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**IDLING REDUCTION REGULATION TO BE PUBLISHED  
IN PA BULLETIN; 3 PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED**  
*Proposed Regulation Would Reduce Pollution from Diesel Vehicles, Conserve Fuel*

**HARRISBURG** – The Environmental Quality Board has scheduled three public hearings and will accept comments on a proposed statewide idling reduction regulation that is expected to improve air quality and save millions of gallons of diesel fuel.

The rule, which will be published in the *Pa. Bulletin* on Saturday, is primarily aimed at long-haul truckers, many of whom idle their vehicles during federally mandated rest periods to heat, cool and provide other amenities to their bunks and cabs. It will also affect many delivery trucks, school buses, transit buses and motor coaches.

In most cases, the proposed regulation would limit idling by commercial diesel-powered vehicles to five minutes per hour. It was approved for public comment by the Environmental Quality Board, or EQB, on Oct. 16.

DEP estimates that an engine idling for more than 15 minutes—otherwise known as long-duration idling—amounts to about 22.3 million hours a year in Pennsylvania, approximately 95 percent of which is due to truck travel rest periods. If each of the 13,000 long-haul trucks that idle in Pennsylvania each day used alternative means to provide power during rest periods, fuel use would be cut by more than 20 million gallons per year.

Diesel powered vehicles emit nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), both of which contribute to ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter. Ozone and fine particulate matter are pollutants that can cause or exacerbate breathing problems, especially in people with pre-existing respiratory conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema.

DEP estimates that once this rule is implemented fully in 2010, it will reduce annual NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by about 1,610 tons, VOCs by about 45 tons, and particulate matter by about 30 tons.

Several exemptions are included in the proposal, including idling by a vehicle with a sleeper compartment in order to run heating or air conditioning when the temperature is below 40 degrees or above 75 degrees outside. This exemption applies only if stationary idle reduction technology is not available where the truck is parked, and expires on May 1, 2010.

Vehicles are also exempt if the idling is needed for active loading or unloading of passengers or property; to operate work-related mechanical or electrical operations other than propulsion; and for maintenance, repairs, inspections and safety-related purposes. Passenger and school buses are included in this proposed regulation, but will be permitted to idle for up to 15 minutes during a 60-minute period to provide heat or cooling when non-driver passengers are on board.

Written comments, suggestions or objections can be sent, beginning Jan. 12, to the Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477, or by express mail to Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor, 400 Market St., Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301. Comments must be received by Monday, March 17, and

cannot be faxed. Comments may also be submitted electronically from Jan. 12 to March 17 by completing and submitting the online form at

[www.depweb.state.pa.us/RegComments](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/RegComments).

The three public hearings convened by the Environmental Quality Board will be held:

- Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. at the Lehigh County Government Center, 17 S. Seventh St., Allentown;
- Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 3 p.m., at the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Room 105, 400 Market St., Harrisburg; and
- Friday, Feb. 15, at 1 p.m., at the Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest Regional Office, Waterfront A and B Conference Room, 400 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh.

People wishing to testify at one of these hearings should contact the Environmental Quality Board, at the address above, or by calling (717) 787-4526, at least one week in advance of the hearing to reserve time for testimony. Oral testimony is limited to 10 minutes for each witness, and an organization may designate one witness to present testimony on its behalf at each hearing.

The EQB, which is an independent state agency responsible for approving all environmental regulations in Pennsylvania, requests that three written copies of any oral testimony be provided at the hearing.

Persons in need of accommodations as provided for in the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact the Environmental Quality Board at (717) 787-4526 or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at 1-800-654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how their needs can be accommodated. The EQB will consider all public comments before deciding whether to issue its approval of the regulation. If approved by

the board, the regulation will go on to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for final review and a subsequent approval or denial.

The IRRC is an independent state agency that reviews all state regulations before taking effect.

For more information, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Diesel Idling.

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