

# U.S. Politics and Laws as Drivers for Air Quality Management (AQM)

John G. Watson ([johnw@dri.edu](mailto:johnw@dri.edu))

Desert Research Institute, Reno, NV, USA

Presented at  
*THE AIR WE BREATHE: a public health dialogue*  
January 10, 2009  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, SAR China

# Main Points

- **Basic human needs must be met before citizens care about air pollution**
- **People respond first to what they can see and smell**
- **Basing emission reduction strategies on healthful ambient concentrations (NAAQS) has driven pollution control technology**
- **Single pollutant control strategies have been effective for most directly-emitted pollutants**
- **Multi-pollutant control strategies are needed for pollutants that form after emission (ozone, sulfate, nitrate, organic carbon)**
- **The piecemeal development and lack of accountability of the U.S. AQM system has resulted in inefficiencies, excessive litigation, implementation delays, and retention of older assessment technologies**

## Citizens were upset with poor visibility in major cities



9:20am in downtown Pittsburgh, 1946



Afternoon in Los Angeles, early 1960s

# Citizens were also concerned about poor visibility in treasured national parks

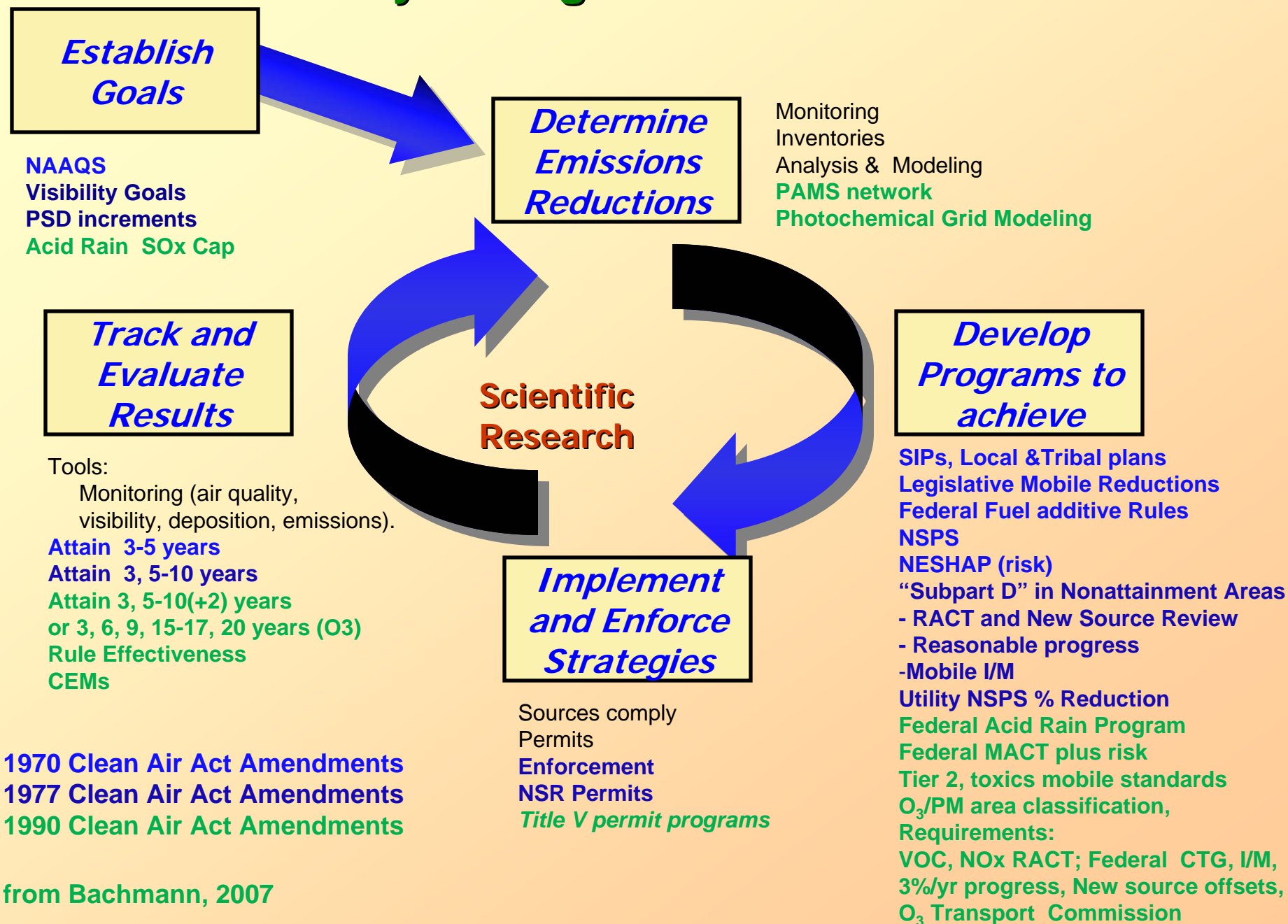


Grand Canyon, 6/21/1985, 9 AM



Four Corners coal-fired power station, east of Grand Canyon, 1970s

# U.S. Air Quality Management is an Iterative Process

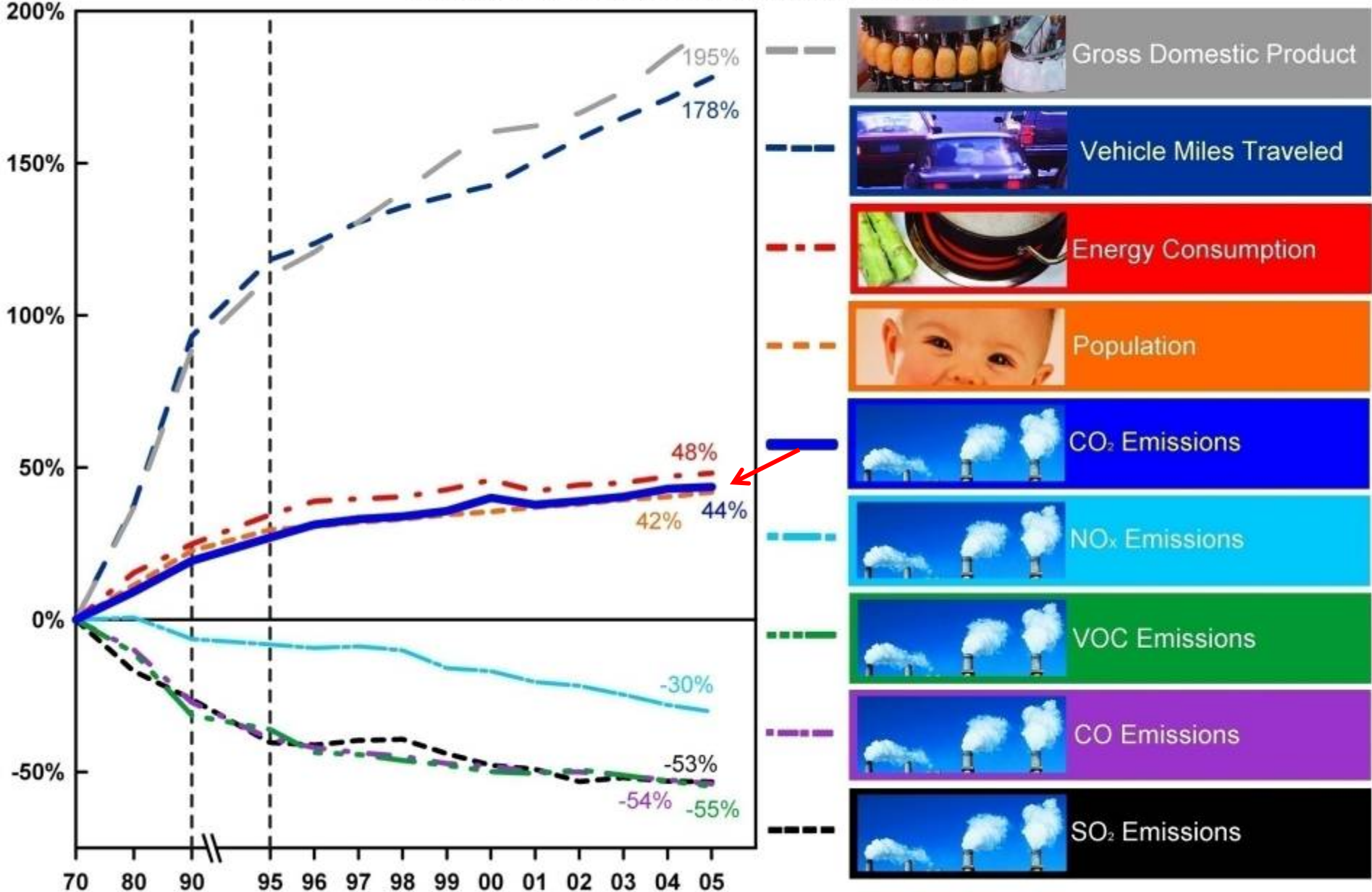


