

ALERT! *April 2009*

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



AIR POLLUTION and HEALTH

US Proposes to Cut Harmful Ship Emissions Along the Nation's Coastline

The United States became the first country in the world to request that the International Maritime Organization create an emissions control area (ECA) around the nation's coastline. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) data, the creation of an ECA would save up to 8,300 American and Canadian lives each year by 2020 by reducing air pollution from oil tankers and other large ocean going vessels.

The United States is proposing a 230 mile buffer around the nation's coastline to improve air quality for the tens of millions of Americans that live and work in coastal communities. According to an EPA press release, air quality benefits of the proposed buffer zone are expected to reach as far inland as Kansas.

Under this program, large ships that operate within the ECA boundary would face stricter emissions standards designed to reduce threats to human health and the environment. These proposed standards would cut sulfur in fuel by 98 percent, particle pollution by 85 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by 80 percent from current global requirements.

The proposal is part of an on-going effort to improve air quality around the nation's ports, 40 of which are in metropolitan areas that fail to meet federal air quality standards.

The International Maritime Organization will begin reviewing this proposal in July and could approve the proposal as soon as next year.

For more information on the EPA's proposal please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/oceanvessels.htm>




**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Saturday
April 18th, 2009
Air Quality Partnership
Ozone Season Kick-off
10:00 am**

In conjunction with
Clean Air Council 5K
Run for Clean Air
MLK Drive
behind the Art Museum
Philadelphia, PA

**Monday,
April 20th, 2009
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

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



TRANSPORTATION and AIR QUALITY

Pennsylvania Implements Anti-Idling Regulation for Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicles

On February 6, 2009, Pennsylvania's heavy duty diesel anti-idling law took effect. The law is targeted at reducing air pollutants and saving fuel from diesel powered vehicles over 10,000 pounds, and includes many classes of long-haul trucks and buses.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) idling heavy duty trucks emit 3,200 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides; 210,000 tons of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas; and 65 tons of particle pollution or soot each year in Pennsylvania. Across the nation, idling of these vehicles wastes over one billion gallons of diesel fuel, at a cost of over \$2 billion annually.

Truck and bus drivers often idle their engines during rest periods to heat or cool the vehicles or provide electricity for on-board amenities. In recent years there have been many advances in technology, such as electrified parking spaces or auxiliary units that provide power without running the engine. Pennsylvania's anti-idling law includes an exemption for trucks with sleeper berths until May, 2010 to provide a reasonable amount of time for truckers to adopt these technologies to comply with the regulation.

In March, DEP awarded grants to three regional air quality organizations to help the trucking industry comply with the new regulation. The grants, funded by the US EPA, will be used to educate heavy-duty diesel vehicle operators and local officials on the environmental and economic effects of unnecessary idling and the availability of idling reduction technology.

The awards were granted to the Clean Air Council for outreach in the eastern part of the state and the Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania and the Group Against Smog and Pollution (Pittsburgh) for outreach efforts in the central and western portions of the state, respectively.

DEP is also operating a Small Business Advantage Grant program to assist small trucking operations purchase auxiliary power systems and has partnered with private enterprises to install electrified truck parking spaces at eleven truck stops across the Commonwealth.

For more information on the Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act, or to learn more about Pennsylvania's efforts to reduce pollution from idling, please visit:

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> Keyword: Diesel Idling

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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