

**Proposed Revision to the State Implementation Plan for Ozone for the
Reading Eight-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Public Hearing**

Ground-level ozone concentrations above the Federal health-based standard are a serious human health threat and can also cause damage to crops, forests and wildlife. The Reading eight-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area has met the health-based National ambient air quality standard for ozone based on 2003--2005 concentrations. Therefore, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) plans to submit a request to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to redesignate this nonattainment area to attainment. The Department is seeking public comment on the eight-hour ozone redesignation request, the 2002 base year inventory and a State Implementation Plan revision setting forth a Maintenance Plan, which includes the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program, demonstrating that the area can maintain the health-based ozone standard for the next 10 years as required under section 175A(a) of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.A. § 7505a). The Maintenance Plan, once approved by the EPA, will also establish new motor vehicle emission budgets for purposes of transportation conformity.

This proposal is available on the Department's website at www.depweb.state.pa.us (choose "Air Topics") or through the contact persons listed.

The Department will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposals on Tuesday, December 19, 2006, at 1 p.m. at the Berks County Services Center, Commissioners Board Room - 13th Floor, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA. Persons wishing to present testimony at the hearing should contact Yvette House, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105, (717) 787-9495 or yhouse@state.pa.us to reserve a time. Persons who do not reserve a time will be able to testify as time allows. Witnesses should keep testimony to 10 minutes and should provide two written copies of their statement at the hearing.

Persons with a disability who wish to attend the hearing and require an auxiliary aid, service or other accommodation to participate in the proceeding should contact Yvette House at (717) 787-9495 or yhouse@state.pa.us. TDD users may contact the AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 to discuss how the Department can best accommodate their needs.

The Department must receive comments no later than December 22, 2006. Written comments should be sent to the attention of J. Wick Havens, Chief, Division of Air Resource Management, Bureau of Air Quality, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468, jhavens@state.pa.us. Use "Reading SIP" as the mail addressee or in the subject line.

KATHLEEN A. MCGINTY,
Secretary