

ALERT! *April 2007*

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



CONFORMITY

US EPA Offers Procedure to Determine if Monitoring Data is Influenced by Exceptional Events

On March 14, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to establish criteria and procedures to determine if air quality monitoring data has been influenced by an exceptional air quality event such as wildfire or other natural or man-made disaster. Exceptional events are unusual occurrences that can impact air quality but are not reasonably controllable using techniques that are traditionally implemented to attain or maintain National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The purpose of the guidance, required by SAFETEA-LU legislation passed by Congress in 2005, is to provide air management agencies with a procedure to apply to have data excluded from regulatory consideration when that data has been determined to be affected by an exceptional environmental event. This exclusion will help air management agencies avoid unreasonable planning requirements that may have been imposed by violations of NAAQS caused by extraordinary circumstances, while identifying reasonable actions that should be taken to protect public health from these types of events.

EPA's final rule also helps to ensure that air quality measurements are properly evaluated and characterized with regard to their causes and provides safeguards to guarantee that air quality data, whether given special consideration or not, is subject to full public disclosure and review.

EPA's entire final rule document can be viewed at:
<http://epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/t1pfpr.html>



**Saturday,
April 21st, 2007
Clean Air Council
5K Run for Cleaner Air
9:00 am start**

Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
(near the Philadelphia
Museum of Art)

Pre-register at:
www.cleanair.org

**Monday - Tuesday
April 23rd & 24th, 2007
Innovative Funding for Clean
Diesel Workshop**

Radisson Plaza
Warwick Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

For more information visit:
www.marama.org



TRANSPORTATION – AIR QUALITY

EPA Continues Efforts to Reduce Air Pollution from Non-road Diesel Vehicles

In March, EPA reported continued progress in efforts to reduce air pollution from non-road diesel engines. EPA completed the first batch of confirmatory emissions testing of diesel powered construction, agriculture and industrial engines that confirmed manufacturer reports that these new diesel engines are meeting the emission

reduction requirements called for in the *Clean Air Non-road Diesel Rule* which was finalized in 2004.

EPA also announced a new rule proposal that would call for reductions in particulate matter and NO_x emissions from diesel locomotives and marine vessels such as tug boats, ferries and marine auxiliary engines. The *Clean Air Locomotive and Marine Diesel Rule* calls for stringent emission standards and the use of advanced technologies to reduce particulate matter emissions by ninety percent and NO_x emissions by eighty percent annually, when the rule is fully implemented. The rule would tighten emission standards on all new locomotives and marine diesel engines as well as locomotives that are remanufactured. Other provisions of the rule target reduction of unnecessary idling.

The proposed rule would phase in emission regulations beginning in 2009 for new diesel engines and long term emission standards would be phased in beginning in 2014. The proposed rule is expected to provide national health benefits valued at \$12 billion in 2030.

For more information about diesel non-road equipment, please visit: <http://epa.gov/nonroad-diesel>



[Other News](#)

PA DEP Announces Hazardous Household Waste Collection Days for Southeastern PA Counties

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Waste System Authority of Eastern Montgomery County have posted the 2007 Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) collection dates and locations for all five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. These dates include three events in April in Philadelphia, Chester and Montgomery Counties.

Proper disposal of hazardous household chemicals is not only important for preventing air and water pollution but also for protecting the health of families, waste management workers and pets. When HHW is thrown away in the garbage, it poses a health risk to waste management workers. Once in the landfill those chemicals can pollute the air by evaporation (many HHWs are volatile and readily evaporate) or seep into groundwater. Stored in the home, hazardous chemicals can increase the risk of accidental poisoning of small children and pets.

There are twenty-four HHW events being held across the region from April through November, most of which also accept used electronics, giving residents ample opportunity take action to protect their health as well as air and water quality in the region.

To view the list of dates and locations of HHW Collections in southeastern PA please visit: <http://www.wsaemc.org/Recycling/Hazardous%20Waste.htm#Montco%20Sites>

<p>ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.</p>	 <p>Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission DVRPC, 8th Floor 190 N. Independence Mall West Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520 Phone 215.592.1800 Fax 215.592.9125 www.dvrpc.org</p>
---------------------------------------	--