

## This Month at NESCAUM November 2012

### Climate and Energy

**Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy:** NESCAUM staff provided support to the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) at a technical meeting on the transportation sector analysis within Connecticut's Comprehensive Energy Strategy in Hartford on November 14. Contact: Michelle Manion at [mmanion@nescaum.org](mailto:mmanion@nescaum.org).

**Electricity Markets Training:** On October 22-23, NESCAUM hosted a training session on electricity markets at its Boston office location in The Non-Profit Center. Dr. Frank Felder from Rutgers University provided an in-depth presentation of the physical properties of electricity grids and the economics of electricity markets, as well as some coverage of emerging policy issues specific to the Northeast. Contact: Michelle Manion at [mmanion@nescaum.org](mailto:mmanion@nescaum.org).

### Mobile Sources

**CARB Clean Car Waiver Request:** Working with the NESCAUM Mobile Source Committee, NESCAUM developed and submitted comments to EPA on October 19 in support of California's request for a federal preemption waiver of its Advanced Clean Car Program. The final comments are posted on NESCAUM's website at <http://www.nescaum.org/documents/nescaum-epa-ca-waiver-request-comments-20121019.pdf>. Contact: Matt Solomon at [msolomon@nescaum.org](mailto:msolomon@nescaum.org).

### Policy

**Beyond Sulfate Options for Continuing PM<sub>2.5</sub> and Visibility Progress:** On November 5, MANE-VU circulated to the MANE-VU members a first draft of a summary report prepared by NESCAUM entitled *Beyond Sulfate: Maintaining Progress towards Visibility and Health Goals*. The draft is under a task for MANE-VU to begin framing long-term emissions management options that look at regional carbonaceous PM<sub>2.5</sub> (organic and elemental) and NO<sub>x</sub> sources for visibility and PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS planning purposes to build upon SO<sub>2</sub> measures. MANE-VU is requesting comments on the draft by Monday, November 26, with a goal of finalizing the document by December 14. Contact: Paul Miller at [pmiller@nescaum.org](mailto:pmiller@nescaum.org).

**Energy Efficiency Training and Workshop in North Carolina:** On October 23 and 24, NESCAUM facilitated a two-day training and workshop to explore air and energy coordination opportunities in NC. Nearly 60 people participated from NC's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, State Energy Office, and Utility Commission. Representatives from EPA's OAP, OAQPS, and Region 4 also attended. NESCAUM worked with Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), EPA, and NC to develop this successful program. The NC Board of Professional Engineers and Surveyors allowed for up to 12 credits for eligible attendees. Contacts: Leah Weiss at [lweiss@nescaum.org](mailto:lweiss@nescaum.org) and Allison Guerette at [aguerette@nescaum.org](mailto:aguerette@nescaum.org).

**Residential Wood Combustion National Educational Forum:** NESCAUM convened the national education forum on the Residential Wood Heater New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) on November 8 in Minneapolis, MN. The Forum was co-sponsored by CENSARA, LADCO, MARAMA, NESCAUM, and WESTAR, and brought together stakeholders from industry, public interest groups, and federal, state, and local environmental, energy and health agencies to share the latest technical information on impacts, technologies, and other issues regarding residential wood combustion.

NESCAUM has set up a web tool to continue the discussions started at this meeting. Contact: Lisa Rector at [lrector@nescaum.org](mailto:lrector@nescaum.org).

### Science and Technology

**Nitrogen Dioxide Near-Road Monitoring Implementation Schedule:** On October 19, the Federal Register notice appeared for EPA's proposed changes to the nitrogen dioxide implementation schedule for near-road monitoring sites. NESCAUM has drafted comments for review by the air directors in support of the proposal's phased implementation schedule of the monitoring requirements, which is consistent with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's Ambient Air Monitoring & Methods Subcommittee recommendation to EPA in 2010. Details on the new schedule and proposed rule are at <http://www.epa.gov/air/nitrogenoxides/actions.html>. The comment deadline is November 19. Contact: George Allen at [gallen@nescaum.org](mailto:gallen@nescaum.org).

