EPA defines “ambient air” as “that portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the general public has access” (40 CFR 50.1(e))

EPA’s longstanding policy for implementing ambient air for PSD purposes was stated in a 1980 Costle letter, “the atmosphere over land that is owned or controlled by the source and to which public access is precluded by a fence or other physical barriers”

Subsequent guidance provided over the years by EPA to recommend how to apply 1980 policy statement for specific situations

EPA released the draft guidance “Revised Policy on Exclusions from Ambient Air” on November 9, 2018, and took public comment until January 11, 2019. The document can be found at https://www.epa.gov/nsr/forms/draft-guidance-revised-policy-exclusions-ambient-air.

In the draft guidance, EPA evaluated several key terms associated with the definition including: “general public”, “access” and “building” to determine where additional flexibility may be appropriate

After consideration of comments received, EPA plans to issue the final guidance in late Spring 2019
PAMS Update – Deadline Extension

- EPA is committed to extending the PAMS compliance deadline
- A proposal for a 2-year extension is in process
- This extension will give the monitoring agencies additional time to acquire equipment and expertise to successfully implement the PAMS requirements
PAMS Update – Equipment Contracts

• The EPA is working on four National contracts to assist the monitoring agencies in acquiring PAMS equipment
  – Markes/Agilent Auto-GCs – *Delivery and installation 90% complete*
  – CAS/Chromatotec Auto-GCs – *Contract in process with delivery and installation expected this summer*
  – NO2 Analyzers – contract to be awarded in 2020
  – Ceilometers – contract to be awarded in 2020
PAMS Update – Budget Update

• Funding for PAMS is included in the Section 105 grants
  – Until congressional language allows for the implementation of the proposed reallocation methodology, Section 105 funds will continue to be allocated using the historical allocation methodology

• Regions have the flexibility to adjust State 105 allocations based on knowledge of minimum monitoring requirements and state monitoring networks
  – Where a state network is larger than minimally required, funding may need to be adjusted to address new or revised minimum monitoring requirements
  – Additionally, states have the flexibility to shift their grant dollars from certain activities to fund CAA-required activities
Collaborative workgroups have developed 2016 and future-year emissions inventories and associated documentation.

States have provided and reviewed 2016-specific data for many emissions sectors, and some data for future years.

EPA ran MOVES for onroad and nonroad, ran the oil and gas tool for 2016 and projected 2014 NEI emissions to 2016 and to future years.

The 2016 beta release for 2016 data only is now available:
- [http://views.cira.colostate.edu/wiki/wiki/9169](http://views.cira.colostate.edu/wiki/wiki/9169)
- The Intermountain West Data Warehouse (IWDW) is hosting the wiki and providing the 2016 data to requestors.

Platform options: MEGAN and BEIS for biogenics; for EGUs both ERTAC EGU and IPM will be available for future years.

The future-year data and scripts are not yet available as emissions for some sectors were just completed in March.
Inventory Collaborative Next Steps

• The Collaborative is now working on:
  – Preparing to release the 2016beta future year data to co-regulators (i.e., MJOs, states, locals)
  – Inventory updates for Version 1.0 (summer, 2019)

• The next quarterly outreach call is April 3 at noon Eastern
  – More information on the beta and plans for v1 will be available on this call
EPA’s Air Quality Modeling of the 2016 Emissions Platform

- CMAQ and CAMx annual model runs for 2016 have been completed using the beta emissions inventory
- Inputs and outputs from these model runs are being shared with the MJOs and states via the Intermountain Data Warehouse
- EPA is initiating a 2016 platform evaluation forum in an effort to foster collaboration between EPA and the MJOs and states on the evaluation of the 2016 model predictions using ambient measurements
Regional Haze: Technical Guidance on Tracking Visibility Progress

• “Technical Guidance on Tracking Visibility Progress for the Second Implementation Period of the Regional Haze Rule”
  – The guidance was released on December 20, 2018 and fulfills a commitment in EPA’s Regional Haze Reform Roadmap

• EPA held a public webinar on February 20, 2019 to explain the guidance contents and answer questions.

• The guidance document and the webinar presentation can be found here:
• The 2017 Regional Haze Rule revisions require a revised approach to tracking visibility improvements over time.
  – The guidance finalizes a recommended methodology to develop baseline and current visibility conditions, and natural conditions on the 20% most impaired and clearest days at Class I areas.
    • The recommended visibility tracking metric focuses on anthropogenic visibility impairment

• The 2017 Regional Haze Rule also includes a provision that allows states to propose an adjustment to the uniform rate of progress (URP) glidepath to account for anthropogenic international sources (and prescribed fires).
  – The guidance describes recommended tools and methods to develop optional URP adjustments
Updated EPA Regional Haze Modeling
Summer 2019

• New 2016 based modeling platform with emissions projections to 2028, including sector-based PM source apportionment
  – 2028 projected deciviews and glidepath estimates at Class I areas
  – Estimate of international anthropogenic contributions
  – Model Improvements
    • New 2016 and 2028 emissions from the State/EPA platform collaborative
    • Regional model improvements
      – Updates to CAMx
      – Larger regional domain (including 36km outer domain)
    • Updated boundary conditions
      – Hemispheric CMAQ
  – Modeling will be completed by the end of the summer 2019
Modeled Emission Rates for Precursors (MERPs) Update

- For Tier 1 assessments, EPA generally expects that applicants would use existing empirical relationships between precursors and secondary impacts based on modeling systems appropriate for this purpose.
- MERPs can be viewed as a type of Tier 1 demonstration tool under the PSD permitting program that provides a simple way to relate maximum downwind impacts with a critical air quality threshold.
- EPA has provided draft technical guidance on development and use of MERPs under Appendix W for PSD permitting.
  - Guidance on the Development of Modeled Emission Rates for Precursors (MERPs) as a Tier 1 Demonstration Tool for Ozone and PM2.5 under the PSD Permitting Program (EPA-454/R-16-006 December 2016)
- EPA currently working on final version of this guidance document
  - Additional hypothetical single source impact modeling included
  - More details on how to use existing modeling for NAAQS demonstrations (SIL and cumulative tests) and considering secondary PM2.5 for a PM2.5 PSD increment demonstration