December 10, 2015

Honorable John Quigley
Secretary
Department of Environmental Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Proposed rulemaking amendments for the Repeal of Gasoline Volatility Requirements

Dear Secretary Quigley:

On December 10, 2015, the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) discussed the proposed rulemaking to repeal 25 Pa. Code Chapter 126, Subchapter C (relating to gasoline volatility requirements) as codified in 25 Pa. Code §§ 126.301–126.303 (relating to compliant fuel requirements; recordkeeping and reporting; and compliance and test methods). Subchapter C was promulgated on November 1, 1997 (27 Pa.B. 5601), as a control measure to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds to attain and maintain the 1-hour ozone NAAQS in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area. Subchapter C sets forth requirements for the volatility of gasoline sold in the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Area between May 1 and September 15 of each year. The Subchapter C requirements were approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision on June 8, 1998 (63 FR 31116).

The Department is proposing this repeal to satisfy the requirements of the Air Pollution Control Act (APCA) added by the act of May 14, 2014, P.L. 674, No. 50 (Act 50 of 2014). Act 50 of 2014 requires the Environmental Quality Board to repeal Subchapter C and for the Department to submit a SIP revision to the EPA with a request to remove Subchapter C from the Pennsylvania SIP.

Some Committee members expressed the concern that there may be lost benefits of additional emission reductions due to the repeal at this time.

The Committee voted 15-5-0 (yes; no; abstain) to concur with the Department’s recommendation to present the proposed rulemaking amendments to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick K. O’Neill Esq.
Chair