**National Weather Service (NWS) Proposal to Terminate Air Quality Forecasting:** Due to budgetary constraints, NWS is proposing to terminate ozone and fine particulate matter air quality predictions using the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model at the National Centers for Environmental Prediction. This would go in effect during in the first quarter of 2013. At the request of state forecasters, NESCAUM is considering preparing comments on the termination proposal. There are currently other air quality forecast model predictions available, but the best air quality forecast relies on multiple models, and the NWS products are a core component of the NESCAUM states' forecast toolbox. Comments are due by November 26. Contact: George Allen at [gallen@nescaum.org](mailto:gallen@nescaum.org).

### Committee Updates

**Air Toxics & Public Health (ATPH) Committee:** The ATPH Committee has scheduled its annual meeting for November 27-28, 2012 in Saratoga Springs, NY. If you are interested in attending or would like additional information, please contact Heidi Hales. The committee also continues to host monthly conference calls. Contact: Heidi Hales at [Heidi.Hales@state.vt.us](mailto:Heidi.Hales@state.vt.us).

**Attainment Planning Committee (APC):** The APC held a call on November 7. Issues discussed were: public comments on NJ's draft PM<sub>2.5</sub> redesignation request; thoughts on withdrawing ozone attainment SIPs per EPA's request; update on the energy efficiency SIPs pilot projects; the need for SO<sub>2</sub> guidance; EPA's draft PM Advance policy; input on NESCAUM's draft document on non-sulfate strategy options for maintaining PM<sub>2.5</sub> and visibility improvement progress; and training needs. The APC's next call will be on December 5. Contact: Leah Weiss at [lweiss@nescaum.org](mailto:lweiss@nescaum.org).

**Energy Efficiency/Air Quality (EE/AQ) Planning Workgroup:** On November 20, the Regulatory Assistance Project will present the fourth module in NESCAUM's training series, "Measuring the Air Quality Impacts of Energy Efficiency." This module was initially scheduled for October 30 but was postponed due to Hurricane Sandy. Module 4 introduced opportunities for air quality regulators to engage in energy efficiency measurement forums.

On November 27, the EE/AQ Workgroup will hold its next call. Discussion topics will include: launching the EE Avoided Emissions Methodology project and the EE in SIPs project. Contacts: Leah Weiss at [lweiss@nescaum.org](mailto:lweiss@nescaum.org) and Allison Guerette at [aguerette@nescaum.org](mailto:aguerette@nescaum.org).

**Heavy-Duty Diesel Workgroup:** Pursuant to Section 610 of the Federal Regulatory Flexibility Act, EPA is undertaking review of the Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards and Highway Diesel Fuel Sulfur

Control Requirements. These regulations were adopted in 2001 and took effect for highway diesel fuel in 2006 and for heavy-duty engines, beginning with the 2007 model year. The Section 610 review is geared toward assessing the economic impact on small entities. EPA must decide whether to continue the regulation in its current form, amend it, or withdraw it. EPA has published a Federal Register notice, requesting comments by no later than December 31, 2012. The Heavy-Duty Workgroup presently is reviewing the notice and considering its potential implications. If appropriate, the Workgroup will develop and distribute draft comments to the air directors for review prior to submittal to the docket. Contact: Eric Skelton at [eskelton@nescaum.org](mailto:eskelton@nescaum.org).

**Monitoring and Assessment Committee (MAC):** On November 8 and 9, the MAC held its fall meeting in Glens Falls, NY. Agenda items included: PAMS, airport lead, and near-road monitoring; problems with the Thermo sequential PM sampler; “Citizen Science” and EPA’s Next-Generation Monitoring workshop; and wood smoke studies. Contact: George Allen at [gallen@nescaum.org](mailto:gallen@nescaum.org).

**Permit Modeling Committee (PMC):** The PMC holds its next quarterly call on December 6 at 10am. Contact Leiran Biton at [lbiton@nescaum.org](mailto:lbiton@nescaum.org) with suggestions for agenda items or questions relevant to the PMC.