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## **April 2010**

### **State Highway Administration Is Clearing The Air By Reducing Diesel Emissions In Aging Trucks**

April 2010

Keeping a vehicle in good working order as it ages can be quite a challenge, especially after the warranty runs out. Keeping a 18-ton dump truck driven an average 8,000 miles per year in the worst weather in good condition is even more of a challenge – and seemingly impossible to do for more than 10 years. But to their credit, State Highway Administration (SHA) mechanics and field maintenance technicians have done just that – with 120 of SHA's 700 heavy duty-fleet pre-dating 2004.

To bring those trucks' emissions up to the latest air quality standards, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association recently awarded a \$250,000 grant to SHA to retrofit up to 120 older trucks (nearly all) with equipment to reduce vehicle emissions by up to 50 percent.

[For the full story click here.](#)

### **Health Effects Institute Holds Annual Conference**

On April 27-29 the Health Effects Institute held its annual conference in Alexandria, VA. Presentations should be

posted shortly.

For details about the program and presentations [click here](#).

### **West Virginia Reduces Diesel Emissions**

- West Virginia was the 2<sup>nd</sup> state in the nation to completely drawdown and finalize its DERA/ARRA state clean diesel program projects!
- [Launches New Diesel Website](#): Be one of the first in the region to check out WV new and improved diesel emission exhaust website. Find out information about WV projects.
- WV dedicated significant staff time and resources over the last 12 months implementing projects funded with federal dollars through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA)2007-2009 State Allocations and DERA/American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with a variety of partners.
- DERA and ARRA funds made the following projects possible:
  - Purchase of hybrid electric-diesel transit buses in partnership with the Public Transit authorities in Charleston and Huntington, WV. These new buses will replace older convention diesel powered buses. The states' first hybrid electric diesel transit buses were delivered in September and October 2009. These buses began operation in the fleet in November 2009, and have already been proven to use less diesel fuel than their conventional counterparts. Further, these buses serve as a visible reminder of clean technology in the community.
  - In partnership with the WV Department of Highways' Equipment Division, WV DEQ replaced old on-road heavy-duty trucks with new, cleaner trucks. The 10 replacement diesel dump trucks went into service the end of 2009.
- Over 2,500 idle reduction signs have been distributed to public, head start and private schools to date since the March 2007 conception of this project (the initial sign mailings were in September 2007).
- The WV Legislature passed Senate Bill 183 on March 13, 2010 creating the "Diesel-Powered Motor Vehicle Idling Act." The purpose of this bill was to create a new article in Chapter 17C of the Code to prohibit diesel-powered motor vehicles engaged in commerce that have a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more from excessive idling (more than 15 minutes in a continuous 60 minute period). The bill also provides exceptions to the idling restrictions and creates criminal penalties for violation thereof. This rule is pending the Governor's signature. It is based on a similar rule in PA, but is more lenient with respect to the idling allowance and has more explicit exemptions. The rule provides for enforcement by any member of the division of public safety, any sheriff or deputy sheriff, any member of a municipal police department and any designated officers of the Public Service Commission, and preempts any local ordinances.

### **Don't Be Fuelish, Idling Makes No Cents! PA's New Diesel Idling Law**

GASP Spring 2010 Newsletter, pp 1,4

A new educational effort, appropriately named "IdleFree PA," is underway in Pennsylvania, helping to inform truck, bus and other drivers of large diesel powered vehicles that unnecessary idling harms human and environmental health, wastes money, and is against the law. With funding provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), GASP has teamed up with American Lung Association and Clean Air Council to create educational materials and conduct presentations about PA's new diesel idling law.

[For the complete story click here.](#)

### **Funding Still Available for Green Operators (GO) Program**

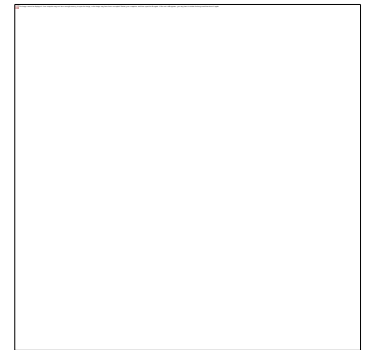
The Green Operators Program provides to retrofit or replace older dray trucks serving the Virginia Port Authority. The improved emissions for these trucks help the Port achieve goals for reducing air pollution and greenhouse gasses associated with transport of goods.

