

NATIONAL IDLING REDUCTION NETWORK NEWS

December 2005



SOLICITATIONS, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, AND AWARDS

ETV Greenhouse Gas Technology Center Solicits Technology Vendors

Under contract to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Greenhouse Gas Center of the Southern Research Institute (SRI) is soliciting collaborators and vendors of on-board idling reduction technologies for medium- and heavy-duty diesel trucks for independent performance verification testing. Interested vendors and/or partners should contact Tim Hansen, SRI, at (919) 806-3456 or hansen@sri.org. Source: <http://www.epa.gov/etop/news/>

Wisconsin to Start Grant Program for On-Board Idling Reduction Equipment for Trucks

The Wisconsin Diesel Truck Idling Reduction Grant Program will begin on July 1, 2006. It will provide grants to freight motor carriers headquartered in Wisconsin for 70 percent of the cost of idling reduction units installed on the carrier's truck tractors equipped with a diesel engine from model year 1998 or newer. The program is designed to award \$1 million per year in grants for 5 years. Funding for the program comes from the Wisconsin Petroleum Inspection Fund, which is imposed on petroleum products brought into the State. Further information about this program is available at

http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/2_PUBLICATIONS/Other%20Publications/Reports%20By%20Subject/Environment%20and%20Natural%20Resources/IM05_02.pdf

Shurepower Wins Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant

In last month's press release from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about its Energy Harvest Grant awards, your intrepid editor overlooked the award of a \$107,000 grant to the Clean Air Council to install Shurepower anti-idling pedestals at 20 truck parking places in Philadelphia. Other partners of this grant include the Greater Philadelphia Clean Cities Program and the Philadelphia Electric Company. According to Eric Cheung of the Clean Air Council, the partnership is awaiting matching funds from another Pennsylvania program. The grant will allow the trucks to use electricity to heat or cool their cabs as well as power other amenities during long periods of idling at the Walt Whitman Truck Stop, the only private truck stop in the city. Shurepower also plans to offer Internet and cable TV connections at each parking place. For more information about this grant award, please contact Eric Cheung, Clean Air Council, echeung@cleanair.org. Source: Arleen Shulman, Pennsylvania DEP, and Jeff Kim, Shurepower



CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND OTHER EVENTS

85th TRB Meeting Focuses on "Transportation 2025 – Getting There from Here"

The Transportation Research Board (TRB), a unit of the National Academy of Sciences, will hold its 85th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., from January 22-26, 2006. The program covers all transportation modes, and over 2,600 presentations will be given in 500 sessions addressing topics of interest to policymakers, administrators, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academia. There will be a session on "Prospects for Reducing Heavy-Duty Emissions and Fossil Fuel Use" and a poster session where information on idling reduction will be presented. For more information, please go to the conference web site at <http://www.trb.org/meeting>.

Repair Our Air Fleet Challenge Announces Its Grand Finale

The Canadian program, Repair Our Air, will hold its grand finale to its fleet challenge on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, in Hamilton, Ontario. Results of the 2005 Challenge will be announced along with the potential fuel savings associated with adopting best practices. For more information about this event or to participate in the next one, please contact Darlene Varaleau at (416) 538-6127 or varaleau@power-projects.com.

Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Conference 2006 Moves to San Diego

The WestStart – National Automotive Command Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Conference will be held in San Diego, California, this year from February 22 to 24, 2006, at the Hilton San Diego Resort. Among the sessions will be one on on-board idling reduction technologies and another on reducing emissions from diesel engines. Further information can be found at <http://www.calstart.org/programs/chdvc/2006CHDV/2006CHDVAgenda.php>.

PRESENTATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

National Clean Diesel Campaign Policy Leaders Summit Presentations Now Up on the Web

More than 300 policymakers and other stakeholders gathered in Washington, D.C., on December 7-8, 2005, for a 2-day conference focused on clean diesel retrofit programs, funding opportunities, incentives, and partnership building. Presentations and photos are now available at <http://www.cleanfleetsusa.net>.

IDLING COMMUTER AND LONG-HAUL TRAINS

NJ Transit Asked to Stop Idling Its Trains in New York State

The noise and pollution from train cars left idling all night long has prompted New York State Assemblyman Ryan Karben of Rockland County and Village of Suffern, New York, officials to call on New Jersey Transit (NJ Transit) to turn off their engines, the *MidHudson News* and *The Journal News* of November 18, 2005, report. Karben, Mayor-Elect John Keegan, and incoming Trustees Trish Abato and Dagan LaCorte have criticized the company



for leaving its trains running throughout the night, citing the noise and environmental factors as the basis for their call.

