

# ALERT July 2004

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



## CONFORMITY

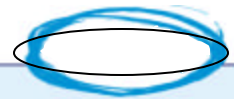
### EPA Seeks New Air Quality Steps from States

Pennsylvania and New Jersey are among 21 states that may face sanctions on particulate emissions from diesel engines and power plants. These states have until 2008 to tell the U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) how they will solve the problem. All but three of the states face possible sanctions such as reduced highway funds if they do not clean up their air by 2010.

The particles in question are defined as those measuring less than 2.5 microns across - about one-thirtieth the diameter of a human hair. The particles' small size enables them to penetrate deep into human breathing passages.

Scientists say people exposed to these particles for many years are more likely to suffer lung problems and even premature death. Short-term exposures, over a matter of hours or days, have been linked to asthma and heart attacks among those who already are ill.

The new bad-air list follows a recent report, in which the EPA found that much of PA and NJ had excessive levels of ozone, another pollutant that can trigger breathing problems. While the air quality has improved in recent decades, the EPA has imposed tougher standards as scientists learn more about the dangers of pollution.



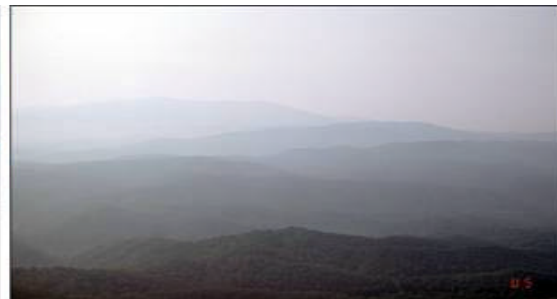
**Don't "top off"  
the tank**

Spillage from gas tanks adds about two tons of pollution a day to our air.



## OZONE ACTION

### Worst National Parks for Air Quality



*National Park Service*

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, rated the worst for air quality by conservation groups, is seen here on a clear day and a hazy one.

A report by the National Parks Conservation Association and two smaller groups concludes that air quality in the national parks has not improved even though Congress tightened the Clean Air Act in 1990.

Five parks out of a system of 388 national parks were ranked as having the worst air quality. That poor quality affects not only views but can have long-term, detrimental health effects on plants, trees and animals.

Using haze, acid precipitation and ozone, also known as smog, as their criteria, the groups ranked these five parks in order of having the worst air quality:

- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** in Tennessee and North Carolina.
- **Mammoth Cave National Park** in Kentucky.
- **Shenandoah National Park** in Virginia.
- **Acadia National Park** in Maine.
- **Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks** in California.

For the full report visit [www.npca.org/codered](http://www.npca.org/codered).

*It all adds up to cleaner air*

## **Transportation-Air Quality Initiative**

### **First Biodiesel Facility in Pennsylvania Arrives**

The first biodiesel fueling facility in Pennsylvania opened its doors June 28 in Lancaster County. The Elm Wo-Go fueling station, owned by Worley and Obetz Inc., is the first in the state to offer biodiesel B5 (5 percent soybean oil and 95 percent diesel) to the public.

Biodiesel B5 is a clean, oxygenated fuel made from soybeans. It is simple to use, domestically produced from agricultural resources, biodegradable, nontoxic and essentially free of sulfur and aromatic compounds.

Some of the benefits of using B5 include: reduction of particulate emissions, sulfur, and air toxics normally found in diesel fuels, as well as decreased dependence on conventional fuels produced from foreign sources.

Because biofuels can be produced from crops that can be grown locally, its production supports local biofuel crop farmers, keeping energy and agriculture dollars in Pennsylvania, Secretary McGinty said. All of this contributes to a healthy state economy and provides energy self-sufficiency, reducing our dependence on foreign oil. For more information, visit Worley and Obetz Web site at [www.worleyobetz.com](http://www.worleyobetz.com).

ALERT contains news items related to air quality and transportation.

To submit articles, please contact:  
Emi Faloughi at  
[efaloughi@dvrpc.org](mailto:efaloughi@dvrpc.org)



**Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission**

The Bourse Building, 8th Floor  
111 South Independence Mall East  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2582

Phone 215.592.1800 Fax 215.592.9125 [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org)