There is still funding available for independent owner-operators as well as trucking firms interested in cleaning up their dray truck fleets.

To find out more about the program, visit the [VPA GO website](#).

*Current GO Trucking Firms:*

Andy's Trucking  
Century Express  
Evan's Delivery, Inc.  
GILCO Trucking  
C & K Intermodal Trucking  
GTL Transport  
D.D. Jones Transportation Services



Rebate funds for retrofits and replacements provided by VA's Department of Environmental Quality American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds (2009).

**Idle Reduction Pilot Programs Set to Start**

Virginia Clean Cities is working with Gloucester County and Virginia Beach Public Schools to launch idle reduction programs. Both programs will make use of aftermarket auxiliary heaters used to warm up engines and passenger compartments and includes timers to automatically start the heating function. VCC will collect and analyze data to determine how effective these devices are at reducing idling. VCC also prepared a briefing paper on options for implementing an idle reduction program, including curriculum, technology options, and education/outreach.

For more information please contact [VCC](#) for details.

**Turnpike to Build No Idle Clean Air Facility for Truckers at New Stanton Service Plaza**  
Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, April 5

NEW STANTON, PA (04/05/2010)(readMedia)-- The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) today announced that it will begin construction of a Truck Space Electrification (TSE) facility at its New Stanton Service Plaza, located at Turnpike milepost 77.6 westbound, on April 6, 2010. The TSE will provide service towers equipped with modules that fit into truck cab windows to provide heat, air conditioning, internet, TV, and electrical power while the truck's engine remains off. Initially, 28 parking spaces will be fitted with TSE equipment.

Funding for this project is provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) via a State Clean Diesel Grant through an allocation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The amount of the award from DEP was \$478,396.

The TSE will help truckers, and other operators of diesel powered vehicles, who must now comply with state regulations that make it illegal for diesel powered motor vehicles over five tons to idle their engines while parked at rest stops. The Diesel Powered Motor Vehicle Idling ACT was passed in October of 2008 and went into affect in January of 2009. In addition, the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) has been contracted by the DEP to educate the public about the new law, to assist truckers in compliance, and publicize health risks caused by idling diesel motors.

[For the complete story click here.](#)

**UPS DEPLOYS 200 HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES: Latest HEV Expansion Broadens UPS Green Fleet to Major Cities**

ATLANTA, April 6, 2010 -- UPS (NYSE:UPS) today announced its fleet of alternative-fuel vehicles had expanded with the deployment of 200 next-generation hybrid electric delivery trucks.

Currently, 50 UPS hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) operate in Atlanta, Dallas, Houston and Phoenix. The 200 new

trucks join these and roughly 20,000 low-emission and alternative-fuel vehicles already in use. The new trucks will operate in Austin, Houston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington D.C., New York City, Minneapolis and Louisville.

"We're proud of this large HEV deployment to major cities in the United States," said Bob Stoffel, UPS senior vice president of engineering and sustainability, "This technology, where properly used, can yield a 35 percent fuel savings and, for UPS's fleet, simulate the removal of 100 diesel trucks' worth of fuel usage from the road."

To get UPS news direct, visit [pressroom.ups.com](http://pressroom.ups.com).  
[For the full story please click here.](#)

## **Ports propose plans to cut diesel emissions by 85 percent in next decade**

By Art Marroquin Staff Writer

Posted: 04/08/2010 07:04:10 PM PDT

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach this week proposed a series of updates to a joint environmental plan that aims to make further cuts in air pollution through 2020.

If approved by the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor commissions this summer, the revised Clean Air Action Plan is expected to reduce the risk of cancer from port-related diesel emissions by 85 percent over the next decade, officials said.

