

SOME ENGO PERSPECTIVES

Clean Air Strategic Alliance Non-point Source
Workshop

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Purposes

- Underline importance of addressing non-point sources
- Context and suggestions from an ENGO perspective



The Challenge



- Air quality - under pressure in AB
 - Capital Region, Calgary and Red Deer – at management plan level or exceed Canada-wide standards for PM or Ozone
 - With industrial and population growth, problem will only get worse
- Standards are getting tighter – a good thing, but also a greater challenge
 - Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards
 - New method of determining PM levels likely to yield higher results

Lines in the Sand

- New Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS)
 - PM 2.5 and ozone; new CAAQS for NO_x and SO_x to be developed
 - supersede less stringent Canada-Wide Standards
- Air limits with some legal force in regional plans
 - NO₂ and SO₂ in Lower Athabasca Regional Plan – more expected
- Commitment to stay below these levels and, if above, improve air quality to meet standards
- These standards and limits - our best hope to maintain air quality
 - Must be kept sacrosanct as limits, not “nice to achieve” targets

Public Empowerment - Reporting

- Strengthened monitoring and reporting
 - New monitoring agency; existing airshed zones
 - Reporting against new CAAQS to begin in 2014
- Higher public profile of air quality
- Air quality impacts health and the environment
 - Exacerbation of respiratory problems; premature deaths
 - Crop damage (PM); greater susceptibility to disease with some tree species (ozone); acid rain
- Prospect of greater public pressure to stay within air quality limits

The Need to Address all Major Sources – Point and Non-Point

- Addressing all major sources of pollution – a central element in national Air Quality Management System
- First Strategic Direction in Clean Air Strategy – Point and Non-point Source Management

➔ *No major sources can be neglected if standards are to be met*

- In industry's interest – with little contribution from non-point sources, point source emitters will have to reduce even more
- May also miss opportunity for cost-effective reductions


Non-Point Sources - Significant

- GOA background material → Road Dust, Construction, Agriculture and Transportation are significant non-point sources of various pollutants
- For PM and Ozone, pollutants of highest current concern:
 - PM 2.5 Primary sources: Road dust (55%), Construction (32%), Agriculture (4%)
 - Precursors to secondary PM (SO₂ – Industry* 99%; NO_x – Industry* 64%, Transportation 31%; some VOCs – Industry* 9%, Agriculture 3%)
 - Ozone contributors: (NO_x and some VOC's (as above))

* Largely point sources



Action at Different Scales

- Federal/provincial/territorial Mobile Sources Working Group within CCME
 - In AB, monitoring, modeling, analysis and action on a regional or sub-regional basis
 - E.g. Capital Region
-  Cross-cutting action or strategy at the provincial or cross-regional levels could add value – be more efficient and cost-effective – complementing what is done locally and nationally
- Avoid “re-inventing the wheel” locally

CASA's Unique Value

- Hard to effectively address currently unregulated non-point sources
- What does CASA bring other vehicles do not?
 - Multi-stakeholder/government buy-in
 - Support for difficult action or policy directions
 - More public acceptability
 - Safe place where, with trust, parties can understand others' views and build creative solutions
 - Past and current work on non-point sources:
E.G. Vehicle emissions, Odour Working Group
 - Strong Secretariat support - proven ability to deliver on key air policy strategies

→ What key non-point work requires CASA?



Conclusion

- New standards and regional plan air limits provide an opportunity to “hold the line” and improve air quality
- Action on non-point sources – important to meeting air quality standards
 - Non-point sources are significant
- Growing public awareness and expectations
 - pressure for results
- CASA – a lot to offer on this critical issue, but
 - Need a *targeted, necessary and important* non-point sources project if CASA is to undertake it