

ALERT! February 2008

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



CONFORMITY

U.S. EPA Issues Final Transportation Conformity Rule Amendments to Implement SAFETEA-LU Provisions

On January 7, 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued changes to the transportation conformity rule to make the rule consistent with the Clean Air Act as amended by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) of 2005.

The changes to the transportation conformity rule, called for in the SAFETEA-LU legislation, make the rule more flexible and streamline implementation of some of the rule's administrative provisions. The changes include:

- reducing the required frequency of conformity determinations for transportation plans and transportation improvement programs from every three years to every four years,
- allowing regions two years (up from 18 months) to make a conformity determination in response to a new "motor vehicle emissions budget" in a State Implementation Plan (SIP),
- creating a one-year grace period before consequences apply when an area misses certain conformity deadlines,
- streamlining requirements for state conformity procedures (conformity SIPs),
- allowing regions to add or substitute transportation control measures without requiring a SIP revision.

In addition to these changes, the final rule also allows the U.S. Department of Transportation, in consultation with EPA, to make categorical hot-spot findings for projects in carbon monoxide non-attainment or maintenance areas. This provision will help to streamline hot-spot analysis for certain projects.

The final rule also removes the provision that allowed 8-hour ozone non-attainment areas to use other tests for conformity instead of their 1-hour ozone SIP budgets, where the other tests were deemed more appropriate. This provision no longer applies because it was vacated by the U.S. Court of Appeals in December 2006.

For more information on the January 2008 *Transportation Conformity Rule Regulations* please visit:

www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/regs/420f08002.htm



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Monday,
February 11th, 2008
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

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

**January 28th – March 7th,
2008
Public Survey Period for
DVRPC 2035
Long Range Plan**

Survey can be viewed at
www.dvrpc.org/connections



TRANSPORTATION – AIR QUALITY

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Publishes “Clean Vehicle List” for Model Year 2006 and 2007 Vehicles

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has published a list of “Clean Vehicles” for model years 2006 and 2007 (MY 2006-07). The list is a compilation of ultra low emitting vehicles that are now available to the new car buyer.

The 2007 list includes four models of Advanced Technology Partial Zero Emissions Vehicles (ATPZEVs) and 33 Partial Zero Emissions Vehicles (PZEVs). The ATPZEVs are all hybrid-electrics with extremely low emissions and improved fuel efficiency. The PZEVs are conventional gasoline fueled vehicles and are available in a wide variety of both foreign and domestic makes and models.

According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), vehicles with a PZEV rating are up to 90% cleaner than a MY 2004 vehicle and only emits two pounds of hydrocarbons over 100,000 miles of driving. These emissions are equal to the hydrocarbons from spilling one pint of gasoline. PZEV vehicles may cost more than the regular model of the vehicle but the costs are expected to be recouped by improved fuel economy.


When buying a vehicle on the list, the consumer must confirm with the dealer that they are purchasing the ATPZEV or PZEV certified vehicle, as not all vehicles in those models have the certification. Both New Jersey and Pennsylvania have adopted rules to implement the California Low Emission Vehicle program in 2009.

The publication of the “Clean Vehicle List” is part of the NJ Clean Air Act, signed in 2004. For more information or to view the entire list for MY2005, 06 and 07 vehicles as well as tax incentives and tips for “Driving Clean”, please visit: www.nj.gov/dep/cleanvehicles/



Help DVRPC Shape the Future of the Delaware Valley

DVRPC needs your opinions and concerns to help shape the future of the Delaware Valley. Please go to www.dvrpc.org/connections and take a short survey about land use, the environment, economic development and transportation in the Delaware Valley. The results of this survey will help to create a vision for the future, which will be communicated in the next update to the region’s long-range plan, entitled *Connections – The Regional Plan for a Sustainable Future*.



CONNECTIONS
THE REGIONAL PLAN FOR
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
WWW.DVRPC.ORG/CONNECTIONS

**Help Us Shape the Future
of the Delaware Valley!**

Visit WWW.DVRPC.ORG/CONNECTIONS
to take a survey about regional
land use, environmental, and
transportation issues.

PLEASE RESPOND BEFORE MARCH 7, 2008

All responses must be received by March 7, 2008 to be counted and eligible to win an 8GB iPod Touch.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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