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Ozone Transport Commission Announces New Executive Director

March 15, 2011 – The Ozone Transport Commission has hired a new executive director, William Driscoll, to guide the organization’s work to reduce ground-level ozone from Virginia to Maine. Ground-level ozone is harmful to human health, and is of particular concern to those with asthma and the elderly.

“Protecting public health and achieving air quality standards are the collective goals of all member-states of the Ozone Transport Commission—and Mr. Will Driscoll will serve as an important addition to our team,” said Collin O’Mara, Chair of the Commission and Secretary of Department of Natural Resource and Environmental Control for the state of Delaware. “Will’s diverse background and demonstrated commitment to making progress on complex environmental challenges will serve the jurisdictions in the Ozone Transport Region well as we work together to meet strict federal limits on ozone.”

The Commission selected Mr. Driscoll for his experience in analyzing air quality issues as a project manager with ICF Consulting, a contractor to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and for his commitment to environmental health. Mr. Driscoll brings a deep understanding of environmental regulatory issues, grounded in graduate study at Princeton, as well as a law degree.

In coming years the Commission will focus on developing additional model rules, designed for the 13 jurisdictions represented in the Commission, to meet a forthcoming, more stringent federal ozone standard; and contributing to the U.S. EPA’s development of a second regulation on ozone transport.

The Ozone Transport Commission, comprising the 12 states from Virginia to Maine plus the District of Columbia, was established by the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, and works to facilitate collaboration among the 13 jurisdictions to reduce emissions of certain pollutants (nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds) that lead to the formation of ground-level ozone. By reducing ozone pollution, the Commission works to enable all to safely engage in outdoor activities throughout the summer months, when ozone is most problematic (due to strong sunlight that causes ozone formation).

Mr. Driscoll will serve as OTC’s fifth Executive Director in the organization’s twenty-year history.