

ALERT! March 2010

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



Conformity

US EPA Approves Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator Model for Use in SIPs and Conformity Demonstrations

On March 2, 2010, the US EPA published notice in the *Federal Register*, of the availability of the Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) for use in developing state implementation plan (SIP) motor vehicle emissions budgets and in transportation conformity demonstrations.

This notice of availability makes MOVES the official model used by states and metropolitan planning organizations for estimating regional emissions from cars, trucks, buses and motorcycles. The MOVES model is considered a significant upgrade from the previous emissions estimation model; MOBILE 6.2. This notice starts a two-year grace period before DVRPC will be required to use the model to demonstrate transportation conformity.

During those two years, DVRPC will be coordinating with the state Departments of Environmental Protection to insure that the emissions results from MOVES are consistent with state implementation plan emissions budgets which were developed using MOBILE 6.2. The states will also be able to use this grace period to update SIP budgets using the MOVES model to insure against any discrepancies that may arise from differences in the models' outputs.

EPA's announcement in the *Federal Register*, did explicitly note that this release is for the use of the MOVES model for regional emissions analysis only and that the model is not yet ready for use for project level or "hot spot" analysis. MOVES will eventually be sanctioned for project level analysis and projects requiring quantitative emissions analysis will be required to use the MOVES model to assess the air quality impacts of those projects.

For more information on the MOVES 2010 and Clean Air Act requirements please visit: www.epa.gov/otaq/models/moves/index.htm.



**Thursday,
March 11th, 2010
Public Meeting
PM_{2.5} SIP Revision
1:00 pm**

PA DEP Offices
2 East Main Street
Norristown, PA

**Monday,
March 15th, 2010
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference
Working Group
10:00 am**

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



Air Quality Regulations

US EPA Strengthens Standard for Nitrogen Dioxide

The US EPA announced a new one-hour standard for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in January 2010. NO₂ is linked to impaired lung function and an increase in respiratory infections, especially in people with asthma. NO₂ is emitted from motor vehicles, power plants and industry. According to the EPA, the new standard, set at 100 parts per billion, is aimed at preventing short term exposures in high risk NO₂ zones, such as in urban communities and communities near roadways.

In order to promote the goal of reducing NO₂ exposure in these targeted communities, EPA is establishing new monitoring requirements for urban areas that will measure NO₂ levels around major roadways. In cities with at least 500,000 residents, monitors must be located near major roadways. In cities with more than 1 million residents, community-wide monitoring will be required

EPA expects to identify or designate areas not meeting the new standard based on existing monitoring networks, by January 2012. New monitors, required to be operating by January 1, 2013, will be used to determine additional non-attainment areas once three years of NO₂ monitoring data has been accumulated.

For more information on EPA's new NO₂ standard please visit: www.epa.gov/air/nitrogenoxides

House Republicans Move to Block EPA Regulation of Green House Gases

US House of Representatives Minority Leader John Boehner announced that he will introduce a formal resolution that would effectively veto EPA's "endangerment" finding which determined that green house gases threaten public health and welfare. This finding, published in December 2009, allows EPA to move forward to develop rules aimed at curbing green house gas emissions.

Boehner's proposal currently has 79 Republican co-sponsors. Under House rules, co-sponsors need 218 signatures to send the motion to the House "discharge calendar". Once on the calendar, the motion can be adopted with a simple majority vote and the House can consider the disapproval resolution, which would come to the floor in the form introduced with no amendments.

The EPA's endangerment finding for green house gases is also being challenged in the US Circuit Court of Appeals by Texas, Virginia, and a number of industry groups.

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