"When we first approved the Clean Air Action Plan in 2006, we projected out five years based on the thought that we would grow in volume, but that didn't happen," said Geraldine Knatz, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles.

"We're not trying to meet goals by a reduction of volume," Knatz said. "We're re-calibrating those goals and setting new goals through a combination of regulation and really following through on parts of the plan that have not been implemented yet."

The proposed update to the ports' Clean Air Action Plan involves a series of upgrades to shore-side infrastructure, along with improvements for ocean vessels, trucks and trains.

[For the full story, please click here.](#)

## **Propane School Buses Showing Favorable Results**

Virginia Clean Cities has been working with Gloucester County to collect and analyze data related to their 5 propane school bus demonstration launched last fall. Download a [fact sheet](#) we created to give some background on the program, the Gloucester fleet, and some of the exciting results we are seeing!

Virginia Clean Cities is also working with Spotsylvania County Public Schools on a propane school bus demonstration made possible through EPA National Clean Diesel Campaign ARRA Funding. Spotsylvania expects the delivery of their 4 Blue Bird propane buses in late April, marking the second propane school bus fleet in Virginia.

## **ARRA-funded Propane Autogas Vehicle Program Gets Underway with Kick-off Meeting at James Madison University**

April 16

*Harrisonburg, VA* - Partners of the Southeast Propane Autogas Development Program marked the commencement of the project with a partner kick-off meeting today. The program, which received \$8.6 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will increase the number of autogas vehicles and refueling stations in the United States.

Awarded to the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, the grant will help convert about 1,200 gasoline-powered vehicles to run on clean, economical propane autogas and will help fund the implementation of at least 17 autogas refueling stations across nine southeast states. Virginia Clean Cities, part of the nationwide network of Clean Cities Coalitions working to reduce petroleum consumption, and James Madison University will act as project managers.

"Virginia Clean Cities is thrilled to meet with all the partners as we prepare for the implementation of this wide-reaching and innovative project," says Chelsea Jenkins, Executive Director of VCC and recipient of the 2009 Clean Cities Coordinator of the Year award. "This program is a leap in the right direction, helping us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen dependence on foreign oil."

Vehicles in public and private fleets, including taxis, limousines, and vans, will be converted to run on propane autogas, the most widely-used alternative fuel in the world. Alliance AutoGas, a national clean vehicle coalition, will coordinate the vehicle conversions and fueling. Alliance AutoGas founding partners Blossman Gas and American Alternative Fuel, as well as a number of Certified Conversion Center partners, will perform the vehicle conversions and provide both public and private fueling infrastructure.

"We are encouraged that this grant provides an opportunity to showcase the viability of autogas and its benefits," says Alliance AutoGas President Stuart Weidie. "Autogas is recognized as the number one alternative fuel worldwide - it's almost entirely domestically produced and is available right here, right now."

The vehicles converted under this program are projected to displace more than 15 million gallons of gasoline over the four-year period, and since autogas vehicles experience significantly lower emissions than gasoline and diesel vehicles, the project will significantly reduce harmful emissions.

Propane Autogas vehicles are on the rise around the world. In the past 10 years, the number of autogas vehicles has grown from 7.5 million in 2000 to 14.6 million in 2008. Of those, fewer than 200,000 are in the United States.

The Southeast Propane Autogas Development Program will meticulously track the results of the conversions, including the number of gasoline gallons displaced and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. A comprehensive, public website will be launched later in 2010 to display the details of the project.

For more information about the project, contact Georgiana Ball at [gball@hrccc.org](mailto:gball@hrccc.org) or at (804) 714-6791.

## MARCH

### **Air panel proposes tougher regulations for ports: Rules would allow officials to enforce ports' voluntary pollution reductions and impose fines for violations.**

Louis Sahagun. L. A. Times, March 6, 2010  
[louis.sahagun@latimes.com](mailto:louis.sahagun@latimes.com)

Southern California air regulators proposed tougher rules Friday to ensure that the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach reduce their share of deadly emissions from ships, trains, big rigs and cargo-handling equipment, prompting harsh objections from harbor officials.

