

# USDA AGRICULTURAL AIR QUALITY TASK FORCE

## Welcome Members

Kevin Abernathy

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Arlington VA

# BRIEF HISTORY

## **1996 Farm Bill addressed:**

- Agricultural air quality research oversight
- Research activities by the USDA
- Policy recommendations

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF AAQTF

- Voluntary, incentive based emission reductions measures
- Air quality compliance for agriculture between USDA-EPA
- SIP credit through MOU
- MOUs from 1998 USDA & EPA created a spirit of cooperation

# Key Staff

(Who are critical to the AAQTF)

**Greg Johnson** – *Team Leader, NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change National Technology Development Team*

**Greg Zwicke** – *Air Quality Engineer, NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change National Technology Development Team*

**Adam Chambers** – *Physical Scientist, NRCS Air Quality and Atmospheric Change National Technology Development Team*

**Ted Strauss** – *State Air Quality Director, California NRCS*

**Johnnie Siliznoff** – *State Air Quality Specialist, California NRCS*

**Evelyn Johnson** – *Administrative Assistant, NRCS West National Technology Support Center*

# OFFICERS & MEMBERSHIP

- Chief of NRCS serves as chair of the AAQTF
- Task Force reports to the Chief of the NRCS, who presents Task Force recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture and EPA Administrator

# AAQTF ADVISORY ROLE

- Review and assess research policy
- Determine agriculture's activity impact to air quality
- Coordinate intergovernmental cooperation
- Advise the Secretary of Agriculture

# EPA's PARTNERSHIP WITH AAQTF

- Membership on Task Force
- Provide information, guidance, updates on rulemakings regarding air quality issues
- Receive recommendations from Secretary
- Coordinate research with USDA
- Cooperate with USDA on resolution of air quality concerns



# NAGIVATING AGRICULTURE'S OBSTACLES





# AGRICULTURAL'S AIR QUALITY ISSUES

- Particulate
- Odors
- Burning
- Engine emissions
- Ammonia
- Hydrogen sulfide
- Regional haze
- VOCs
- Greenhouse gases

# USE OF CONSENT DECREES

- Use of consent decrees and orders to circumvent rulemaking
- Cross-media regulation, i.e. hazardous waste, water, pesticide regulations

# FORMER AAQTF SUB-COMMITTEES

- Air quality standards
- Emissions measurements & mitigation
- Climate variability



# AIR QUALITY STANDARDS TOPICS

- Ozone standards
- Particulate standards PM 10/2.5
- Emissions factors
- Haze & visibility
- Stationary and non-stationary standards
- Ag burning

# EMISSIONS MEASUREMENTS & MITIGATION TOPICS

- VOCs
  - Discovery & quantification
- PM emissions
- Emissions factors
- Fugitive emissions
- Hydrogen sulfide
- Ammonia
- Methane



# CLIMATE VARIABILITY TOPICS

- Greenhouse gases
- Short-lived climate pollutants
- Reactive nitrogen/management
- Carbon sequestration

