

Environmental News Brief

Baltimore Metropolitan Council • May 27, 2004

The following news "briefs" highlight recent news regarding transportation-related environmental issues, primarily air quality, affecting the Baltimore region. Please note that this brief is not all inclusive of the variety and magnitude of activities in the region. It is intended for informational purposes only; refer to the source, guidance, or program for additional information.

Air Quality

EPA Announces Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule

On May 11, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule, designed to cut emission from construction, agricultural and industrial diesel-powered equipment. The rule is expected to reduce emissions by more than 90 percent while removing 99 percent of the sulfur in diesel fuel by 2010. Dramatic reductions in soot from all diesel engines are expected. The anticipated costs range from one to three percent of the total purchase price for most equipment categories. The estimated added cost for low-sulfur fuel is about seven cents per gallon. Standards will be phased in between 2008 and 2014. Some of the largest engines, 750+ horsepower, will have one additional year to meet the emissions standards.

[For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel>.]

EPA Refines Mobile Source Emissions Estimate Model

A new mobile source emissions estimate model, MOBILE6.2, was released by EPA for use in state implementation plans (SIPs) and transportation conformity analyses. MOBILE6.2 is EPA's emission factor model for calculating emissions from highway mobile sources of air pollution. This update adds the capability to estimate particulate matter (PM) and toxic emissions from cars and trucks and gives users a single, consistent way to model all the major highway vehicle pollutants. A two-year period exists before MOBILE6.2 is required to be used in transportation conformity analyses.

[Additional information, is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/m6.htm>.]

Water Quality

US Settles Clean Water Suit with Wal-Mart

Several federal and states agencies announced a Clean Water Act settlement with Wal-Mart for storm water violations. Under the settlement, Wal-Mart will pay \$3.1 million in civil penalties for violations at 24 sites in 9 states. Allegations included failure to obtain a permit before construction, failure to adequately install sediment and erosion controls, and failure to prevent sediment discharges to sensitive ecosystems. The settlement was the second enforcement action against Wal-Mart for Clean Water Act violations. Maryland was not one of the affected states.

[For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/cwa/walmart2.html>.]

Anne Arundel County Wins Chesapeake Bay Partner Community Award

On May 20, Anne Arundel County was one of seven local governments recognized by the U.S. EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program for its leadership and dedication to protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Anne Arundel County was noted for its strong Storm water Management Program, its update of three water reclamation facilities, and its onsite, nitrogen reducing water treatment systems. In addition to other activities, the County was also recognized for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles. Other Gold Award recipients included Frederick County, MD, Prince William County, VA, City of Salisbury, MD; Silver Award recipients included Loyalsock Township, PA, Town of Percellville, VA, and the Town of Rock Hall, MD.

[For more information, visit http://www.chesapeakebay.net/index_localgovt.cfm]

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