



## Air quality Assessments for Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW): Process Development

Division: RMAD

### Problem description

The Environmental Review program lacked a process to determine when an air quality assessment is necessary for an EAW and lacked the expertise to complete such an assessment, when needed.

### Background

The purpose of air assessments for air permitting is different than ER.

ER does not have the full complement of air quality staff needed to address all the issues that emerge in the EAW process.

Historically, ER staff has relied on other agency air programs for assistance. The programs may or may not have resources available to assist.

### Baseline measurement

Milestones for the project:

- ▶ Team formed 3/2013
- ▶ Team direction shifts from a focus on just modeling to include other air information needed for an EAW. 4/2013
- ▶ Completed Air Quality Modeling Guidance that includes when to model for the air permitting program. 4/2013
- ▶ Root cause identified! Team identified that relying on other agency programs to detect when projects require an EAW is unreliable. Small group engaged and working on solution for pre-screening permits 5/2013
- ▶ Project designated as an official CI project. 5/2013
- ▶ Revised charter and action plan 7/2013
- ▶ Final draft of key documents completed following reviews and revisions. 9/2013
- ▶ Ready to pilot, possible project identified 11/2013
- ▶ Identify a pilot project 1/2014

### Results

The results and outcomes are expected to be:

- ▶ Formalization of this process creates opportunity for process measurement, predictability and control.
- ▶ Clear directions internally and externally.
- ▶ Better allocation of agency resources, reductions in project costs, and reduction in processing time.
- ▶ Support the air permitting programs in meeting deadlines.
- ▶ Reduce confusion and conflict internally and externally.
- ▶ Increase partnership with other agency programs and with all external parties.

