

ALERT! *September 2005*

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



CONFORMITY

Federal Plan Proposed to Ensure Power Plant Pollution Cuts

To ensure emissions reductions required under the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) are achieved, EPA is proposing a federal implementation plan (FIP) to require power plants in CAIR states to participate in one or more of three separate cap and trade programs.

The proposed FIP would require power plants in the 28 CAIR states and the District of Columbia to participate in cap and trade programs to reduce annual sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions, annual nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions, and ozone season NO_x emissions. EPA is also proposing the FIP for New Jersey and Delaware, based on a proposal to include those states in CAIR for fine particle pollution.

The FIP would not limit states' flexibility in meeting their CAIR requirements. EPA would withdraw the federal plan for any state once that state's own plan for meeting CAIR requirements is in place.

CAIR is meant to cap emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the eastern United States. When fully implemented, CAIR should reduce SO₂ emissions in 28 eastern states and the District of Columbia by more than 70 percent and NO_x emissions by more than 60 percent from 2003 levels. This will result in more than \$100 billion in health and visibility benefits per year by 2015 and will substantially reduce premature mortality in the eastern United States. These benefits will continue to grow each year with further implementation.

EPA will hold public hearings on this proposal on Sept. 14, 2005, at EPA's offices in Research Triangle Park, N.C. and Sept. 15, 2005 at EPA's offices in Washington, D.C. The agency also will accept written public comment for 60 days after the rule is published in the Federal Register. To learn more about this action, visit: <<http://epa.gov/cair/rule.html>>

PennDEP Joins Petition For Reconsideration on EPA's Clean Air Mercury Rule

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PennDEP) joined a petition for reconsideration challenging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final mercury emissions reduction rule for new and existing coal-fired power plants.

The petition challenged the EPA's subcategorization of coal types, which would encourage fuel switching away from Pennsylvania bituminous coal in favor of coal



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mined in the western United States. The petition also challenged the air quality modeling that EPA used to support its final rule formation, as well as a regulatory impact analysis that detailed the effect the rule would have on human health and the environment.

EPA's final mercury rule establishes emission guidelines based on the type of coal instead of the class, type or size of the source of emissions. More stringent emissions standards are placed on bituminous coal mined in eastern states like Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia. Little or no reductions are required on units using sub-bituminous coal from the West.



OTHER NEWS

Guidebook Helps Government Calculate Benefits of Transportation and Land Use Policies

Land use choices, transportation planning and decisions on how to fund transportation influence the costs of transportation -- whether measured in dollars, time, air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions. Because state and local governments influence many of these decisions and must address these costs, the Center for Clean Air Policy is offering a new tool to governments, non-profits and technical experts to illustrate impacts -- and help make informed decisions -- on local transportation issues.

The Center for Clean Air Policy has just completed the first installment of the CCAP Transportation Emissions Guidebook: Land Use, Transit & Travel Demand Management, which helps users assess the air pollution, energy use, and greenhouse gas emissions benefits of a variety of transportation and land use policies.

The guidebook includes policy overviews, success stories and links to key models and resources. The Guidebook Emissions Calculator can be customized with local data to compare and quantify benefits from a variety of projects and policies. Below are some of the questions that can be answered (and many more) using the guidebook and calculator:

- How much can bike lanes cut fuel expenditures in my community?
- What are the air quality benefits of smart growth policies?
- What are the potential CO2 savings from road pricing?

To access the guidebook online or to download the policy briefs and calculator, please visit us at www.ccap.org/trans.htm, or follow this link to go directly to the Flash-enabled site:

<http://www.ccap.org/guidebook/> or <http://www.ccap.org/guidebook/.idebook> online.

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