# CAA – AMBIENT AIR QUALITY

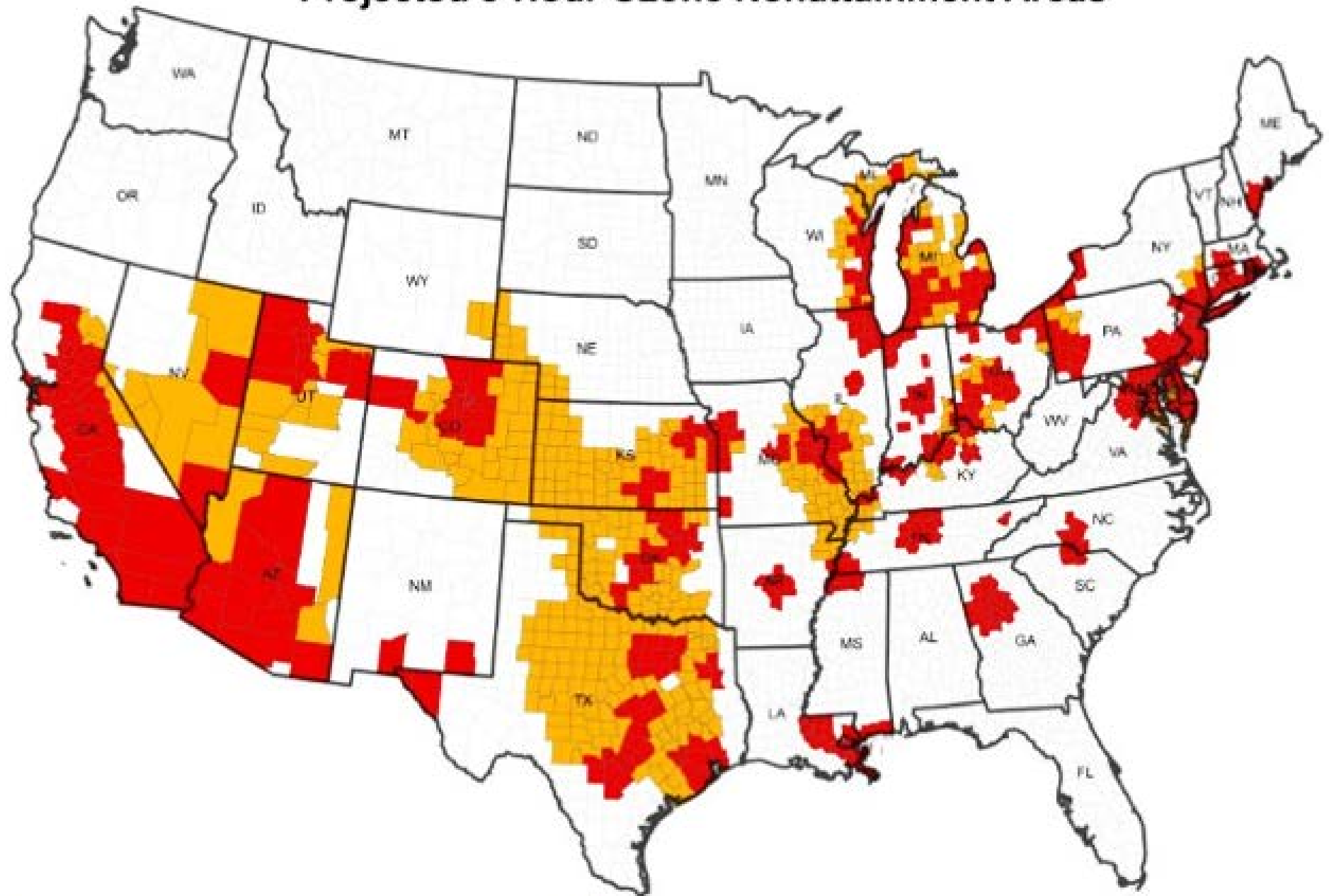
- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
  - establish limits for criteria pollutants (PM, ozone, lead, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and CO)
  - require state plans on how to meet the limits
  - requires new source review permits prior to new construction or modification of a source
  - requires states to address their contributions to visibility impairment in Class I areas

# CAA - NONATTAINMENT

- State implementation plans (SIP)
  - If area is nonattainment, state designates area
  - 3 years after designation, SIPs are due which:
    - demonstrate attainment
    - provide enforceable requirements for reductions sufficient to reach attainment
    - provide for attainment in 5-10 years



## Projected 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas

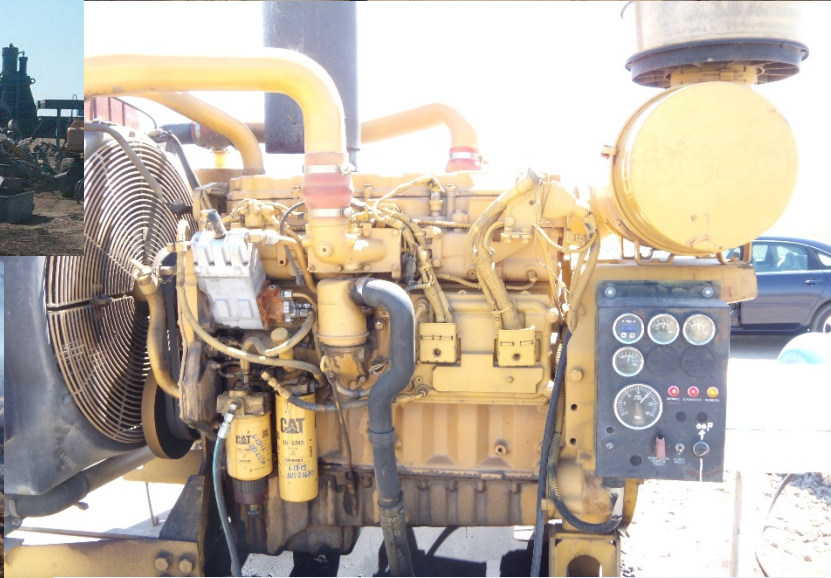


 Monitored CBSAs and rural counties that would be violating a 70 ppb standard  Unmonitored areas that are anticipated to violate a 70 ppb standard based on spatial interpolation

Source: URS, August 3, 2015.



# SUCCESS STORIES







Let's Get  
to Work!

Questions?

