

# ALERT! February 2007

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



## CONFORMITY

### **US Court of Appeals Rejects Eight Hour Ozone Standard**

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia rejected the EPA's eight hour ozone standard rule in a decision released on December 22, 2006. The decision vacated the EPA's rule and remanded the matter back to EPA to revise the standard rule.

EPA issued the eight hour ozone standard in 2004 and designated 474 counties, in 31 states, as non-attainment areas. The new standard, set at 80 parts per billion (ppb) of ozone averaged over an eight hour period, was going to replace the old one hour standard which was 120 ppb of ozone from hourly readings. The new standard was scheduled to take effect one year after the eight hour ozone non-attainment areas were designated.

The court decision cited that the new rule, which allowed states between three and seventeen years to meet the new ozone air quality standard, allowed "backsliding" for a number of states and that the time period to meet the new standard was too long. The court stated that the rule, as it is currently written, does not align with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act.

The EPA is reviewing the court decision and has not yet decided whether the agency will seek a rehearing of the case. The one hour ozone rule will remain in effect until it is replaced by the eight hour standard.

The DVRPC region has been designated part of the Philadelphia–Wilmington–Atlantic City, PA–NJ–DE non-attainment area under both the eight hour and one hour ozone standard.

Plaintiffs in the suit included a number of states (Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine), the District of Columbia, environmental groups and California's South Coast Air Management District.

The entire US Court of Appeals decision can be read at: <http://www.earthjustice.org/library>



**Monday,  
February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Philadelphia Diesel  
Difference Working Group  
Meeting  
10:00 am**

DVRPC Conference Center  
ACP Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
6<sup>th</sup> and Race Streets  
Philadelphia, PA

**Wednesday,  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
End of Public Comment  
Period for DVRPC Conformity  
Determination Reaffirmation**

Send Comments to:  
Tip- Plan Comments C/O DVRPC  
190 N. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Or email:  
[Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org](mailto:Tip-plan-comments@dvrpc.org)



## **TRANSPORTATION – AIR QUALITY**

### **Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program and General Motors Celebrate Philadelphia's First Biofuel Service Station**

On February 2, 2007, seventy-five General Motors (GM) flexible-fuel vehicles paraded to the Shell Station at 12<sup>th</sup> and Vine Streets to fill up on E85 (ethanol) and to celebrate the grand opening of the city's first biofuel service station. The Center City Shell station is now offering B20 (Biodiesel) and E85 to the public along with traditional fuels.

The vehicles, in town for the Philadelphia Car Show, are examples of flexible-fuel vehicles offered by most American automakers that can run on either petroleum gasoline or ethanol blends. GM is a major manufacturer of flexible-fuel vehicles, marketed to reduce air pollution and America's dependence on imported petroleum.

The installation of the E85 and B20 pumps and tanks at the Shell Station were funded through a PA DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant (AFIG) sponsored by the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program. The station is the first to offer E85 in the city and the eastern part of the state.

The Center City Shell Station is just one of fourteen planned stations offering E85 along a corridor stretching from State College to Philadelphia. The E85 corridor project, also coordinated by the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program, has been funded with federal and state grants and represents an effort to provide refueling infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles already on the road.

For more information about flexible-fuel vehicles or the E85 corridor project please visit: <http://www.phillycleancities.org>



### **Other News**

#### **New Data Show Decline in Children's Exposure to Fine Particle Pollution**

A recent EPA report shows that the percentage of children living in counties that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for fine particle pollution or PM 2.5 has declined from 24 percent in 1999 to 16 percent in 2004.

The data is included in the most recent update of *America's Children and the Environment*, which is a compilation of information from federal databases that provide insight into children's environmental health. EPA uses this report as an instrument to gauge its progress in carrying out the agency's mission.

This report is significant because children are more vulnerable to environmental exposure than adults. Children eat more, drink more and breathe more than adults in proportion to their body size. Children's activities can also place them in greater contact with environmental pollutants.

To view the entire report, *America's Children and the Environment*, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/envirohealth/children/index.htm>

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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