

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR OZONE FOR THE PHILADELPHIA OZONE NONATTAINMENT AREA

Public Hearings

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 Department of Environmental Protection is seeking public comment on two state implementation plan (SIP) revisions for the Philadelphia ozone nonattainment area (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has asked Pennsylvania to submit additional information on the analysis of additional reasonably available control measures that would advance the ozone attainment date for the Philadelphia area. The first SIP revision demonstrates to EPA that the Department considered additional control measures by clarifying relevant documentation previously submitted to EPA.

The second SIP revision establishes a new 2005 motor vehicle emission budget for 2005 for the purposes of transportation conformity. Areas must include in their SIPs all control measures which will be in place by the attainment year and which are assumed in the air quality attainment demonstration. This proposed SIP includes emission reductions attributable to the federal new car program (Tier 2/Low Sulfur) that begins with the 2004 model year.

These proposals are available on the DEP Website at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (choose Information by Subject/Air Quality/State Implementation Plans), or through the contact person(s) listed below.

The Department will hold two consecutive public hearings to receive comments on the SIP revision on Thursday, June 28 at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office Hearing Room, Lee Park, 555 North Lane, Suite 6010, Conshohocken, PA.

Persons wishing to present testimony at the hearing should contact Connie Cross, 717-787-9495 (P.O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105) to reserve a time. If you do not reserve a time, you will be able to testify after pre-registrants. Witnesses should keep testimony to 10 minutes and should provide two written copies 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 Wick Havens at the telephone above. TDD users may contact the AT&T Relay Service at 800-654-5984 to discuss how the Department can best accommodate their needs.

Written comments should be sent to Wick Havens, Chief, Division of Air Resource Management, Bureau of Air Quality, PO Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468 no later than close of business on June 29, 2001.