

ALERT!

January 2006

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



CONFORMITY

Pennsylvania Assembly Debates Future of PA Clean Vehicles Program

Bills have been introduced into both houses of the state assembly (House Bill 2141 and Senate Bill 1025) to prevent implementation of aspects of the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program which require that new, light duty cars and trucks sold in the state meet California Low Emission Vehicle (CAL LEV) standards by 2008. The state's Environmental Quality Board, an independent rulemaking body consisting of agency officials, members of the General Assembly and citizens, adopted the program in October 2005.

Some lawmakers cited concerns regarding the cost of lower emission vehicles to the consumer and tying Pennsylvania laws to standards set by California as reasons for their opposition to the program.

DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty provided testimony in support of the Clean Vehicles Program in front of a joint hearing of the Senate Transportation and Environmental Resources and Energy Committees on December 13, 2005. She noted that if fewer emissions reductions are required of automakers then additional regulation of factories, power plants and other sources of emissions will be required to meet Clean Air Act regulations.

Adoption of the CAL LEV standards would yield a ten percent reduction in NOX and twelve percent reduction in VOC emissions over the current federal standards. Currently, New Jersey has adopted the California Standards and six other states, including New York, are considering the measure.



TRANSPORTATION – AIR QUALITY INITIATIVES

Clean Air Council Receives PA Energy Harvest Grant for Walt Whitman Truck Stop Electrification Demonstration Project

The Clean Air Council and the Walt Whitman Truck Stop have been awarded a \$107,000 Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant to install Shurepower anti-idling units at twenty truck parking spaces at the truck stop. This demonstration project will provide electrical power to the trucks to operate heating and cooling systems and other amenities without the need to keep the trucks idling.

The benefits of this truck stop electrification demonstration project include minimizing diesel emissions, reducing fuel consumption and providing a replicable template for other truck stops in the region while providing truckers with a less expensive, cleaner option to power their on-board amenities.




**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Monday,
January 9th, 2006
Philadelphia
Diesel Difference Working
Group Meeting**

**Wednesday,
January 11th, 2006
Greater Philadelphia Clean
Cities Working Group
Meeting**

DVRPC Conference Center
190 N. Independence Mall West,
(corner of 6th and Race Streets)
8th Floor
Both meetings begin at 10:00 am

AIR QUALITY PARTNERSHIP



Ozone Action Days become Air Quality Action Days

At its November 2005 meeting, the Air Quality Partnership Board voted to change the title of the Ozone Action program to the Air Quality Action program to reflect changes in the program to include days when fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) is forecast to be at unhealthy levels.

In previous years, the Ozone Action program forecast ground level ozone levels from early May through September. When ozone levels were forecast to exceed the federal ozone standard, the Partnership would issue "Ozone Health Watch" (code orange or unhealthy for at risk populations) or "Ozone Action" (code red or unhealthy for the general population) days depending on the forecasted levels of ground level ozone.

With the designation of the Philadelphia Region as a PM 2.5 non-attainment area, the Partnership is now forecasting PM 2.5 levels throughout the calendar year and issues advisories when PM 2.5 levels are predicted to exceed the federal air quality standard.

In an effort to streamline this advisory system and continue the success of the Ozone Action program, the Partnership will call "Air Quality Action" days when either ground level ozone or PM 2.5 levels are forecast to be in the code orange or code red levels. The Partnership will include the appropriate health message with the advisory depending on the relevant pollutant or pollutants.

For more information on the Partnership, go to <http://www.airqualitypartnership.org>

OTHER NEWS



Nine States Propose Reductions in Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Power Plants

New Jersey and Delaware have joined New York and six New England states in a plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. The plan sets a freeze on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in 2009 and calls for a ten percent reduction in emissions between 2015 and 2020.

Plan participants state that the purpose of the plan is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to global warming while fostering investment in cleaner and more efficient technologies.

Pennsylvania has, so far, declined to adopt the plan but is participating in the process as an observer. Carbon Dioxide emissions from power plants in Pennsylvania are almost equal to the other nine states combined. The Rendell administration feels that the plan's focus on power plant emissions is not comprehensive enough and should consider other sources of green house gases, such as motor vehicles.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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