The so-called backstop rules, unveiled during a South Coast Air Quality Management District governing board meeting in Long Beach, would enable regulators to enforce the voluntary pollution reduction targets set by the ports to control soot and smog over the next decade and impose financial penalties if needed.

Each year, pollution from the movement of goods through the region contributes to an estimated 2,100 early deaths, 190,000 sick days for workers, and 360,000 school absences, according to the California Air Resources Board. More than 40% of all containerized cargo entering the United States flows through the adjacent ports.

[For the full story, please click here.](#)

### **Virginia Clean Cities(VCC) Wraps Up Inventories on Alternative Fuel Vehicles, Production, and Stations**

In January VCC completed an update on inventories of alternate fuel vehicles, alternate fuel production, and alternate fuel stations based on Q4 2009 data. They have now identified 39,011 alternate fuel vehicles in Virginia in 59 fleets. This included nearly 2600 E85 compatible vehicles, and more than 3300 vehicles running biodiesel. There was an increase of 278 alternate fuel vehicles from the previous report. Many fleets have been stocking up on E85 vehicles in preparation for available fueling infrastructure.

In Virginia, 2.5 million gallons of biofuels were produced (primarily biodiesel), which is 11% of the state's 22 million gallon capacity . This is a 38% decrease from the 4 million gallons produced in 2008. Next year this capacity will significantly increase and there will be a significant increase in ethanol production.

There are now 85 public or private alternate fuel stations in the Commonwealth. 38 of these are biodiesel, 11 are compressed natural gas, 8 are E85, 26 are propane, and 1 is a hydrogen refueling station. You can find the closest station to you with [DOE's Mobile Alternative Fueling Station Locator](#) and we are working to have our information added to this and other alternative fuel maps.

If you have any comments or questions about fleet, station, or production inventories, please feel free to contact [Alley Harned](#) at VCC .

### **EDF Report Highlights Clean Freight Initiatives Congress Could Fund**

March 16, [www.truckinginfo.com](http://www.truckinginfo.com)

A new report by the Environmental Defense Fund highlights several clean freight initiatives Congress could fund as part of the upcoming transportation reauthorization bill. The report, titled "The Good Haul," details 28 case studies, and calls for Congress to direct freight improvement funding to encourage clean freight solutions.

Recently, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairwoman Barbara Boxer (D-CA) vowed to take up a transportation reauthorization bill this year, and the EPW Committee has initiated a series of hearings on issues to be addressed in the bill.

"This report provides a roadmap for modernizing the U.S. freight system, making it more reliable and faster, and reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution," said Kathryn Phillips, director of the California Transportation and Air Initiative at Environmental Defense Fund, whose staff produced the report. "House and Senate committees writing the transportation bill should ensure funding for freight improvement delivers environmental benefits too. This report shows it can be done."

The report points to the fact that U.S. freight movement represents 25 percent of transportation's contributions to greenhouse gases, and that by 2020, more than 90 million tons of freight are expected to move throughout the U.S., an 80 percent increase from 2002.

Many of the case studies highlighted in the report are geared toward the trucking industry. One initiative is the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Clean Truck Program, which has already taken 2,000 dirty diesel trucks off the road, eliminating 80 percent of truck-related emissions.

[For the full story, please click here.](#)

### **EPA Certifies 2010 MaxxForce Diesel Engine for School Buses**

Ryan Gray, School Transportation News, March 18, 2010

The two main diesel engine options for school buses that meet 2010 EPA emissions regulations are now certified.

Navistar, Inc., the parent company of IC Bus, said today that its mid-range line of 2010 MaxxForce DT Advanced EGR mid-range diesel engines has received a thumbs up from the EPA in meeting emissions regulations of Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Particulate Matter (PM) emissions levels of 0.2 grams and 0.01 grams per brake-horsepower-hour.

