Powder River Basin Interagency Working Group
Air Quality Task Group – Work Plan

This work plan outlines the strategies that will be used to achieve the work goals defined in the Air Quality Task Group Charter. The work plan will include for each task: objective, responsibilities, needs/equipment, costs, and sequencing. Expected completion dates for sequencing tasks are included in a timetable attachment that can be revised as needed.

In addition to the tasks outlined below, the Air Quality Task Group will provide review and technical assistance on any current and future air quality issues that may arise from coal bed natural gas development. The request may come from either the Interagency Coordinating Committee or the Interagency Working Group and should be consistent with their charters.

Task A1: Assessment of existing monitoring

Objective: To assess existing ambient air quality monitoring in the Powder River Basin and vicinity (including areas of Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota). This will include summarizing and mapping all participating agencies' ambient monitors and assessing the need for additional ambient air monitoring in the area.

Responsibilities: It will be the responsibility of each agency to report specifics of ambient air quality monitors sponsored by their agency to a delegated member of the task group;

The delegated member will be responsible for compiling a summary and a map of ambient monitors (subject to review by Air Task group members);

The delegated member will also be responsible for coordination with UW GIS Center to produce a GIS mapping layer of ambient air quality monitors for the CBM Clearinghouse website mapping program;

All agencies will be expected to participate in discussion/formulation of needs for additional ambient monitoring and making data available to users.

All agencies will also be expected to explain any difficulties and identify any obstacles that may be encountered when assessing the need for additional ambient monitoring.

Needs/equipment: Anticipated needs for this task are participant time, travel and computer use. These will be provided for through in-kind support of agencies participating in the Air Quality Task Group.

Costs: Costs expected for this task are associated with participant time, travel and computer use. These costs will be provided for through in-kind support of each agency participating in the Air Quality Task group.

Sequencing: Task group delegates a member to complete map/summary;

Specifics for each agency's ambient monitors due to the delegated member;

Ambient monitor summary and map go out for task group review;

Comments due back to the delegated member;

Presentation of final summary and map and discussion of additional ambient monitoring needs at AQ task group meeting;

Summarize and present additional ambient monitoring needs at the following IWG meeting.

Task A2: Development of a methodology for establishment of baseline emission inventories for Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) increment analyses and analyses of Air Quality Related Values (AQRVs)

Objective: Develop a methodology for producing PSD baseline emission inventories. This methodology will ensure consistency and comparability between States' baseline inventories used for PSD and AQRV analyses.

Responsibilities: All agencies will participate in the discussion and development of specifics for the methodology. The state environmental agencies (WDEQ, MDEQ, SD-DENR) will be responsible for knowledge of source information availability and agency archives.

All agencies will be expected to explain any difficulties and identify any obstacles that may be encountered when discussing the methodology for producing PSD baseline emission inventories for increment and AQRV analysis.

Needs/equipment: Anticipated needs for this task are participant time, travel and computer use. These will be provided for through in-kind support of agencies participating in the Air Quality Task Group.

Costs: Costs expected for this task are associated with participant time, travel and computer use. These costs will be provided for through in-kind support of each agency participating in the Air Quality Task group.

Sequencing: Identification of other baseline inventory efforts;
Identify obstacles for this task;
Identify incremental steps to judge progress;
Discussion of methodology;
Produce report on methodology.

Task A3: Development of a strategy for assessing and mitigating cumulative impacts (PSD increments and AQRVs) in impacted Class I and other affected Class II areas.

Objective: To develop a strategy for assessing and mitigating cumulative impacts from CBM development in the PRB vicinity. This strategy will ensure consistency and comparability between States' cumulative impacts assessments, such as PSD increment and AQRV analyses.

Responsibilities: All agencies will participate in the discussion and development of specifics for the strategy. The state environmental agencies (WDEQ, MDEQ, SD-DENR) will be responsible for knowledge of source information availability and agency archives.

All agencies will be expected to explain any difficulties and identify any obstacles that may be encountered when discussing the strategy for assessing and mitigating cumulative impacts (PSD increments and AQRVs).

Needs/equipment: Anticipated needs for this task are participant time, travel and computer use. These will be provided for through in-kind support of agencies participating in the Air Quality Task Group.

Costs: Costs expected for this task are associated with participant time, travel and computer use. These costs will be provided for through in-kind support of each agency participating in the Air Quality Task group.

Sequencing: Identify other efforts similar to this task;
Identify obstacles for this task;
Identify incremental steps to judge progress;
Discussion of strategy;
Produce report on strategy.

Task A4: Identification of existing models and recommendations on appropriate uses, including the development of modeling protocols for use.

Objective: To develop recommendations on uses of various types of models for the purpose of air quality impact assessment from CBM development in the PRB vicinity. Additionally, the group will develop written protocols for use with the recommended models.

Responsibilities: All agencies will participate in the discussion and development of specifics for the strategy.

All agencies will be expected to explain any difficulties or limitations created when recommending the use of any model.

Needs/equipment: Anticipated needs for this task are participant time, travel and computer use. These will be provided for through in-kind support of agencies participating in the Air Quality Task Group.

Costs: Costs expected for this task are associated with participant time, travel and computer use. These costs will be provided for through in-kind support of each agency participating in the Air Quality Task group.

Sequencing: Identify existing models;
Make recommendations on appropriate uses;
Develop protocols;
Finalize protocols.

Task A5: Provide an on-going assessment of best available control technology analyses.

Objectives: To provide information on the most current best available control technology (BACT) analyses from CBM production and related activities in the PRB.

Responsibilities: MDEQ and WDEQ will be responsible for providing current results from BACT analyses performed during permitting processes. A delegated member of the task group will be responsible for quarterly updates of BACT analyses and making summaries available to other AQ Task Group participants.

Needs/equipment: Anticipated needs for this task are participant time, travel and computer use. These will be provided for through in-kind support of agencies participating in the Air Quality Task Group.

Costs: Costs expected for this task are associated with participant time, travel and computer use. These costs will be provided for through in-kind support of each agency participating in the Air Quality Task group.

Sequencing: Due to the nature of the BACT process, State permitting agencies are continually performing BACT analyses. Other tasks include:
Delegate member to perform task;
Produce “report” format;
Update “report” on determined schedule (i.e. monthly, quarterly, etc.).