

ALERT!

April 2004

ALERT is a monthly update on transportation and air quality planning activities in the Delaware Valley.



CONFORMITY

New Study says U.S. Seaports are largest Urban Polluters

A new report released by Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Coalition for Clean Air says U.S. seaports are the largest and most poorly regulated sources of urban pollution in the country. The report grades the ten biggest seaports for their impact on air and water quality, land use, and nearby communities.

The report, [Harboring Pollution: The Dirty Truth about U.S. Ports](#), finds that despite the availability of technology to cut pollution, major seaports are emitting ever-larger amounts of toxic diesel exhaust and other contaminants that damage public health, disrupt local communities and harm marine habitats. Without swift action by port operators and policy-makers to implement cleaner practices, this scenario is expected to worsen as cargo volumes at some ports are projected to triple in the next twenty years.

The overall port grades are given with New York/New Jersey scoring "C+" grade. On the grading scale, an "A" designates a model port, whereas an "F" indicates a port that has demonstrated reckless lack of concern for public health and the environment. The report emphasizes the need for improvements in environmental practices at all ten ports highlighted, including Oakland, which scored the highest, yet must still address major environmental problems.

The report makes technical recommendations for all container ports to clean up their operations, including: dock-side power for all ships, cleaner fuels for all modes of transport, pollution controls for dirty diesel engines, and stricter storm water management. It also makes policy recommendations for federal, state and local regulators that would significantly reduce negative environmental effects on local communities and the environment.

EPA Proposes Rule to Ensure Extended Life of Vehicle Emission Controls

Under a proposed rule recently signed by EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, automotive manufacturers would be required to show that new vehicles would meet emissions standards throughout the "useful life period" or 120,000 miles for most cars and trucks. The proposed rule would instruct automotive



23rd Clean Air Council 5K Run For Clean Air on Saturday April 17th.

For information on location and registration please log on to

<http://www.cleanair.org/5kRun/5kRun.html>

or call the Clean Air Council at
215.567.4004

**EarthFest 2004
Thursday, April 22nd**

Temple University
Ambler Campus
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

manufacturers how to conduct the durability procedures used to predict the useful life emissions of new vehicles.

These procedures are part of EPA's vehicle emission certification program, under which vehicle prototypes are tested to demonstrate compliance with the federal emission standards. Upon this demonstration, EPA issues certificates of conformity allowing the manufacturer to produce and sell cars in the U.S. The proposed aging procedures include methods to accumulate mileage on prototype vehicles on a track and to simulate mileage accumulation using rapid aging techniques.

EPA has taken this action to fulfill a court mandate issued on October 22, 2002 by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to vacate the existing aging procedures and to write new regulations. This decision arose from a petition from the Ethyl Corporation to reconsider EPA's existing durability regulations.

EPA Proposes Approval for Pennsylvania SIP Revision

In the March 16, 2004 Federal Register, EPA proposed to approve a revision to the Pennsylvania State Implementation Plan (SIP). Specifically, EPA is proposing approval of the revised mobile emission inventories and 2005 motor vehicle emissions budgets (MVEBs) which have been developed using MOBILE6, an updated model for calculating mobile emissions of ozone precursors. These inventories and MVEBs are part of the Rate of Progress (ROP) plan approved for the Pennsylvania portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton severe 1-Hour ozone nonattainment area. Written comments must be received on or before April 15, 2004.

It all adds up to cleaner air

Transportation-Air Quality Initiative

Energy Department Releases Long-term Hydrogen Research Plan

The Department of Energy (DOE) has released its "Hydrogen Posture Plan." The document outlines DOE's role in America's shift to a hydrogen-based transportation energy system. The plan identifies milestones for technology development over the next decade, leading up to a commercialization decision by industry in 2015.

The Bush Administration's fiscal year 2005 budget request includes \$227 million for research to support the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative. The federal government will play a key role in accelerating the transition towards the hydrogen economy by pursuing research to overcome technical challenges. The Posture Plan integrates research, development and demonstration activities from the DOE renewable, nuclear, fossil and science offices.

ALERT contains news items related to air quality and transportation.

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