



Fairbanks Fine Particulate Matter Air Quality: Developing a Community Plan

Discussion with Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
Committee of the Whole Work Session

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Purpose

- Discussion on air quality plan -State Implementation Plan (SIP)
 - Community's wants and needs
- Federal Requirement
- Options and consequences
- Status - Key components of SIP– no surprises
 - Natural Gas/LNG
 - Heating Device Change Out Program
 - Best Burning Practices/Dry Wood
- Success will be dependent on Community's acceptance and implementation of final plan



A Complete Moderate Area SIP – What is it?

- A moderate area designation must meet all Federal Clean Air Act requirements
 - Majority must be enforceable –i.e. not just voluntary compliance
 - Must have contingency measures
 - Must have an episode plan
 - Must either demonstrate attainment by 12/31/2015 or demonstrate why it is **impracticable** to attain by the attainment date
 - Must show that all reasonable measures both at stationary sources and within community are being used
 - Must meet all technical requirements (modeling)
 - Must be submitted by 12/31/2014



Impracticable SIP

- Plan being developed cannot demonstrate attainment by 2015
- Federal Rules allow submittal of an ‘impracticable’ SIP –but must provide reasons why community cannot meet 2015
 - Time needed to get natural gas into community
 - Challenging meteorological conditions (inversion strength, length, extremely cold temperatures)
 - Locally unacceptable control measures (burn bans)
 - Economic, safety and social concerns



Options and Consequences

Do Not Submit
A SIP

- EPA will file a “Failure to Submit”
- Sanction clock started
- 18 months later sanctions in effect
- Federal Implementation Plan start soon after

Federal Plan

Submit “Impracticable”
SIP

Incomplete/Inadequate

- EPA identifies inadequacies
- Sanction clock started
- 18 months to update Moderate SIP for deficiencies

State Plan

Complete/Adequate

- EPA has 6 months to determine completeness
- EPA begins process to approve SIP
- Committed measures in SIP implemented



Key Components of the SIP – No Surprises

- Expand the availability of natural gas in the area
 - Progress being made
- Promote the installation of cleaner burning wood heaters
 - Local change out program
- Use best burning practices and seasoned, dry wood
 - Balance economically heating homes and healthy air
 - Save money
 - Make it easy for consumer to burn cleanly & efficiently



Dry Wood, Energy Logs, Visible Emissions

- Allowed continued use of solid-fuel fired heaters
 - Education/Burn Wise Alaska
 - Knowledgeable buyers of wood (identify and use reputable wood sellers)
 - Knowledgeable users of wood (best burn practices)/save money
 - Energy Logs
 - Preliminary tests indicate reduction of particulates when mixed with wet wood/dry wood
 - Alternative to using wet wood - as supplement not replacement
 - Visible Emissions (opacity) to identify those individuals needing additional assistance



Potential Next Steps: Public Review Process

- Release for public comment 'Impracticable' SIP
- Shorter public comment timeframe than 2013 regulations –30 days from start to final public hearing –approximately 33 days total.
- There will be open houses with short presentations
- More than one public hearing; including evening
- Seeking resolution of support for SIP by FNSB Assembly
- DEC will review comments and make adjustments as necessary



Future Considerations – Not Immediate

- SIP will not show attainment in 2015
 - Need to continue making progress to improve air quality
- Area may be re-classified as a Serious Area by operation of Law in June 2016 (at the latest)
 - Air quality not “worse” – just need more time
 - New attainment year 2019.
 - “Serious” SIP due 18 months after reclassification
 - Identify and analyze additional control measures
- FNSB has been a “Serious” area before with carbon monoxide (CO)



Ideas and Feedback for Future

- What other ideas could be considered?
 - Enhance education efforts – what else can be done here?
 - Consider reinstating local outdoor open burn ordinances
 - Address illegal wood cutting and sales – undercuts efforts for dry wood
 - Continue and enhance voluntary programs – change outs, voluntary cessation program, fuel switching
 - Enhance dry firewood options – energy logs
- How do we work together to engage community and explore options?