# **Multiple Emission Reduction Laws and Regulations have Been Promulgated for U.S. AQM**

- **Ambient air quality standards (NAAQS)**
- **Emissions caps and trading**
- **Demonstrated reasonable progress**
- **Emission fees and fines**
- **Emission limits (NSPS, Tiers 1,2,3,4,5)**
- **Effluent treatment requirements (RACT, BACT, MACT, LAER)**
- **Retrofit Requirements (NSR, BACT)**
- **Product design specifications**
- **Forced shutdowns**
- **Fuel specifications**
- **Inspection and Maintenance programs**
- **Energy efficiency requirements**

# U.S. AQM has been Successful for Individual Pollutants

Comparison of Growth Areas and Emissions



# **Future Challenges for U.S. Air Quality Management**

- **Simplify overlapping rules and regulations**
- **Regulate pollutant combinations rather than individual pollutants**
- **Re-design source characterization and ambient networks for data uses beyond compliance and phase-in new measurement technologies**
- **Expand spatial domains for AQM beyond local, state, and national boundaries**

# Source Material

- **Simplify overlapping rules and regulations**
- **Regulate pollutant combinations rather than individual pollutants**
- **Re-design source characterization and ambient networks for data uses beyond compliance and phase-in new measurement technologies**
- **Expand spatial domains for AQM beyond local, state, and national boundaries**

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