

## **IMPROVE Steering Committee Meeting Summary**

### **January 8, 1986**

The third IMPROVE Steering Committee meeting was held January 8, 1986, at the National Park Service office in Ft. Collins, Colorado. The primary objectives of the meeting were to approve a list of monitoring sites prior to making them public and to finalize the approach to be taken by NPS for contracting the operational aspects of IMPROVE. Other topics of discussion at the meeting included the role of the steering group in studies to establish attributable visibility impairment, monitoring methodology for the long-term program, and methods to provide IMPROVE Program information to the public.

#### **Tentative Monitoring Sites**

The committee received copies of a draft document which summarizes the site selection process and lists the selection status of each visibility-protected area. Review comments of this document will be sent to Marc Pitchford by the end of January. A discussion of the land managing agencies' internal reaction to the tentative list of sites resulted in a minor change (reordering of two areas). The committee agreed to make public the revised tentative list of areas selected and description of the selection process by placing the revised documents in EPA's public docket. This will be done in March. Public comments resulting from this process will be considered by the steering committee at the next meeting.

#### **Contracting Approach**

Due to the sensitive nature of competitive contractual procurements, this section of the summary should be considered confidential until after requests for proposals (RFP) have been issued.

A discussion of the contracts required to implement the long-term monitoring program resulted in the recommendation of the committee that four contracts would be employed. There would be separate contracts for: 1) visibility monitoring (includes overall field maintenance and data processing), 2) aerosol sampling and elemental, mass, and absorption analysis of samples, 3) carbon analysis of samples, and 4) ion analysis of samples. The rationale for splitting the contracts this way was that, in general, the expertise to do more than one of the above four tasks do not reside in the same company. Combining these tasks would invite the use of subcontracts which are more costly than separate contracts.

The committee received copies of a draft statement of work (SOW) for the visibility monitoring RFP. Comments on these are due to William Malm by January 17. SOWs for the other three RFPs will be distributed by mail to the committee by the end of January. Review comments should be transmitted to William Malm by February 7.

#### **Other Items**

A discussion was conducted on the role of the steering committee in studies of visibility impairment which is reasonably attributed to emission sources. The monitoring plan suggests that 10 percent of the resources for the IMPROVE Program would be available for such studies. Concern was expressed that this level of support would be inadequate for such use and that the loss of these funds to the long-term monitoring network would jeopardize the deployment of 20 monitoring sites. It was decided that Marc Pitchford and Janet Metsa EPA/OAQPS would develop a draft position document as a basis for the discussion of this issue to be circulated prior to the next meeting.

Discussion of monitoring methodology began with a presentation of a joint EPA/NPS program to improve and standardize visibility monitoring technology. The three types of monitoring required for visibility assessment were discussed. The three are view monitoring, characterization of atmospheric optics, and characterization of atmospheric aerosol. The long-term monitoring program will include monitoring techniques for each of these. A radiance calibrated photographic method will be employed for view monitoring. One of several candidate "second generation" extinction monitoring techniques will be selected for the long-term network. These include techniques such as the NPS transmissometer, artificial target contrast teleradiometer, and radiance difference teleradiometer. Some preliminary results were presented from a SCENES sponsored intercomparison study involving these and other optics monitoring techniques. The transmissometer and artificial target measurements compared well. NPS plans to continue developing and testing the transmissometer. The steering committee will select an optics monitoring technique for IMPROVE by the end of the year. Aerosol characterization for the long-term monitoring will be by analysis of particular samples. Samples will be collected twice per week in two size ranges (cut off diameter at 10 and 2.5 microns). Analysis methods will include mass, optical absorption, elements (XRF or PIXE), elemental and organic carbon, and ions.

The steering committee's discussion of communications with the public resulted in the formulation of several approaches. A representative of the steering committee (David Joseph) will present a paper on the IMPROVE Program at the APCA Specialty Conference on Visibility in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in September 1986. A set of overhead slides, (a draft set was previewed at the meeting) are being developed for the steering committee's use as briefing material. When more formal public communications are appropriate, federal register notice and availability of documents in an EPA docket will be used (this approach is being employed for site selection information). Several issues were resolved in a related discussion concerning the availability, format, and degree of interpretation of IMPROVE monitoring data. There was agreement that data would be available to the public after it had been quality checked, and that annual reports of summary statistics and graphic displays would be produced. Left unresolved were concerns for the appropriateness of IMPROVE provided more elaborate data analysis and data interpretation guidelines.

### **Human Resources**

This was the farewell meeting for two of the IMPROVE steering committee "regulars." Bruce Polkowsky is leaving the visibility program area for air toxics; Jim Blankenship is retiring from federal service. Janet Metsa will be taking Bruce's place and Richard Fisher will represent the Forest Service in Jim's place. On behalf of the steering committee, I wish to thank Jim and Bruce for their many contributions to this program.

### **Action Items**

All IMPROVE participants

Review draft visibility monitoring statement of work by 1/17/86

Review drafts of the aerosol sampling and analysis statements of work by 2/7/86

Review draft meeting summary 2/7/86

William Malm

Send participants review copies of the aerosol statements of work by 1/31/86

Advertise request for proposals for visibility and aerosol contracts 3/86

Circulate for steering group's review resulting contract proposals when available

Bruce Polkowsky/Janet Metsa

Finalize transfer of funds to NPS from EPA as soon as possible

Make public the site selection documentation 3/86

Janet Metsa/Marc Pitchford

Prepare and circulate a draft position document on IMPROVE's role in studies of reasonable attributable impairment 3/1/86

Marc Pitchford

Prepare and circulate a draft meeting summary by 1/31/86

Revise overhead slide briefing materials on the IMPROVE Program 3/86

David Joseph

Circulate for review a draft abstract on IMPROVE for the APCA Specialty Conference in September 2/15/86.

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**IMPROVE Steering Committee Meeting Participants**  
**January 8, 1986**

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