

## Train Smoke Task Force Meeting Notes December 14, 2006

### Attendees:

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Laura Lewis	laura@scan.org	
Sarah Wright	sarah@animas.net,	259-1544
Jessey Tase	jessey_tase@yahoo.com,	375-7918

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### Task Force Organization

The Task Force members in attendance agreed that the group should continue meeting to work on outcomes from the Wasatch report. There was consensus that Region 9 could be the neutral coordinator to send out the agendas, set meetings and coordinate member communication. Jeff requested that all correspondence and replies be copied to all task force members. Jess said she would be happy to help with minutes along with Region 9. **She will also email out the entire contact list, so everyone has it.** The officers will remain as before. The group agreed that meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) will be scheduled monthly, but not happen if there isn't enough business, or the majority of members are not able to attend.

There was discussion about publicity and how that needs to occur. Several suggested placing the meeting minutes on a website and there was considerable discussion as to whether the minutes should be on the train website, San Juan Basin Health Dept., city, county, or Region 9. Consensus went with Region 9 and **Laura will check and see how and if that can happen.** All the groups felt that they could put links on their site to Region 9's as well. Sarah discussed the importance of the minutes being visible and that people know where to find them. It was also suggested that once the minutes/Task Force information was on-line that publicity on its availability will go out to the public. **Region 9 will produce a press release announcing the meeting minutes availability on-line, when links are completed.**

### Wasatch Appendix & Report Review

There was a long discussion regarding how to proceed now that we have Wasatch's report. The group felt they should prioritize the many options for smoke mitigation and reduction and begin to determine what funds/grants/loans are available.

The appendix from Wasatch was emailed to the group and also available at the meeting. Jeff asked if there was anything that the group did NOT agree with. He felt the Task

Force role was to take the recommendations and prioritize them. His emphasis was on the design and engineering of the recommendations.

Laura asked what recommendations made by Wasatch seemed the most feasible for the train. Jeff and Paul said that they would do what the task force recommended as priorities.

CSU cannot give an accurate estimate of the wood pellet emissions, but the report of the ash content and btu's of the wood pellets can be compared to that of the coal and one can deduce an improvement in emissions. There was much discussion around this.

San Juan Basin Health's report on air quality could not isolate train emissions. Brett, with San Juan Basin Health, was not in attendance to answer those questions.

The group acknowledged that if the amount of smoke is reduced, then the amount of emissions and toxins are reduced.

Over the discussion, five recommendations were determined as being the most important or feasible.

**1) Engine changes to trial unit (medium to long-term implementation).**

The group seemed to agree that if any changes to the train engines were effective, they would make the most difference in terms of smoke and emissions. Changing the entire fire box set-up was very expensive, but that looking at the Lempor exhaust system was feasible. The reality of the "Improvement Matrix" (p. 7 Wasatch Addendum) cannot be determined until one locomotive has undergone the improvements. The Lempor exhaust is the focus of these improvements. The costs of these improvements need to be further investigated, as the Wasatch report may not be very accurate. Nigel Day could be a good contact for this. The railroad has modified the over-fire tubes on one locomotive.

**2) Increase number of scrubbers (medium term implementation)**

Though there was discussion about the effectiveness of the scrubbers, the recommendation was to bring in at least 2 more scrubbers. Jerry suggested the scrubbers (adding 2) be the first priority in order to alleviate symptoms while concurrently working on other improvements work to alleviate the problem. **Steve Marple will investigate the scrubber options and costs, beginning with the vendor of the current system.** It was also noted that ideally, there would be one scrubber per locomotive. There was also discussion to look at whether a scrubber could be installed over the ash pit. Steve said he would also talk to them about designs for something under the ash pit.

**3) Ash pit (short-term implementation)**

The ash pile/pit improvements are to be pursued, in Durango and Silverton.

**4) Alternative fuel use (short to medium term implementation)**

The wood pellet scenario will be investigated to determine if it is economically feasible, how to store them, and the longevity of stored pellets. **Region 9 will invite Doug Muscanell to the next meeting to further discuss the wood pellets, emissions, etc...**

**Jerry will look into if there are already any USDA or other white papers existing that discuss the emissions of specific types of wood.**

### **Funding Sources**

The task force was interested in whether the projects recommended are eligible for any grants or just low-interest loans. It may depend on which option we are pursuing. SJBH may be a good contact for EPA grants and to help determine what we're eligible for. Jeff suggested **Region 9 should be responsible for researching grants by the next meeting.**

### **Next Steps**

- The five identified priorities will be further explored at the next few meetings and recommendations made.
- Region 9 will explore any grant possibilities on any of the identified five recommendations selected and report back at the January meeting.
- Steve will bring back an estimate on scrubber “do ability” and pricing.
- Doug Lemke, administrator of the AQCC, will be put on the task force email list and is welcome to attend any meeting.
- Try to find out more information about emissions of wood products and specific disintegration of the wood invite Muscanell owners to the next meeting.

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