EPA Regional Office Permit Review Process

Sam Portanova, U.S. EPA Region 5 June 14, 2011

What Permits Are Reviewed?

- Review Goals:
 - All major PSD/NSR permits
 - Portion of Title V initial and renewal permits
 - Permits with significant public interest
 - Energy projects (utilities/refineries)
 - Permit with complex issues
 - Netting, definition of source, synthetic minors etc.

EPA Review Process: Before Official Review Period

- Communications Prior to Permit Review Period
 - Specific issues raised to EPA
 - Requests for input prior to drafting permit
 - Monthly calls with states
 - Identify upcoming significant permits
 - Quarterly call with all six Region 5 states

EPA Review Process: Draft Permit Review

- Review and comment during 30-day public notice
 - EPA gets draft permits electronically from states
 - Phone/e-mail communications prior to final comments
 - Title V: Concurrent public and EPA review periods in some states.
 - Final comments typically via letter

EPA Review Process: Headquarters Role

- HQ offices not involved in most permit reviews. Here are exceptions:
 - Power plant permit comments
 - Power Plant Review Team
 - GHG BACT permits
 - Issues elevated to HQ
 - Specific complex permit issues may be elevated to HQ
 - Title V petitions and PSD appeals to EAB

Permit Review Resources

- NSR & Title V Guidance Database
 - http://www.epa.gov/region07/air/policy/policy.htm
- RACT/BACT/LAER Clearinghouse
 - http://cfpub.epa.gov/RBLC/
- Applicability Determination Index
 - http://cfpub.epa.gov/adi/
- ▶ AP-42 Emission Factors Website
 - http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/ap42/