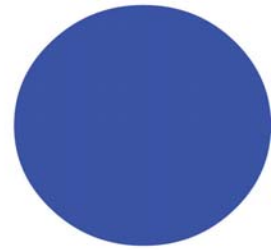


ALERT!

February 2005

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



CONFORMITY

PennDEP Establishes Air Monitoring Locations in Collegeville, Montgomery County

PennDEP Southeast Region recently announced the installation of air monitors at two locations in Collegeville Borough, Montgomery County, to monitor for air toxics in the air.

Following findings of moderate levels of airborne trichloroethylene (TCE) at a Pottstown air monitoring site (installed in 2001), PennDEP carried out mobile monitoring in the Collegeville area, observing elevated TCE levels at several locations. These were reported as part of Pottstown Area Air Monitoring report published in May 2004 and precipitated PennDEP's commitment to establish stationary monitors in the Collegeville area.

Monitors now are located in Evansburg State Park and at the College Street School Community Building. For more information about air toxics monitoring, or for a copy of the May 12, 2004, report, visit DEP's Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/toxics/toxics.htm.

PennDEP Proposes NOx Allocations For 2005 and 2008-2012 Ozone Seasons

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PennDEP) recently proposed the next set of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) allocations for the 2008-2012 control periods as well as the 2005 new source set aside NOx allocations.

This next step in NOx allocations builds upon the market-based success of the NOx Budget Program, a cap-and-trade system that limits regional NOx emissions from power generating facilities and very large industrial combustion sources during the Ozone season (May through September).

Facilities that can reduce emissions easily or at lower costs can sell or trade excess NOx allowances they generate to facilities that are unable to economically make NOx reductions. One NOx allowance is equivalent to one ton of NOx emissions. The cap seeks to ensure NOx reductions, while trading within the cap offers facilities, at the lowest possible cost, flexibility in how the reductions are made. To see an example of how the NOx Budget cap-and-trade program works, check out details on a recent NOx trade at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsreleases/default.asp?ID=3087&varQueryType=Detail>.



**Monday,
February 14th, 2005
Philadelphia
Diesel Difference
Working
Group Meeting**

DVRPC Executive
Board Room
111 South Independence
Mall East
Philadelphia
10a.m. to 12 noon

US EPA Issues Documents as Part of the Review of Ozone and PM Air Quality Standards

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing draft documents on ground-level ozone and particulate matter (PM), two of the six criteria air pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CAA requires the EPA to periodically review its National Ambient Air Quality Standards to ensure they reflect the latest air pollution and health effects research and science.

The first external review draft of the "Air Quality Criteria for Ozone and Other Photochemical Oxidants" is up for a 90-day public comment period and expert external scientific peer review. This draft criteria document revises the 1996 document, which was the basis for the current ozone standards set in 1997.

EPA also released its second draft staff assessment of the policy implications of the latest scientific and technical information about particle pollution. This draft document presents recommendations for retaining or tightening the suite of PM standards for the EPA Administrator's consideration. These recommendations include potential revisions to fine and inhalable or "thoracic" coarse particle standards and consideration of a short-term secondary standard for fine particles to protect visibility in urban areas. Both documents do not change current standards; they are preliminary steps that could lead toward future air quality policy decisions.



OTHER NEWS

U.S. Announces Clean Air Agreement with ConocoPhillips, the Largest Domestic Petroleum Refiner

The EPA and the U.S. Justice Department announced a comprehensive Clean Air Act settlement with ConocoPhillips that is expected to reduce harmful air emissions by more than 47,000 tons per year from nine U.S. petroleum refineries in seven states. This represents nearly 10 percent of total refining capacity in the United States.

The states of Illinois, Louisiana, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as the Northwest Clean Air Agency (Washington State) are joining the settlement. The agreement is part of EPA's national effort to reduce air emissions from refineries. ConocoPhillips will be required to spend more than \$525 million to install and implement innovative control technologies to reduce emissions at its refineries. These actions are expected to reduce annual NOx emissions by more than 10,000 tons and sulfur dioxide (SO2) by more than 37,100 tons. Emissions of particulate matter are expected to be significantly reduced. The air pollutants addressed by today's agreements can cause serious respiratory problems and exacerbate cases of childhood asthma.

ConocoPhillips will pay a \$4.5 million civil penalty and spend more than \$10 million on supplemental environmental projects to reduce emissions further and to support activities in the communities where it operates.

ALERT contains news items related to air quality and transportation.

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