts, which has changed since the SEIS modeling
- Updated meteorological data will be used to drive the CALPUFF model
- The Operators will provide a 2015 emissions scenario for modeling to determine if project related visibility impacts are no greater than 0 days of visibility impairment over 1 dv at the Bridger Wilderness Area



Ozone Modeling

February 23, 2012 meeting discussed the following key topics:

- The CAMx model will be used, which is consistent with the model used in the SEIS.
- Winter ozone was not modeled in the SEIS due to lack of a model capable of simulating winter ozone formation in the Upper Green River Basin.
- The WDEQ-AQD is currently developing the capability to model winter-time ozone formation.
- ROD modeling will consist of summer ozone only, consistent with what was modeled in the SEIS.



Ozone Modeling

March 20, 2012 meeting discussed the following key topics:

- Modeling will use data currently being used for other NEPA projects in the area.
- Sensitivity scenarios will be defined during the protocol development phase. Modeling the sensitivity scenarios will be conducted after model performance tests have been finalized.
- Sensitivity scenarios will be run to assess compliance with the 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone, which is currently 75 parts per billion.



Tentative Schedules

Visibility:

- Decision on model version will be made this summer, or early fall at the latest
- Modeling protocol to be prepared this summer
- Identify by the end of 2012 if additional mitigation is necessary
- Re-model with additional mitigation in early 2013
- Present final report addressing Milestone #3 at the August 2013 annual planning meeting

Ozone:

- Review of Pinedale Anticline emissions inventory for the model performance evaluation base year to be done this summer
- Remaining tasks for developing sensitivity scenarios, and subsequent modeling, are dependent on schedules and availability of data sets for other NEPA projects in the region.



Questions?

