

NESCAUM Permit Modeling Committee Quarterly Call
March 2, 2006

NESCAUM's Permit Modeling Committee (PMC) held a conference call on March 2, 2006 at 10:00 AM. These notes provide a summary of the key issues discussed and recommendations from the group.

Call Participants – *The following PMC members were in attendance on the call:*
Kevin Ostrowski (ME), Tom Downs (ME), Lisa Landry (NH), Beth Eliason (VT), Steve Dennis (MA), Vito Aznotti (sp?) (NY), Phil Galvin (NY), Margaret Valis (NY), Bob Gaza (NY), Elvira Brankov (NY), Brian Hennessey (EPA R1), and Gary Kleiman (NESCAUM).

Agenda – *The following items were on the agenda for discussion:*

- (1) Spring Meeting in May/June: potential visit from Tyler Fox – Gary Kleiman
- (2) Rotation of Committee Chairmanship

1. Spring Meeting – *Gary Kleiman*

Gary reviewed the dates and locations which are possible for holding a two-day meeting of the committee. The first choice is May 30-June 1: 10:30-4:30 on Day 1 and 8-12 on Day 2. The location discussed was the Public House in Sturbridge, MA. After we put this out via email and get a sense of the committee, and check with Tyler Fox for his availability, we will try to get a reservation and block rooms.

A backup date was selected for June 7-8 if the week of May 29th does not work.

Agenda items for the meeting were discussed and a “strawman” agenda is included as Appendix 1. One item of interest included responses to the AERMOD questions that we provided to R1 and R2 in December. These questions are attached as Appendix 2.

2. Rotation of Committee Chair – *Kevin Ostrowski*

Kevin pointed out that the annual meeting presents an opportunity for rotating committee chairmanship. The current co-chairs are CT and ME. Following the historical alphabetical rotation order, this means that CT will rotate off as co-chair and MA will rotate on as a new co-chair. The co-chairs will have joint responsibility (along with me) for developing meeting/call agendas, identifying speakers and coordination of workgroup activities to the extent that is needed. Let me know if any of the other states have feedback on this process or these roles.

See you in May/June and enjoy the State/Local/Regional Modeling conference for those who are going to attend. See attached Appendices and send any feedback on the agenda to me.

Appendix 1.

NESCAUM Permit Modeling Committee Annual Meeting Agenda

Proposed Dates: May 30-June 1
Proposed Location: Sturbridge MA

Day 1

- 10:30 am Introductions/Meeting Objectives/Agenda Review – Kevin/Steve/Gary
- 11:00 Review of State/Local Modelers Workshop: May 16-19 in San Diego –
Ian Cohen, Brian Hennessey, Other participants.
(Maybe save 15-20 min to run through key slides/powerpoints from the meeting?)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Presentation of CALPUFF, REMSAD and data analysis work being done
for BART-eligible sources – Gary Kleiman
- 1:30 RAIMI project/report out of March 21-23 workshop - ??(who's going?)
- 2:00 Status of AEROMOD/Implementation of AERMOD – Tyler Fox, OAQPS
- 3:00 Roundtable discussion with Tyler Fox on regional modeling issues
- Responses to questions posed in Appendix 2
 - OAQPS liaison?
 - Other issues??
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- 4:30 Adjourn

Day 2

- 8:00 Continental breakfast
- 8:30 States Roundtable: Permitting issues/projects currently on the plate of
each state's staff – All States
- 10:00 Additional agenda topics?
- 11:00 Additional agenda topics?
- 12:00-12:30 Adjourn

Appendix 2.

AERMOD/AERSCREEN/AERSURFACE Questions for EPA Region I and II – December 13, 2005

What types of applications will require the use of AERMOD after December 9, 2006? PSD source permits? Major sources of NAAQS to be constructed or modified in attainment and non-attainment areas?

Can modeling applications for minor source permits of NAAQS pollutants continue to use ISC3 and/or SCREEN3 after December 9, 2006? What about minor sources of air toxic pollutants?

What type of terrain data and land use will be recommended for AERMOD applications? Will EPA provide a web page and provide user guidance for downloading terrain elevation data and land use data?

If surface wind data from a representative NWS station is to be employed, should land use data at the NWS station also be used when running AERMET, even if land use is significantly at the location of the source to be modeled?

When will a guideline AERSCREEN model be available? Will a user guide also be provided, including recommended 3 hour, 24 hour seasonal and annual scaling factors? How will local terrain data and land use data be obtained and used in AERSCREEN?

Assuming AERSCREEN is available after December 9, 2006, can AERSCREEN be used instead of AERMOD to demonstrate compliance with NAAQS or air toxic pollutants?

What would an acceptable AERSCREEN compliance demonstration consist of?

Will guidance be forthcoming regarding receptor spacing in AERMOD? With near-wake impacts being calculated with the PRIME algorithm, a receptor spacing such as 10m or 20m will be needed near buildings.

Will there be further guidance regarding the extent of the domain in AERMAP?

AERMAP uses a 2-dimensional distance weighted interpolation to determine receptor elevations. Is this acceptable given current EPA guidance on using the highest elevation within a representative area (i.e., maximum elevation in a grid square)?

Can higher resolution land-use data be used in AERSURFACE?

Will AERSURFACE be required for use with AERMOD or can a higher resolution data set be used?

Can data sets other than from USGS be used in AERSCREEN (for example using a data set developed by a university)?

How much flexibility do states have to modify the land use tables contained in the AERMET User's Guide (Tables 4-1 to 4-3)?