

OVERVIEW OF MULTI-POLLUTANT EMISSION REDUCTION STRATEGIES (MERS) FOR THE PM AND OZONE CANADA-WIDE STANDARDS

ISSUE

- What is a multi-pollutant emission reduction strategy (MERS) and how will these approaches contribute to improving air quality in Canada?

WHAT IS A MERS?

- A MERS is a national picture of sectoral emission reduction plans, to be built from jurisdictional plans on Particulate Matter (PM) and Ozone and national multi-pollutant analysis.
- Jurisdictional action plans on PM and Ozone will be prepared by individual jurisdictions, will outline actions to achieve the Canada-wide Standards (CWSs) for PM and Ozone by 2010 and will set out emission reduction initiatives. They will be the focus for decision-making regarding appropriate emission reductions from individual sectors and will be shared with the public and other jurisdictions.
- MERS will be done in partnership with provinces and territories, and stakeholders and will focus on three general activities:
 - *National Multi-pollutant Analysis or Multi-pollutant Emission Reduction Analysis Foundation (MERAFA) reports* (e.g. technical feasibility studies on options and costs, competitiveness analysis, policy instruments) as an input into development of sectoral actions in jurisdictional plans.
 - *Forum for Information Sharing & Coordination*: Jurisdictions to share information on how a particular sector is being dealt with in different parts of the country; forum for discussion on role for federal instruments (i.e., guidelines, codes of practice, etc.).
 - *National Sector Rollup*: National picture of the sector to be assembled by 2003 based on actions in jurisdictional plans and national multi-pollutant analysis and information.
- Each of the six MERS sectors is unique in terms of its mix of pollutants, configuration and number of sources, level of engagement on air issues and involvement in existing processes (e.g. Strategic Options Process). Therefore, the mix of pollutants addressed, the type of analysis done and the process put in place to undertake MERS work will vary from sector to sector.

- Jurisdictions have agreed that the MERS foundation analysis will provide information to feed into decisions on emissions reduction actions in jurisdictional plans. MERS will not be a vehicle for directly setting emission reduction targets and actions, as the need for these will be determined in the context of jurisdictional implementation planning.

HOW ARE DIFFERENT POLLUTANTS CONSIDERED UNDER A MERS?

- The multi-pollutant approach under MERS is focused on PM and Ozone (i.e. PM, NOx , SO2) with strong links to acid rain given the importance of SO2 emissions for both acid rain and reducing PM. We have an opportunity to make major progress in defining environmental requirements for PM, SO2 and NOx in these sectors over the next two years.
- The MERS also provide an opportunity to understand impacts and identify ways to reduce CO2 and toxics such as mercury, dioxins and furans and benzene. These impacts and opportunities will vary from sector to sector.
- In some sectors, there are processes underway on air toxics which offer an opportunity for an integrated approach (e.g. mercury in electric power generation sector; strategic options processes for iron and steel and the base metal smelting sectors).
- On climate change, we must ensure that impacts and opportunities are considered. We have an opportunity to prompt industry to design investment strategies which make significant contributions to CO2 reductions.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN CANADA: CURRENT STATUS OF MERS PROCESSES

Pulp & Paper

- New Brunswick and Environment Canada are co-leading the Pulp and Paper MERS and have established a working group.
- Terms of Reference for the Pulp and Paper MERS Working Group have been established. This working group will review the pieces of work associated with the foundation analysis phase of MERS.
- The Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) is undertaking a study on the impact of pulp and paper mills on ambient air quality (Phase II).
- It is expected that information from the Forest Products Association of Canada's Phase II air quality study will be shared with the working group and will become part of the foundation analysis as the information becomes available. The provincial co-lead of the working group is a member of the Phase II study management team and will provide the linkage between the working group and the study management team.
- A Multi-pollutant Emission Reduction Analysis Foundation Report (MERAFF) will be completed in August 2002.

Lumber & Allied Wood Products:

- Provincial members from B.C., ON and QC are providing input into the development of this MERS.
- A MERAF for this sector will be completed in August 2002.

Electric Power:

- Alberta and Environment Canada are co-leading this sector MERS.
- An EPG Clean Air Workbook Planning Group with members from government, industry and NGO representatives was involved in the preparation and coordination of workbook activities. Within the planning group, Peer Groups were established to draft terms of reference and select contractors. They guided external contractors and reviewed products.
- The EPG Clean Air Workbook was prepared and formed the basis for a multi-stakeholder workshop held in November 2001. The complete workbook is available on CD ROM.

Iron and Steel:

- A MERAF will be completed in August 2002 which will build on information gathered during the Strategic Options Process(SOP).

Base Metals Smelting:

- Environment Canada is the lead for this MERS and has built on the Base Metals Smelting SOP.
- Sectoral analyses completed to date have been shared with JAICC and CAG members, for their information.
- Information from existing foundation reports from the SOP analysis will be synthesized and put into a MERAF format.
- A MERAF for this sector will be completed in August 2002.

Concrete Batch Mix and Asphalt Mix Plants:

- Scoping studies undertaken by EC's consultant characterized the sectors' processes and emissions. The scoping studies served as a starting point for the development of a MERAF that will be completed by August 2002.
- There are a number of associations that are participating in this MERS. The province of BC and NB are also participating.