

ALERT! *October 2006*

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



CONFORMITY

U.S. EPA Tightens PM_{2.5} Standards

On Thursday, September 21, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it would be tightening the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for fine particle pollution or PM_{2.5}. EPA's action revises the daily PM_{2.5} standard from 65 micrograms per cubic meter of air (parts per billion or ppb) to 35ppb. The annual standard for fine particle pollution will remain unchanged.

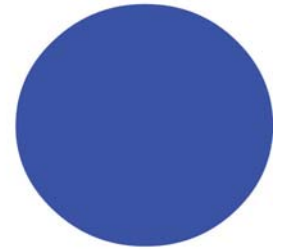
Particle pollution is a complex mixture of extremely small particles, such as dust, metals, soot and liquid droplets, that can penetrate deep into lung tissue when inhaled. The health impacts of particle pollution range from aggravating asthma to premature death in people with heart and respiratory diseases. Studies have shown that long term exposure to particle pollution can reduce lung function in children. The EPA estimates that the new particle pollution standard will help to reduce premature deaths, heart attacks and hospital admissions caused by particle pollution and yield health benefits valued at between \$9 billion and \$75 billion dollars each year.

The DVRPC region is currently part of two non-attainment areas, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT (Mercer County) and Philadelphia-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE (remaining eight counties) for violating the annual PM_{2.5} standard.

The new standard is scheduled to take effect in April 2010, with a targeted attainment date of 2015. The 2010 effective date of the new standard corresponds with the attainment date of the old PM_{2.5} standard. The following table provides important milestone dates in the implementation of the new PM_{2.5} standard.

Timeline for Implementing Revised Particulate Matter NAAQS		
Action	Standard	Deadline
States recommend non-attainment areas	PM _{2.5}	December, 2007
EPA makes final attainment designations	PM _{2.5}	December, 2009
EPA designations become effective	PM _{2.5}	April, 2010
State Implementation Plans due	PM _{2.5}	April, 2013
Deadline for states to meet standards	PM _{2.5}	April, 2015

For more information on the revised particle pollution standard visit the EPA website at:
<http://epa.gov/pm/naaqrev2006.html>



**Thursday,
October 12th, 2006
Greater Philadelphia Clean
Cities Working Group
Meeting
10:00 am**

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

**Monday,
October 16th, 2006
Philadelphia Diesel
Difference Working Group
Meeting
10:00 am**

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



TRANSPORTATION – AIR QUALITY

EPA Grants New Jersey \$2.1 Million to Reduce Diesel Pollution

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was awarded \$2.1 million in federal grants in September to fund four initiatives aimed at reducing pollution from diesel vehicles. The grants will compliment the state's existing diesel emission reduction program which includes a three minute idling law and a mandatory retrofit initiative that will affect 40,000 vehicles in New Jersey.

The four initiatives are:

On Board Idle Reduction Devices (\$750,000)

NJ DEP will work with the EPA and the trucking industry to fund the purchase of alternative energy sources and equipment to reduce idling and save fuel when trucks stop for mandatory rest periods.

NJ Turnpike Truck Stop Electrification Project (\$1,000,000)

This project will fund the electrification of spaces at a truck stop along the New Jersey Turnpike. Trucks utilizing this technology will avoid emissions and fuel costs associated with long term idling.

Analysis of In-Cabin School Bus Emissions (\$215,000)

This study will determine the effectiveness of diesel retrofits at reducing fine particle pollution on the inside of school buses. The study will provide scientific direction for an upcoming mandatory retrofit program for diesel vehicles, including school buses.

Idling Minimization Public Outreach (\$135,000)

This outreach campaign will focus on the trucking industry, transit buses and personal cars. This project will also train police forces in techniques to enforce the state's idling regulations.

According to the EPA, this grant is intended to jumpstart the freight industry's efforts to reduce diesel pollution and save money while reducing fuel consumption.

For more information on the EPA grant award please visit: www.epa.gov

Other News



Gas Station at 12th and Vine to offer E85 and B20

The public gas station at the corner of 12th and Vine Streets in Philadelphia will begin offering E85 (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline) and B20 (20% biodiesel and 80% diesel fuel) to the public in October 2006. Many major car manufacturers, including Ford GM, and Mercedes are offering "flex fuel" vehicles which can run on E85 and gasoline. All diesel vehicles can utilize the B20 biodiesel. This station is the first in the region to offer these alternative fuels to the public.

Installation of the alternative fuel tanks, as well as education about alternative fuels and promotion of the station has been funded through grants to the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program from the US Department of Energy and PA DEP.

For more information about the E85 station contact Brinda Shetty at Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities at coordinator@phillycleancities.org

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