

III.K.11 CONSULTATION

In developing the Regional Haze SIP and in future revisions to the SIP, ADEC coordinates and consults with FLMs, tribes, and other states. In addition, ADEC provides opportunities for public participation and review of the SIP prior to its adoption and submittal to EPA. Requirements related to these consultation and outreach activities along with ADEC's efforts to meet the requirements for the initial Regional Haze SIP are discussed in greater detail in the following sub-sections.

A. FLM Consultation

40 CFR Section 51.308(i) of the Regional Haze Rule requires coordination between states and the FLMs. ADEC has provided agency contacts to the FLMs as required under 51.308(i)(1). During the development of this plan, the FLMs were consulted in accordance with the provisions of 51.308(i)(2).

Numerous opportunities were provided by the Western Regional Air Partnership for FLMs to participate fully in the development of technical documents developed by the WRAP and included in this plan. This included the ability to review and comment on these analyses, reports, and policies. A summary of WRAP-sponsored meetings and conference calls is provided in Appendix III.K.11 to this plan. In addition, ADEC has provided additional opportunities for coordination and consultation with FLMs as the plan was developed through local meetings and stakeholder workshops within Alaska. Appendix III.K.11 includes details of this state-specific process.

The State of Alaska has provided an opportunity for FLM consultation, at least 60 days prior to holding any public hearing on the SIP. This SIP was submitted to the FLMs on June 24, 2010 for review and comment. Comments were received from the FLMs on August 23, 2010. As required by 40 CFR Section 51.308(i)(3), the FLM comments and State responses are included in Appendix III.K.11 to this plan.

40 CFR Sections 51.308(f-h) establish requirements and timeframes for states to submit periodic SIP revisions and progress reports that evaluate progress toward the reasonable progress goal for each Class I area. As required by 40 CFR Section 51.308(i)(4), ADEC will continue to coordinate and consult with the FLMs during the development of these future progress reports and plan revisions, as well as during the implementation of programs having the potential to contribute to visibility impairment in mandatory Class I areas. This consultation process shall provide on-going and timely opportunities to address the status of the control programs identified in this SIP, the development of future assessments of sources and impacts, and the development of additional control programs. In particular, ADEC commits to the following consultation requirements:

- DEC will provide the FLM an opportunity to review and comment on SIP revisions, the five-year progress reports, and other developing programs that may contribute to Class I visibility impairment.

- DEC will afford the FLM with an opportunity for consultation in person and at least 60 days prior to holding any public hearing on a SIP revision. The FLM consultation must include the opportunity to discuss their assessment of visibility impairment in each federal Class I area; and to provide recommendations on the reasonable progress goals and on the development and implementation of the visibility control strategies. ADEC will include a summary of how it addressed the FLM comments in the revised RH SIP.

B. Tribal Consultation

For its SIP planning, ADEC has kept in contact with participants in the Alaska Tribal Air Workgroup and will continue to remain in contact with those Tribes which are in close proximity to Alaska's Class I areas and which may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute to visibility impairment in Alaska's mandatory Class I Federal area(s). Public workshops were held in Healy on November 3, 2010, Soldotna on November 4, 2010, and Sand Point on November 9, 2010. In addition, a public hearing was held in Anchorage and by teleconference on November 16, 2010 to take testimony on the proposed plan. Documentation of ADEC's coordination and consultation with tribes will be maintained and included in Appendix III.K.11. In addition, EPA bears a trust responsibility to the federally recognized tribal governments in Alaska. As a result, Alaskan tribes also have an opportunity for consultation with EPA on this plan through the federal approval process.

C. Inter-State Consultation/Coordination

DEC has not identified any other state that is impacting Alaskan Class I areas and ADEC has not been identified as a contributor to impacts in other state's Class I areas. However, in accordance with 40 CFR 51.308(d)(1)(iv) and 51.308(d)(3)(i), ADEC commits to continue consultation with states which may reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute to visibility impairment in federal Class I areas located within Alaska. ADEC will also continue consultation with any state for which Alaska's emissions may reasonable be anticipated to cause or contribute to visibility impairment in that state's federal Class I areas.

With regards to the established or updated goal for reasonable progress, should disagreement arise between another state or group of states, ADEC will describe the actions taken to resolve the disagreement in future Regional Haze SIP revisions for EPA's consideration. With regards to assessing or updating long-term strategies, ADEC commits to coordinate its emission management strategies with any affected states and will continue to include in its future Regional Haze SIP revisions all measures necessary to obtain its share of emissions reductions for meeting progress goals.

D. Regional Planning Coordination

DEC commits to continued participation in the WRAP process and commits to coordinate future plan revisions with other WRAP member states in addressing regional haze. As part of this commitment, ADEC will include the following in future Regional Haze SIP revisions.

- Demonstration of on-going WRAP participation and commitment for continue participation in addressing regional haze [51.308(c)(1)(I)].
- Description of the regional planning process, including the list of member states, goals, objectives, management, decision making structure, established product deadlines, and schedule for adopting RH SIP revisions implementing WRAP's recommendations [51.308(c)(1)(iii)].
- Showing of inter-state visibility impairment in federal Class I areas based on available inventory, monitoring, or modeling information [51.308(c)(1)(ii)].
- Address fully the recommendations of WRAP, including Alaska's apportionment of emission reduction obligations as agreed upon through WRAP and the resulting control measures required [51.308(c)(1)(iv) and 51.308(d)(3)(ii)].

A summary of WRAP-sponsored meetings and conference calls related to the development of this initial Regional Haze plan is provided in Appendix III.K.11.

E. Public Participation and Review Process

Section 110(a) of the CAA requires that a state provide reasonable notice and public hearings of SIP revisions prior to their adoption and submission to EPA. In addition to the open public meetings of the Western Regional Air Partnership process, the state administrative process for adoption of regulation ensures that the public has adequate opportunity to comment on this Regional Haze State Implementation Plan. Prior to regulatory adoption of this SIP, ADEC held a public comment period on the revisions from October 7, 2010 through December 6, 2010, including public workshops in Healy on November 3, 2010, Soldotna on November 4, 2010, and Sand Point on November 9, 2010 . A statewide teleconference hearing on November 16, 2010 provided a forum for the public to comment on the air quality plan prior to its adoption at the state level and submission to EPA. ADEC responded to public comments (Appendix III.K.11). Another opportunity for public comment occurs during the EPA approval process.