

This Month at NESCAUM July 2018

Policy

EPA Proposal on Considering Costs and Benefits in Rulemaking: On June 20, NESCAUM sent EPA [a request](#) to extend the comment deadline for an additional 90 days and to hold a public hearing on its proposed rule “Increasing Consistency and Transparency in Considering Costs and Benefits in the Rulemaking Process” (83 *Fed. Reg.* 27524). The original proposal had a 30 day comment period ending on July 13. On July 2, EPA announced a 30 day extension of the comment period to August 13 while not indicating it would hold a public hearing. NESCAUM has now drafted comments on EPA’s proposal and circulated them for review to the Attainment Planning Committee and the Air Toxics and Public Health Committee, with a response deadline of July 20. After receiving committee responses, NESCAUM will circulate the revised draft for final NESCAUM director review prior to submittal. Contact: [Paul Miller](#).

Climate and Energy

NEEP Strategic Electrification Workshop: On June 28, Paul Miller attended the “NEEP Strategic Electrification Leadership Forum Kick-off Meeting” in NYC. NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships) is facilitating a series of meetings and webinars among Northeast stakeholders to think about coordinated and constructive approaches towards electrifying transportation and residential/commercial thermal loads while decarbonizing the electric grid in order to meet the Northeast region’s GHG mitigation goals. Contact: [Paul Miller](#).

Mobile Sources

EV Roadmap: On June 19 and 20, NESCAUM staff and representatives from the Multi-State ZEV Task Force attended the EV Roadmap national conference on electric and smart mobility to showcase the new Multi-State ZEV Action Plan and to share lessons learned from Task Force work on transportation electrification. Hosted by Forth Mobility in Portland, OR, this year’s event included a diverse set of 900 plus participants from the public and private sector. A special session to introduce conference participants to the purpose and content of the new ZEV Action plan was delivered by Task Force representatives Peg Hanna (NJ), Leslie Barody (CA), Linda Benevides (MA), and Cory-Ann Wind (OR). The session was very well attended and 200 copies of the Action Plan were distributed to the partners and stakeholder in the audience. Elaine O’Grady and Sarah McKearnan from NESCAUM also presented on panel sessions addressing the coordination of electric vehicle charging infrastructure investments and state electrification policies respectively. Contact: [Sarah McKearnan](#).

NASEO Presentation: On June 25, at NASEO’s mid-Atlantic regional meeting in Hershey, PA, Kathy Kinsey participated on a panel discussion about current regional electric vehicle initiatives. She spoke about the joint state/industry funded brand-neutral consumer outreach campaign, *Drive Change. Drive Electric*. Contact: [Kathy Kinsey](#).

Northeast Corridor Regional Strategy for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: On June 27, NESCAUM held a Northeast Corridor Steering Committee call to discuss implementation of the regional strategy. During the call, representatives from the Northeast Corridor states identified two or three actions from the regional strategy that their state is actively working on or planning to tackle over the course of the next year. The Steering Committee also discussed which actions in the regional strategy might benefit most from collaboration, such as workgroups on interoperability and permit streamlining and the development of outreach materials for home charging, workplace charging, and potential site owners. In addition, NESCAUM will provide a forum through regular calls and reference tools that will allow the Northeast Corridor states to share information with respect to implementing regional strategy actions. The next Steering Committee call will be held in conjunction with the ZEV Task Force call on September 6. Contact: [Elaine O’Grady](#).

Multi-State ZEV Action Plan: 2018 – 2021: The new [Action Plan](#), developed this winter and spring by the Multi-State ZEV Task Force with assistance from NESCAUM, was officially released on Wednesday, June 20. The rollout included media outreach via a joint [press release](#) issued by the Task Force states with quotes from multiple state governors, state-specific press releases, and a media teleconference for journalists with three of the states’ environmental and energy agency commissioners and deputy commissioners. A large [article](#) was published in the Wall Street Journal, followed by articles in multiple online publications. The Plan rollout also included a special conference session on the Action Plan at Forth Mobility’s national EV Roadmap conference. Contact: [Sarah McKernan](#).

Science and Technology

Air & Waste Management Association 111th Annual Conference and Exhibition: On June 26, Mahdi Ahmadi presented on two NYSERDA-funded studies at the Air & Waste Management Association’s 111th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Hartford, CT. The presentation topics were “Investigating Mercury and other Trace Elements in Home Heating Oil Used in New York State” and “Analysis of Stack Temperature Data to Identify Real-Life Use Pattern of Wood Burning Devices.” Contact: [Mahdi Ahmadi](#).

EPA Proposed Rule on Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science: In May, NESCAUM revised its draft comments on EPA’s proposed rule “Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science” (83 *Fed. Reg.* 18768) in response to revisions sent by members of the Attainment Planning Committee and the Air Toxics and Public Health Committee. NESCAUM then sent the final draft to the directors for review on May 21. Subsequently, in response to numerous requests – including [one from NESCAUM](#), EPA extended the comment period until August 13 and is holding a public hearing in DC on July 17. Paul Miller of NESCAUM will present testimony at the DC hearing based on the revised final comments that incorporate additional changes received from the directors. Contact: [Paul Miller](#).

Long Island Sound Tropospheric Ozone Study (LISTOS) Update: During June 29-July 2, the NYC metro region saw a significant ozone episode, with observed high one-hour and eight-hour

average ozone concentrations north of NYC not seen in the region in over a decade. LISTOS participants were in the field throughout the episode taking measurements from the air (NASA, University of Maryland, Stony Brook University, University at Albany), ground (NOAA-Boulder, University at Albany, EPA, City College of New York), and boat (CT DEEP on Long Island Sound ferry), with VOC canister analysis provided by NYS DEC and ME DEP. Several LISTOS participants were also in the field for a later ozone episode during July 8-10 over Long Island Sound. A large amount of information was obtained and discussions are now underway on ways to provide to the states the analyzed results as they become available. Contact: [Paul Miller](#).

Committee Updates

Air Toxics and Public Health (ATPH) Committee: The last monthly ATPH Committee call was held on June 21. The Committee discussed a new project focused on reporting air toxic trends found in the northeast region. The July ATPH Committee call has been canceled. The next call is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, at 2 pm. Contact: [Kara Murphy](#).

Attainment and Planning Committee (APC): The next NESCAUM APC monthly call is Wednesday August 1 at 2 pm. The July meeting has been canceled. Please send any agenda items to [George Allen](#).

Enforcement and Compliance Committee: The Committee held its quarterly call on July 10. The group began working on comments on the Information Collection Request (ICR) for reporting air compliance and enforcement data to EPA. The group also discussed upcoming initiatives and preparing for an in-person meeting. Contact: [Lisa Rector](#).

Permit Modeling Committee (PMC): The monthly PMC call was held on June 21 during which the state and EPA members presented their updates. NESCAUM gave an update on the logistics of the PMC annual meeting to be held on September 20-21 at the Rutgers University Eco-Complex in NJ. Draft notes prepared by NH staff from EPA's 2018 Regional, State, and Local Modelers' Workshop were circulated among the PMC members. Contact: [Mahdi Ahmadi](#).

Training

To access the most recent NESCAUM Training Schedule and Grant Expense Report, please click [here](#). Contact: [Kara Murphy](#).