

Proposed Revision to the State Implementation Plan for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Eight-Hour Ozone Maintenance Area; Public Hearing

Ground-level ozone concentrations above the Federal health-based standard are a serious human health threat and can cause damage to crops, forests, and wildlife. Motor vehicles contribute significantly to the precursors of ozone formation. Federal transportation conformity regulations require that transportation planning activities take into account the potential impact on air quality. On November 19, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on June 12, 2007, for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Eight-Hour Ozone Attainment Area (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, and Wyoming Counties). The maintenance plan portion of the approved SIP revision establishes motor vehicle emission budgets (MVEBs) for purposes of transportation conformity for the entire four-county area. DEP is seeking comments on a revision to the SIP for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre area. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has requested a separate MVEB for each of the three transportation planning organizations in the area, which is allowed by federal regulations. The total of the three sub-area budgets is the same as the currently EPA-approved MVEB for the four counties as a whole. The proposed SIP revision is available on the Department's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us (DEP Keywords: Air Plans) or through the contact persons listed.

The Department will hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed SIP revision only if a request for a public hearing is received from a member of the public. A request for a public hearing must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008. If a request for a public hearing is received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008, the public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the Department's Northeast Regional Office, Susquehanna Room B, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711. If no request for public hearing is received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008, the hearing will be cancelled and notice of the cancellation will be published on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at noon, on the Department's web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us (DEP Keywords: Air Plans). Interested parties may also call 717-787-9495 to find out if the hearing has been cancelled.

Persons wishing to request a public hearing or who wish to present testimony at a scheduled hearing should contact Yvette House, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105, (717) 787-9495, yhouse@state.pa.us to reserve a time. The Department will consider a request to present testimony at a scheduled hearing to be a request for a public hearing. 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.

Persons interested in this proposed SIP revision are invited to submit written comments on the proposed SIP revision. Written comments must be received by the Department no later than April 4, 2008. Written comments should be sent to the attention of Arleen Shulman, Division of Air Resource Management, Bureau of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Protection, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468, ashulman@state.pa.us. Please use "Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Ozone SIP" as the mail addressee or in the subject line.

KATHLEEN A. McGINTY,
Secretary