

# Air Toxics Workgroup Update

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# Background Information

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Air Toxics Report to Congress

- February 2013 CAAAC presentation – “Sneak Peak”
- Report was released on August 21, 2014

- **KEY MESSAGES**

1. The country has made substantial progress on air toxics, reducing millions of tons of these pollutants over the last 2 decades from urban and other areas
2. Despite this progress, **MORE WORK** is needed (better understanding of air toxics and ways to effectively reduce remaining risks).....particularly in overburdened communities where emission sources can be more concentrated and communities living near major roadways.

# Air Toxics Workgroup

- Currently, 16 CAAAC members (all passionate about air toxics) and 3 consultants/experts...bring more to the table as needed
- 1<sup>st</sup> teleconference & 1<sup>st</sup> face-to-face meeting held this month
- Charge of the committee
  - Air Toxics Strategies/Approaches
    - What types of programs and approaches are currently most effective in reducing air toxics emissions and exposures, especially for children and in communities most burdened by air toxics? Promising new approaches?
  - Communication
    - How can EPA and its partners more effectively communicate with community groups and other stakeholders concerning the risks from air toxics, including ways to avoid or reduce those risks and ways to work with sources and other potential partners to reduce those risks?
  - Where do we go from here? “Nex Gen Air Toxics”
    - Missing information and data gaps

# Workgroup Member Reactions to the Report...just a “sample”

- **Decisions/recommendations are only as good as the data.....**
  - Concern with using 2005 NATA data....new version due out in 2015 (2011 data)..a true reflection or snapshot of our progress is needed.
  - Need projections of how the current programs will impact air toxic levels
  - Critical to close gaps and improve emissions data (state emission inventories)
- Questions about how risk calculations are being performed
- Need an understanding of the definition of “urban” in this report....let’s not forget about rural areas.
- Need a good understanding of the effectiveness of current programs/approaches – both EPA and non-EPA programs
- Need to incorporate some of the upcoming Environmental Justice guidance and tools into our recommendations
- Inclusion of diesel particulate matter....DERA awards (not just nonattainment areas)
- Understanding the status of previous recommendations from the overarching workgroup

# Next Steps

- Create member subgroups for each “charge”
- Finalize our meeting frequency/organization of our efforts
- Develop an “alternative” timeline for approval that includes an expanded timeframe
- Garner documents, reports & data from EPA and others to help us do our ‘homework’ and “roll up our sleeves”
- Additional remarks from workgroup members?