



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection
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Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Bradley M. Campbell
Commissioner
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March 15, 2004

The Honorable Jane M. Kenny
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
290 Broadway- 26th Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Handwritten notes: Kenny Callahan, cc. Megdar/Action (in Batt.), Laposta Bellow, Ray W.

Dear Regional Administrator Kenny:

Enclosed please find a proposed revision to the New Jersey State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Attainment and Maintenance of the Carbon Monoxide and One-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards--New Jersey Revised Motor Vehicle Transportation Conformity Budgets Using the MOBILE6 Model. This SIP revision is necessary to revise transportation conformity budgets for carbon monoxide and ozone precursors.

The carbon monoxide budgets must be updated at this time because the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) must use the MOBILE6 model in 2004 for their carbon monoxide transportation conformity determinations. Because the MOBILE6 model predicts carbon monoxide levels that are significantly higher than those predicted by MOBILE5 the budgets will need to be revised using MOBILE6 to enable the MPO's to demonstrate conformity. However, even with MOBILE6, carbon monoxide emissions are decreasing significantly over time, and air quality monitoring data continues to show a trend of improving carbon monoxide air quality in New Jersey with current levels well below the National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Therefore, except for this change in budgets, no modifications to the carbon monoxide maintenance plans are warranted.

This SIP revision also contains an update to the volatile organic compound (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) transportation conformity budgets for the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority counties. This update is needed because of a recent update to vehicle data used in the modeling process. The update involves a slight increase in the NOx budget and a significant decrease in the VOC budget. This SIP revision shows that the updated budgets continue to support predicted achievement of rate of progress requirements and projected attainment of the one-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Northern New Jersey/New York City/Long Island nonattainment area.

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A public hearing is scheduled on New Jersey's proposal on April 14, 2004 at 10 a.m. at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, 401 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey. Written comments relevant to the proposal may be submitted until close of business April 16, 2004 to: Alice Previte, Esq., Office of Legal Affairs, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 402, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402.

We are requesting parallel processing of the SIP revision in order to have Transportation Conformity budgets available by the Spring of this year to allow the MPOs to complete their conformity determinations.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please call Chris Salmi, Assistant Director, (609) 292-6710.

Sincerely,



Bradley M. Campbell  
Commissioner

Enclosure: SIP Document

c: The Honorable James E. McGreevey, Governor State of New Jersey  
The Honorable Jack Lettiere, Commissioner, NJDOT  
Samuel A. Wolfe, Assistant Commissioner  
William O'Sullivan, Director  
Chris Salmi, Assistant Director  
Ray Werner, USEPA