

Developing a system to keep air dispersion modeling guidelines current

Why it's important

Outdated guidance has caused additional work and confusion for internal staff and project proposers.

As a result, air quality modeling added a significant amount of time to air permitting, environmental review, and air policy processes.

What we did

Phase 1

- ▶ Held meeting with external parties and gathered comments from stakeholders on the major areas of the guidance.

Phase 2

- ▶ Created a new guidance based on user needs.
- ▶ Developed and implemented an annual cycle to review and update dispersion modeling guidance.
- ▶ Identified value of internal - external technical meetings to exchange ideas and collect input.
- ▶ Established non-project workgroups for MPCA and external party collaboration to work on modeling challenges.

What's the issue?

We did not have efficient and standard approaches for modeling protocol, report review, and guidance.

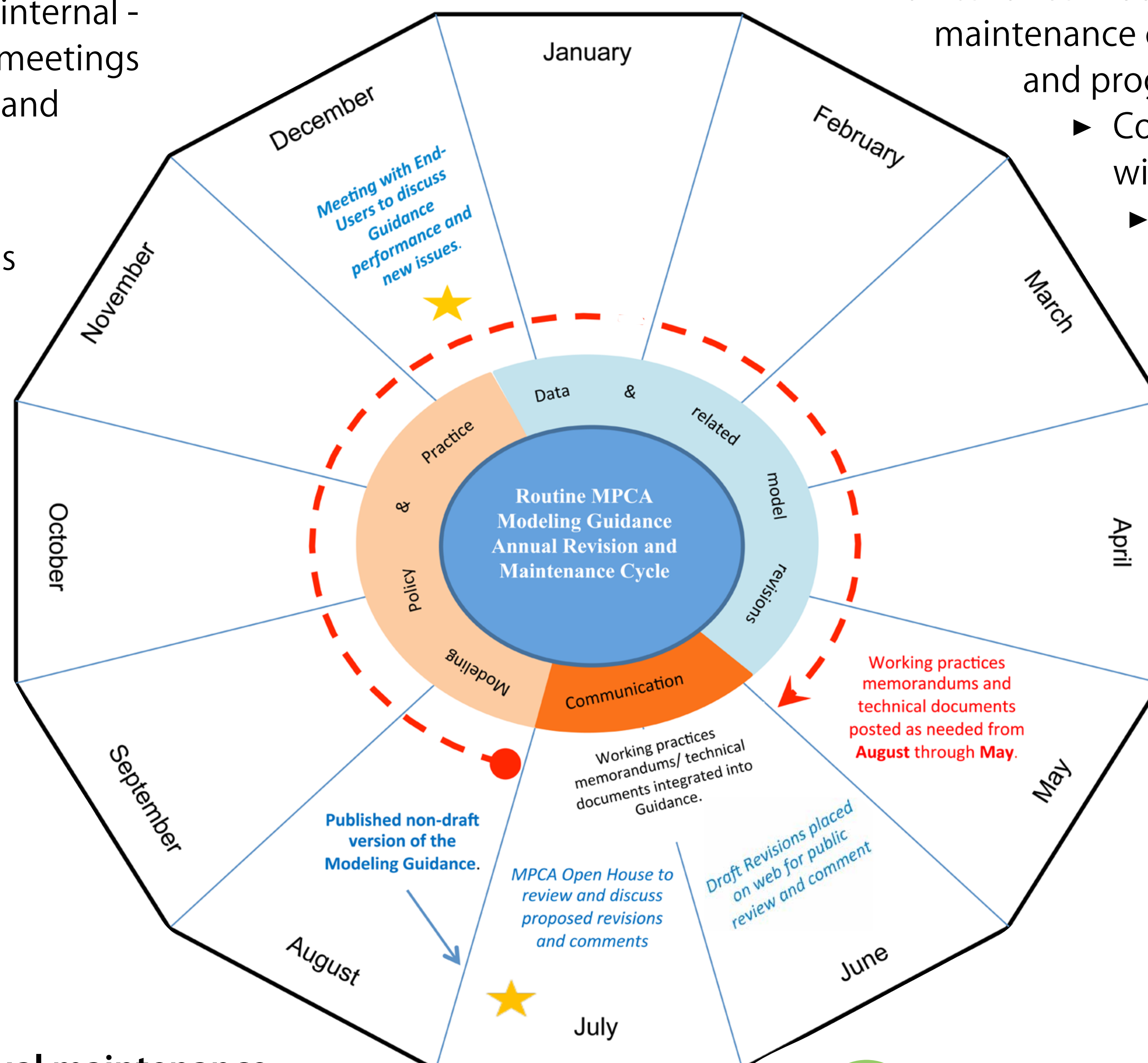
Primary causes:

- ▶ Minnesota specific modeling guidance had not been updated since October 2004.
- ▶ National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) has changed significantly — lowered standards and new averaging times
- ▶ EPA has issued several technical memos addressing some of the issues related to these demonstrations. We anticipate this will continue.
- ▶ Changes in the accepted regulatory air dispersion model since 2004.

Results

Ongoing efforts

- ▶ Maintenance mode: Continue to follow the annual maintenance cycle in reviewing the guidance and program.
- ▶ Continue to have two meetings with external parties each year.
- ▶ Use technical work groups to develop or evaluate new modeling practices
- ▶ Coordinate with other air programs to enhance modeling efficiency and effectiveness.



Annual maintenance cycle chart

Team members:

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