

Request for Information for GIS Database Sources from WRAP Committees, Forums, and Workgroups

To assist the WRAP in meeting modeling analysis and regional haze planning information objectives, various Geographic Information Systems (GIS) databases are used in a variety of analyses and model applications. Currently many of these databases are many years old and may not reflect many recent changes in land use and transportation networks. In an attempt to update these databases, the WRAP has contracted with ENVIRON International Corporation to identify, evaluate and assemble current year (2000-04) government-sponsored, publicly-available GIS databases for use in air quality and emission inventory development efforts. A variety of GIS data are necessary in regional air quality model development and evaluation. These include data required to characterize various features of the land (vegetation, landuse/landcover, soils, etc.), transportation networks (roads, railways, shipping lanes, airports, and marine ports), and socioeconomic data (population, housing statistics). Specific uses of these data may include the following:

- air quality analysis and support of source attribution/apportionment activities;
- improvement of near-field activity data and analysis of emissions strengths; and
- provide more uniform landuse and demographic data to make temporally consistent regional estimates of biogenics, ammonia, and windblown dust emissions, as well as providing a consistent baseline for area source activity data and planning
- development of appropriate GIS data layers for Canada and Mexico

The determination of relevant data sources is to be based on a number of considerations, primarily the GIS data requirements of the various regional emissions and air quality modeling tools used by WRAP. In addition, data representing broad geographical regions and for recent years (i.e., post-1993, preferably in the 2000-2004 time period), need to be identified. The attributes available in the databases will also be a prime consideration.

In order to initiate the process of identifying and obtaining relevant GIS data, we ask that you inform us of any such data used by your agency or organization, or any GIS databases you are aware of and may be of use in fulfilling the goals of this project. Your timely response to this request will assist us in identifying those databases most useful to the overall WRAP process, and also will ensure that the most recent and representative data for your jurisdiction is being incorporated into the regional databases used by the WRAP in their on-going analyses in addressing the requirements of the EPA's Regional Haze Rule.

Your response in this matter is respectfully requested by 8 April 2005 and will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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