

ALERT! June 2007

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



CONFORMITY

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Seeks Public Comment on Revision to State Implementation Plan for Philadelphia Ozone Non-attainment Area

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has opened a public comment period for a revision to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the area of southeastern PA included in the *Philadelphia – Wilmington - Atlantic City, PA – DE – MD – NJ eight-hour ozone non-attainment area*. The SIP revision lays out the plan to insure that southeastern Pennsylvania meets the health-based ozone standards by June 2010, by reducing ozone-causing emissions from industry, utilities and transportation. The plan also demonstrates how the region will meet 2008 and 2009 reasonable further progress milestones for emission reductions through state and federal control measures.

The SIP revision shows that ozone levels and emissions have been decreasing over time. Using evidence from photochemical modeling, ozone trends and regional transport impacts, the plan demonstrates that the region will meet its attainment deadline of June 2010. The plan also includes a contingency plan to bring the region back into attainment should violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) occur after the standard is attained, as well as mobile source emissions budgets for the purposes of transportation conformity. These budgets will replace the one-hour ozone standard budgets that are currently being used to demonstrate transportation conformity in the Pennsylvania portion of the DVRPC Region.

The public comment period will run until June 26, 2007. After which DEP will finalize the SIP and submit it to the US Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

To view the entire Philadelphia Attainment Plan document, please visit:
http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/airwaste/aq/plans/clean_air_plans.htm.

Written comments should be submitted to Arleen Shulman, Division of Air Resource Management, Bureau of Air Quality, P.O. Box 8648, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8648 or email: ashulman@state.pa.us. A public hearing will be held at the DEP Southeast Regional Office in Norristown on Friday June 22, at 1:00 pm.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Monday,
June 18th, 2007
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

DVRPC Conference Center
8th Floor
6th and Race Streets
Philadelphia, PA

**Friday,
June 22nd, 2007
Public Hearing
PA 8-Hour Ozone
SIP Revision
1:00 pm**

PA DEP
Southeast Regional Office
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA



Health and Air Quality

DVRPC Region Listed in Top 25 Most Ozone and PM_{2.5} Polluted Regions in the Country in the American Lung Association's 2007 State of the Air Report.

The Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland PA-NJ-DE-MD metropolitan region¹ once again was ranked in the top 25 most polluted regions for ozone and fine particles by the American Lung Association (ALA) in their *State of the Air* report released in May 2007. The region was ranked as the 12th worst region for ozone pollution and 22nd and 24th worst, respectively, for short term (24-hour average) and long term (annual average) PM_{2.5}. The ALA used quality assured data from the period 2003 to 2005 to develop the 2007 report card on ozone and particle pollution for the nation's cities and counties.

The report also ranks individual counties based on the number of days that air quality reaches unhealthy levels (code orange) on the Air Quality Index. Of the eight counties in the DVRPC region that were graded², every county received an "F" grade for ozone pollution, four counties received passing grades for short term PM_{2.5} pollution and five counties received passing grades for the annual PM_{2.5} pollution. The ALA used the new PM_{2.5} daily standard of 35µg/m³, adopted in September 2006, to determine the code orange range for short term particle pollution.

According to the ALA, ozone pollution has been declining nationwide from peak levels observed in 2002, with the number of counties receiving an "A" grade jumping from 82 in 2000 to 145 in 2007. Particle pollution shows a different trend in the eastern United States, with "F" grades nearly doubling east of the Mississippi in just one year. Particle pollution levels in the western states are declining. Locally, the Philadelphia region did make gains in improving ozone ambient air quality. The region improved from 10th worst in the nation for ozone pollution in 2006 to 12th worst in 2007. Camden County, the only county in the region in the top 25 worst counties for ozone, moved from 16th to 22nd worst. The region did, however, follow the trend for the eastern U.S. by reappearing on the 25 worst lists for both short term and annual particle pollution after being removed from the list in 2006.

The ALA report attributes the dichotomy of particle pollution trends across the nation to stricter state and local, particle pollution regulations in states west of the Mississippi River and an increase in electricity generated by heavy polluting power plants in the mid-west and eastern states.

To view the entire 2007 State of the Air Report, including grading methodology and statistical analysis, please visit the American Lung Association at <http://lungaction.org/reports/stateoftheair2007.html>.

¹ The Philadelphia-Camden-Vineland PA-NJ-DE-MD metropolitan region includes Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties in PA and Camden, Burlington, Gloucester and Salem Counties in NJ.

²Burlington County was not included in the ALA State of the Air Report, presumably due to a lack of data.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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