

ALERT! *April 2010*

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



Air Quality Regulations

US EPA Announces Phase-In of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Permitting Requirements

On March 29, 2010, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final decision outlining when stationary sources will be required to obtain Clean Air Act permits for emitting greenhouse gases (GHGs). This action by EPA determines that large stationary sources will be required to obtain construction and operating permits when the first national rule controlling GHG emissions from cars and light trucks takes effect in January 2011.

EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, states that "this ruling is a common sense plan for phasing-in the protections of the Clean Air Act, which allows industry and states time to plan strategies to address GHG emission reductions".

The implementation of this decision is contingent upon EPA's GHG standards for cars and light trucks being finalized as proposed. The agency expects these standards to be finalized shortly but there is a current lawsuit, filed in the US Circuit Court of Appeals by Texas, Virginia, and a number of industry groups, challenging EPA's Endangerment Finding for GHGs. The Endangerment Finding is EPA's ruling that GHGs endanger public health and the environment and thus fall under Clean Air Act regulations. In addition to this court challenge, members of Congress are working on legislation that would prevent EPA from regulating GHGs.

A number industry groups are supporting climate change legislation that pre-empts action by the EPA to regulate GHGs through the Clean Air Act as well as state efforts to rein in GHG emissions. These groups cite that a national policy allows them to plan for regulation and will prevent a patchwork of state regulations limiting GHG emissions.

For more information on EPA's plan to phase GHG emission requirements please visit: www.epa.gov/nsr/guidance.html.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**Saturday,
April 17th, 2010
Clean Air Council
5K Run for Clean Air**
MLK Drive
behind the Art Museum
Philadelphia, PA

**Friday,
April 23rd, 2010
Air Quality Partnership
Ozone Season Kick-off
11:25 am**
On the Main Stage
Temple University EarthFest
580 Meetinghouse Road
Ambler, PA



[Air Quality Partnership](#)

The Air Quality Partnership Implements the EnviroFlash Alert System for the 2010 Ozone Season

Each year the Air Quality Partnership provides daily air quality forecasts for the region. The forecasts serve a number of purposes. The forecasts alert the public to days when fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) or ground level ozone pollution reach unhealthy levels. The forecasts encourage people to protect their health from air pollution and to take actions to reduce polluting activities. The forecasts also serve as a reminder that the greater Philadelphia Region does not meet the federal health-based air quality standards and that everyone should be doing their part to improve air quality in the region.

In past years the Air Quality Partnership, a DVRPC program, maintained a database of organizations, agencies and media contacts that would receive air quality alerts on the day before air quality was forecasted to violate the federal health standards. DVRPC staff maintained the database and re-broadcast air quality alerts via email.

In 2009, the US EPA unveiled the EnviroFlash Alert System. EnviroFlash is a free system that provides daily air quality forecasts via email to people who sign up for them. Unlike the old system where DVRPC staff would maintain the database, EnviroFlash allows the public to sign-up for and manage their alerts directly.

Participants can decide whether they receive daily forecasts or are only alerted when air quality is forecast to be poor. The system also allows participants to elect whether they receive emails as plain text, short form or html. In addition to these benefits, EnviroFlash distributes the forecasts at the same time every day, providing a consistency that was difficult to maintain under the previous alert system.

The public can sign-up for air quality forecasts through a link at www.airqualitypartnership.org or directly at www.enviroflash.info. The site asks for a name, email address, and zip code. The zip code helps the system determine which forecast the person receives. Forecasts for the five southeastern Pennsylvania counties are provided by Penn State University through a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Forecasts for New Jersey are provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

The Air Quality Partnership will continue to post the daily air quality forecasts for ozone from May through December and PM_{2.5} year-round, on its website and telephone hotline at **800-872-7261**.

ALERT! is a DVRPC publication.



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