

FOR  
AIR COM  
CONF  
CALL

## PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR AIR INDICATORS

### Air Indicators:

#5. Number of days and number of Pennsylvanians affected when air quality does not meet health standards

# 9a – Quantity of pollutants released to the air

# 10 – Annual mean pH of Pennsylvania's precipitation

**Reduce NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, mercury, particulate and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from major stationary sources, particularly electric generating units (which will also reduce ozone, haze, nitrogen deposition, acid precipitation, mercury deposition and affect energy efficiency).**

- Decrease emissions of SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, and particulates by encouraging use of alternate energy sources and innovative control technologies for fossil-fueled sources.
- Decrease haze, ozone and fine particles by developing state implementation plans to
  - attain the fine particulate standard (date uncertain);
  - attain the eight-hour ozone standard (date uncertain); and
  - meet the EPA regional Haze Rule by 2008 (for implementation by 2011, – 2013).These plans would include inventories of all contributors, modeling, stationary source strategies, and evaluation of monitoring data.
- Decrease haze by increasing public and industrial education and awareness.
- Continue implementing NO<sub>x</sub> SIP call with expected NO<sub>x</sub> reductions of 47,000 tons per ozone season by 2003. Support continued timely implementation of the Section 126 finding by EPA concerning transport from outside the region.
- Retain a field staff that is familiar with regulations and industry best management practices.
- Base Program\* – Continue enforcement for compliance with current regulations and permit conditions.
- Base Program\* - Continue to implement the permitting program.
- Base Program\* - Continue to support and enforce federal programs and regulations and develop state programs, as necessary.
- Base Program\* - Continue to implement and enforce the federal air toxics program.

**Contribute to closing the “data gap” between emissions, ambient conditions and health effects. Improve data management, ambient monitoring capabilities and partnerships with health organizations in order to accomplish these goals.**

- Enhance environmental monitoring systems within 7 years to enable better analysis of health effects.

- Educate the public about the benefits of low environmental impact consumer products and paints.
- Develop educational materials and programs on small area sources for use by industry, small business, watershed groups, distributors, local governments and field staff.
- Decrease precursor emissions by educating public about the negative effects of ozone and encouraging conservation, product substitution and elimination when possible. This would include mobile sources.

**Increase the sharing of information among air and water researchers and policymakers to address deposition priorities.**

- Develop increased water/environmental quality monitoring of headwater streams within the next two years to build a database of streams most affected by direct acid rain precipitation. The location and number of streams sampled should reflect conditions within all regions of the state. Chemical and biological sampling should be frequent enough to describe the natural temporal and spatial variability.
- Increase the sharing of information between acid rain researchers to facilitate the development of models that accurately describe acid rain conditions between monitoring sites.
- Revise indicator #10 to reflect the variability and seasonality of precipitation\*\*.

*\* Environmental Action Plans will not be developed for base programs.*

*\*\* Revision of indicators will take place after the first planning cycle through a statewide task force.*

Full reports:

[www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) and choose subjects, environmental futures planning process

OR

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/efp2/>

[http://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/efp2/reports/statewide/Central\\_Office\\_Bureaus.htm](http://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/efp2/reports/statewide/Central_Office_Bureaus.htm)

Summary of items raised during 7/9 Air Committee conference call:

Indicator #5:

- Need to do more to keep the public informed about air quality and health impacts; the report card will help, but need more specifically for air. This may be handled under the Stewardship goal, but should be given consideration here.
- Need an objective regarding maintaining existing air quality; the 21<sup>st</sup> Century report states that one of the air quality goals should be to *"Ensure that all of Pennsylvania meets the health-based air quality standards and protect and maintain those areas where air quality presently satisfies or exceeds the health-based standards."* Indicator #5 measures the first part of this goal, but doesn't measure the second at all. We need to establish baselines of where we currently are with air quality in all parts of Pennsylvania (not just those areas that have exceedences) and protect/maintain those areas that are already in good shape.
- This indicator only measures human impacts; we should go beyond this and also address ecological effects; need an objective dealing with ecological impacts, and need to give consideration to adding such an indicator in the second round of the process.
- Need to address long-range transport issues; need a LR transport objective.

Indicator #9:

- Why wasn't mercury included in the 10 "most toxic" hazardous air pollutants list used in the report? While the primary impact is to water quality through deposition, the primary source is smokestacks, so it needs to be addressed by both air and water, not delegated just to water.
- The report ignores vehicle miles traveled; even though the model is still under development, should go ahead and use a gross estimate of the impact of vehicles based on VMT in this year's calculation.
- Page 30—should include a discussion of why there is a problem with global warming; the current text makes it sound like DEP thinks the expected impacts are all beneficial.
- How will indoor air quality be handled? Not sure that handling it under indicator #5 makes the most sense.

Indicator #10:

- PH alone doesn't measure the impact; it ignores buffering ability, doesn't include dry deposition, or differentiate between wet and dry seasons.
- The maps included are in black and white, not color, making it impossible to differentiate between the two extremes that are supposed to be illustrated. The Committee requested color maps for further review.
- Re: cation exchange in Appendix A: can staff overlay information on annual pH and sulfur ion concentration maps over geological/soil maps to incorporate an area's ability to buffer acid deposition? Staff indicated they would look into this possibility.

General:

- How will indicators and objectives be qualified to take into account factors such as weather and the economy that will clearly affect air quality?