

Combined Air Emissions Short-Term Wins Project Description

1. Project Name: National Emissions Inventory (NEI) Data Augmentation Reduction

2. Project Participants:

Sally Dombrowski, EPA, Co-Lead
Michael Burton, AZ, Co-Lead
Joshua Kalfas, OK
Jeff Merrell, VT
Lynn Barnes, SC
Kent Thomas, AK
Mart Wert, MA
Brandy Albertson, OR
Sue Hines, VA
Beth Graves, ECOS
Kelly Poole, ECOS
Shana Harbour, EPA

3. Project Funding: \$20K

Funds will be used for contractor support to compile information from SLTs with regard to augmentation; and to develop any tools or references which will be needed to meet the goals below.

4. How project fits within the larger Combined Air Emissions “to be” state

One of the inefficiencies identified as part of the “as-is” state is the 6-12 months needed for EPA to augment the National Emission Inventory (NEI) point source data received from state, local, and tribal (SLT) agencies. This project will provide additional details about the mismatch between what SLTs provide and what EPA wants, and identify the root causes of those problems so that they can be solved during the implementation phase.

5. Goals: *What are the key objectives of this project, which will be met using the expected work products?*

- Goal 1- To have a better understanding of why EPA augments SLT data; and why SLTs are unable to provide the data which is augmented, and to eliminate those obstacles where possible
- Goal 2 – To create a tool or reference which will minimize or eliminate the need for EPA augmentation in the targeted agencies for the 2014 emissions year.
- Goal 3 – To identify changes to EPA’s augmentation where it can be improved or eliminated. EPA would implement those changes for the 2014 cycle (in house) where possible.

6. Project description: *Include a summary and a list of expected tasks needed to get to the work products. Include paragraphs to elaborate on the tasks and work products, which should match those listed in the table below.*

The NEI is used by the EPA in support of evaluating National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), assessing interstate transport of air pollutants, air toxics programs, and for international reporting. It is also used by SLT air agencies as a starting point for their State Implementation Plan development and by other federal agencies, researchers, and environmental groups to understand sources of air pollution. Because the NEI is the basis of so much work, it is important that the inventory be as complete and accurate as possible. If EPA determines that the data they receive from SLTs is not sufficient to create a complete NEI, EPA undertakes a process to augment the submitted data.

One inefficiency of the NEI program, which was identified in the E-Enterprise Combined Air Emissions scoping project, is the time it takes for EPA staff to perform downstream augmentation to SLT submitted data. A select group of SLT air agencies will work with EPA to define all data criteria which SLT submittals must meet. This will minimize, and hopefully entirely eliminate, the need for EPA augmentation.

During this process we hope to gain a better understanding of (1) why EPA augments SLT data, (2) why SLT's don't provide EPA with the data needed, (3) how EPA can improve, reduce, or streamline its augmentation until it can be eliminated, and (4) what is needed to assist SLT's in providing a more complete NEI submission.

7. Key Challenges: *List any known or anticipated challenges, including information gathering from states or others, and how you expect to address those. Note any need for EPA management involvement to help meet those challenges.*

- **Challenge 1.** Each SLT collects and manages their point source data differently; therefore it may be difficult to gather a comprehensive list of reasons why SLT's don't provide EPA with the data necessary to avoid augmentation. This could be addressed through broad outreach to as many SLTs as possible to solicit information.

8. Expected workload for team participants: *indicate frequency of meetings, general expectations of work tasks outside of meetings. Does not need to be a list of every last thing someone would do on the project.*

Weekly meetings through end of 2015. Participants will be expected to review their respective data for EPA augmentation from the 2011 point submissions and be able to discuss; 1) was the augmentation acceptable; 2) was augmentation done that should not have been done; and, 3) why was SLT unable to submit the missing data. Participants will also be encouraged to provide ideas for solutions in the 2014 submission.

9. Quality Assurance: *If applicable, list quality assurance issues that might arise during this project and how quality review will be included to ensure the best outcomes. Add work products if needed to ensure any potential quality problems will be addressed.*

2014 submissions for the participating agencies will be compared to previous submissions to assure that a complete suite of pollutants were submitted.

10. Project work products and expected completion dates:

| Task | Work product | Expected Task Cost | Task Lead | Expected completion date |
|--|--|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Task 1: A better understanding of augmentation from EPA and SLTs | Meeting notes and documentation of discussions | None | | 9/2015 |
| Task 2: Create tool or resource to eliminate augmentation by EPA | Development of tools or resources for SLTs to assure the reporting of a full suite of pollutants for the 2014 point submission, documentation; compilation of attributes for each SLTs inventory program | \$20K | | 3/2016 |