"Receiving EPA certification is an important milestone and marks one of our last stages prior to the launch of our 2010 trucks and engines," said Ramin Younessi, Navistar group vice president of product development and strategy.

Younessi added that other MaxxForce Advanced EGR are expected to be certified in the coming weeks.

Cummins, whose mid-range ISB6.7 and ISC8.3 for school bus applications use SCR that uses diesel exhaust fluid, or urea, to meet the same standards, announced EPA certification in January.

[For the full story, please click here.](#)

## February

### **Clean-diesel buses added to RGRTA fleet as a result of stimulus money**

By Jim Stinson, Democrat and Chronicle , February 1, 2010

The Rochester region will be getting clean-diesel buses, thanks to a \$12.2 million grant via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority took shipment of 50 buses in late 2009, and \$1.34 million of those stimulus funds will go to the 2009 bill, according to Jacqueline Halldow, spokeswoman for the RGRTA. The buses, made by Gillig Corp. of California, burn diesel in a cleaner manner than older models. They arrive as ridership is up.

"As a result of the fare reduction, ridership in Rochester grew at a rate two times higher than the national average last year," said Halldow. "The federal stimulus investment of \$12.2 million is a key component to strengthening the local economy, and growing our fleet was essential to meet the growing service demands of the community." Halldow said the clean-burning buses also mean cost savings.

"The efficiencies found with the new clean-diesel buses allow us to pass on the savings to our customers and continue to keep the fare at the lowered price of just \$1, at a time when systems across the nation are raising fares on their customers," said Halldow.

The RGRTA serves 50,000 riders a day. In 2009, the bus agency picked up and dropped off 17 million riders. U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, said 25 percent of the money allocated for contracts and grants has been awarded, "and we know there's more to come our way. The stimulus is working."

### **EPA sets 2010 U.S. renewable fuel standard**

[Ayesha Rascoe](#) and [Tom Doggett](#); Thu Feb 4, 2010 10:04am EST

(Reuters) - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said that ethanol and other renewable fuels must account for 8.25 percent of total gasoline and diesel sales in 2010 to meet Congress' mandate that nearly 13 billion gallons (49.2 billion liters) of renewable fuels be produced this year.

That is lower than last year's 10.21 percent renewable fuel standard that the EPA announced in November 2008.

These rules are separate from the amount of ethanol the EPA now allows to be blended into each gallon of gasoline, which is in most cases 10 percent.

#### IN OTHER RULINGS:

\* In addition, the EPA set the 2009/2010 combined biomass diesel output target at 1.15 billion gallons, which has to be reached by the end of this year.

#### MEASURING EMISSIONS

Federal law required the EPA to analyze the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions from increased renewable fuel use. The new rules also require some biofuels to meet certain greenhouse gas reductions compared to the gasoline and diesel fuels they replace.

#### BELOW ARE SOME OF EPA'S FINDINGS ON BIOFUEL EMISSIONS:

- \* Biodiesel and renewable diesel from soy oil or waste oils, fats, and greases will meet the 50 percent GHG threshold for biomass-based diesel compared to the 2005 petroleum diesel baseline.
- \* Biodiesel and renewable diesel produced from algal oils will also comply with the 50 percent threshold should they reach commercial production.
- \* Cellulosic ethanol and cellulosic diesel would comply with the 60 percent GHG reduction threshold for cellulosic biofuel.

[For the full story, please click here](#)

#### **Iowa Soybean Association Welcomes EPA's New RFS2 Rule**

<http://mobile.wallacesfarmer.com>

"This is good news for Iowa as one of the leading biodiesel- and soybean-producing states," says Delbert Christensen, ISA president and a soybean farmer from Audubon, Iowa. "Today's rule affects jobs in the biodiesel industry in addition to affecting soybean farmers by ensuring there will continue to be a baseline of demand for soybean oil. Studies show increased demand for soybean oil has helped bolster prices in recent years."

