

ALERT! July 2008

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



CONFORMITY

New Jersey Submits Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) State Implementation Plan

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has submitted the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Attainment of the Annual Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June 2008. The Attainment SIP details how New Jersey plans to meet the 1997 Annual PM_{2.5} standard in each of the state's two non-attainment areas (Northern New Jersey – New York – Long Island and Philadelphia – Wilmington PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Areas) by 2010 as required by federal law.

Mercer County is in the Northern New Jersey Nonattainment Area and Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties are in the Philadelphia-Wilmington Nonattainment Area. Mercer County currently has a SIP emissions budget for PM_{2.5} to use to demonstrate transportation conformity. The other counties rely on an interim conformity test and compare regional emissions to the year 2002 baseline PM_{2.5} emissions to demonstrate conformity. This interim test requires that DVRPC demonstrate conformity for the eight counties in the Philadelphia –Wilmington Nonattainment Area in conjunction with WILMAPCO for New Castle County Delaware.

The submitted SIP contains motor vehicle emission budgets which, once approved by the EPA, will be available for the remaining counties to compare estimated emissions against to show that projects contained in the New Jersey TIP and Long Range Plan are not negatively impacting regional air quality. When the Pennsylvania PM_{2.5} SIP is submitted and approved by EPA, the budgets will allow DVRPC to demonstrate conformity independently from WILMAPCO and streamline the conformity process.

New Jersey DEP is currently taking public comments on the Attainment SIP and has tentatively scheduled a public hearing at the DEP offices in Trenton for August 7, 2008 at 10:00 AM. The public comment period closes on August 14, 2008.

Comments can be sent to: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Alice A. Previte, Esq.
Attn: DEP Docket No. 08-08-06
PO Box 402
401 East State St.
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402



**Monday,
July 21st, 2008
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

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

**Wednesday - Friday,
August 13th-15th, 2008
Northeast Transportation
and Air Quality Summit**

Renaissance Harbor Place
Baltimore, Maryland
For more information and to
register visit
www.marama.org

The complete SIP submission can be viewed at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/baqp/pm25sip/pm25sip.html>



US EPA Proposes Stronger Air Quality Standards for Lead.

In May, the US EPA proposed to revise the NAAQS for lead for the first time in thirty years. EPA is currently seeking public comment on lowering the lead standards from 1.5 micrograms per cubic meter of air (μm^3) to between 0.10 μm^3 and 0.30 μm^3 . This proposal reflects a tightening of the airborne lead standard by 80 – 93% from the current standard which was set in 1978.

The EPA is required by the Clean Air Act to review the NAAQS every five years and to base decisions regarding revising the standards on the latest scientific evidence of impacts on human health and the environment of the pollutant being reviewed. More than 6,000 scientific studies on the impacts of lead exposure have been completed since 1990 and these studies indicate that that lead in the blood can cause harm at much lower levels than was previously understood.

Exposure to lead is associated with a broad range of effects including harming the central nervous and cardiovascular systems as well as affecting learning, memory and behavior in children. Lead typically enters the bloodstream through two routes. Airborne lead can be inhaled and can be a constituent of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ pollution. Once lead settles out of the air, it can also be ingested. Lead can also cause toxic effects in plants and impact reproduction in birds and mammals. EPA is proposing that the secondary standard to protect the environment be identical to the primary standard to protect human health.

Since lead in gasoline was phased out in the 1970s, lead concentrations in air have dropped nearly 98%. Current sources of airborne lead include smelters, iron and steel foundries and general aviation gasoline.

The public comment period on the proposed revision to the lead NAAQS ends on July 21, 2008. The entire proposed rule for the lead NAAQS can be viewed at:
http://www.epa.gov/air/lead/pdfs/20080501_proposal_fr.pdf

Comments on the proposed standards can be submitted via mail, email or fax to the following addresses:

Mail: Docket No EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0735
EPA , Mail Code 6102T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Email: a-and-rdocket@epa.gov
Fax: 202-566-9744,

All correspondence should be identified by Docket Id No. *EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0735*.

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