Biodiesel is only fuel available in large enough amounts

EISA was enacted on December 19, 2007. The legislation expanded the Renewable Fuels Standard and for the first time specifically provided for a renewable component in U.S. diesel fuel. RFS2 requires the combined 2009 and 2010 domestic use of 1.15 billion gallons, and after that, at least a billion gallons each year. To qualify as biomass-based diesel, the fuel must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% compared to petroleum diesel.

Biodiesel is the only fuel available in commercial quantities in the U.S. that meets the definition of biomass-based diesel.

[For the full story, please click here.](#)

#### **CARB Postpones Enforcement of Off-Road Diesel Emissions Regulations**

February 12

Until further notice, no enforcement action will be taken for noncompliance

With a construction industry beset by state-wide economic depression -- and facing (Associated General Contractors) [AGC proof that the downturn has already slashed off-road-equipment emissions](#) more than amply to meet regulators' clean-air goals -- the California Air Resources Board has postponed enforcement of its [emissions](#)

regulations for off-road diesels.

For the full story, please click here.

## **Cancer Rates in Nashville Firefighters Linked To Diesel Fumes**

Reported By Jeremy Finley, February 15

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Medical statistics obtained by the Channel 4 I-Team show about 69 current Nashville firefighters are battling cancer, and a leading researcher wonders if the firefighters' exposure to diesel fumes may be to blame.

For the first time, the Nashville Fire Department released medical information that shows in the past 20 years, 30 Nashville firefighters have died from cancer.

Dr. James Lockey of the University of Cincinnati is a leading researcher into cancer rates and firefighters and told the I-Team the number of firefighters with cancer and who have died from cancer is concerning.

"It's serious enough that I think it should be paid attention to," Lockey said. Part of Lockey's research focuses on toxins in diesel fumes that may have caused firefighters to contract cancer. In Nashville, firefighters were exposed to diesel fumes from fire trucks idling in fire halls for decades before researchers linked the fumes to cancer rates.

For the full story, please click here.

## **An engine maker that drew praise and federal dollars last month from the Obama administration is facing a \$2.1 million civil penalty for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act.**

Stephen Power, FEBRUARY 23

Cummins Inc., a vehicle-engine company based in Columbus, Ind., will pay a \$2.1 million penalty and recall 405 engines under a settlement agreement resolving violations of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Justice Department announced Monday. According to a complaint filed simultaneously with the settlement in federal court in Washington, between 1998 and 2006,

(SUBSCRIBER CONTENT PREVIEW – NEED TO SUBSCRIBE TO READ THE REST OF THE STORY)

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704188104575083413821293090.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704188104575083413821293090.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

### **Other**

#### **A New Bus in Pittsburgh**

BY: Christine H. O'toole, 11/5/2009

It sounds like a schoolyard riddle: What's yellow, all-American, and really, really dirty?

Answer: the good old school bus, spewing diesel exhaust at bus stops and highways all over Pennsylvania. The problem is being solved, albeit slowly, in Pittsburgh, where in May, the Pittsburgh School District laid down the new law to bus contractors: make your bus engines cleaner by 2013, or you're off our list.

Evidence shows that dirty diesel harms children's health, particularly in cities.

Diesel exhaust has been classified a potential human carcinogen by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 2002. Humans routinely exposed to years of diesel fumes, such as bus drivers and truckers, have a 20 to 50 percent increase in the risk of lung cancer or mortality. In Pittsburgh, where emergency room visits for uncontrolled childhood asthma are four times the national average, there's a clear connection between air quality and childhood illness.

Each year 2,000 diesel school buses, owned by school districts or private contractors, spew about 12 tons of particulate matter and 367 tons of hydrocarbons into Allegheny County's atmosphere. It's part of a big problem. For the three years between 2005 and 2007, the American Lung Association named Pittsburgh the country's second-worst offender for particulates (behind Los Angeles) and first in year-round particle pollution, ground-level ozone (the primary component of smog) and overall short-term fine particle pollution--the kind produced by diesel engines. With fine particulate pollution that exceeds federal air quality standards, Allegheny County is trying to reduce diesel pollution with a carrot-and-stick approach.

[For the full story click here.](#)