Up to nearly a dozen NJ Transit trains can be found idling in Suffern at night, approximately one-quarter mile north of the Suffern Train Station. They travel the Main & Bergen line, between Port Jervis and Hoboken, NJ Transit spokesman Dan Stessel said. The railroad keeps the locomotives' engines running for climate-control purposes and to prevent freezing in extreme cold, and it is standard practice to keep train engines running, according to Stessel. Karben said the engines could be turned off when the temperatures were 40°F or higher. In addition to creating noise pollution, trains left idling for prolonged periods of time produce diesel exhaust emissions that pollute the air. The trains have idled in the Suffern rail yard since the turn of the 20th Century, Ramapo historian Craig Long said, and the situation has been a constant source of complaints. New Jersey Transit declined to comment for this article. For more information, please see http://www.utu.org/worksite/detail_news.cfm?ArticleID=24823 and <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051118/NEWS03/511180386/1029/NEWS13>. *Source:* Joe Tario, New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)

(Train) Wheels of Justice Grind Slowly as Massachusetts Idling Train Case Continues

The December 2004 issue of this newsletter reported about a suit filed in Federal court in Boston on September 24, 2004, by the Guilford Rail System against the town of Chelmsford, which had charged that company's locomotives were idling longer than 30 minutes in violation of Massachusetts Code of Regulations §7.11(2) in that community and endangering the populace with diesel exhaust. Since that time, the (train) wheels of justice have been grinding very slowly. The judge assigned to the case recused himself in April of this year because his former law firm had represented the railroad. Other cases, essentially identical in substance, were filed by Guilford in April against the towns of Westford (docket No. 05-10806) and Andover (docket No. 05-10820). As of the end of September 2005, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) asked that all three cases be consolidated so that there would be only one trial instead of three. The DEP also asked that the schedule for the Chelmsford case be extended to coincide with the schedules of the other cases. No one else has agreed to this as of yet, so it is up to the new judge handling the Chelmsford case, who is also assigned to the other two, to decide. *Source:* Stanton Levinson, Esq.

Legislation Proposed to Stop Idling Trains in Maine

Trains in Maine may no longer be allowed to idle in residential areas for extended periods, if State Senator Elizabeth "Libby" Mitchell (D-Vassalboro) succeeds in her pursuit of a bill in January's legislative session to end the practice. If the bill becomes law, it would cap a years-long effort by residents to stop noise and fumes generated around the clock from the Guilford Rail Systems trains in Waterville, Oakland, and elsewhere. Mitchell has submitted a bill laying out the "concept draft" of legislation that would stop idling in public areas and reduce pollution. The bill would probably get a public hearing at the Statehouse in late January or early February, Mitchell said. It still needs co-sponsors and may be taken up by the transportation committee, which can broaden or limit its scope, she said.

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The trains idle because their engines have to be kept warm to prevent freezing, a Federal environmental policy official said. Residents say Guilford told them its idling practices are governed by Federal law, which does not limit idling time. Federal officials confirm this, but said they welcome State regulations on this issue. "We've encouraged states to enact those rules," said David Conroy, manager of air quality planning at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June. While the final statutes may differ, Maine may look to Massachusetts as an example, Mitchell said. For further information, please see the *Portland Press Herald* of December 2, 2005, [http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=ME&p_theme=me&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&s_dispstring=Guilford%20Rail%20AND%20date\(2005\)&p_field_date-0=YMD_date&p_params_date-0=date:B,E&p_text_date-0=2005&p_field_advanced-0=&p_text_advanced-0=\(\"Guilford%20Rail\"\)&p_perpage=10&p_sort=YMD_date:D&xcal_useweights=no](http://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_product=ME&p_theme=me&p_action=search&p_maxdocs=200&s_dispstring=Guilford%20Rail%20AND%20date(2005)&p_field_date-0=YMD_date&p_params_date-0=date:B,E&p_text_date-0=2005&p_field_advanced-0=&p_text_advanced-0=(\). Source: Joe Tario, NYSERDA

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

Draft CARB Plan for Ports and Goods Movement Ready for Public Comment

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff has released its Draft Emission Reduction Plan for Ports and International Goods Movement for public review and comment. The plan includes an assessment of Statewide health impacts from emissions related to ports and international goods movement and lists specific actions necessary to reduce those emissions and protect public health. The plan is available on CARB's website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/planning/gmerp/gmerp.htm>, along with information on related activities.

The draft emission reduction plan is part of the broader Goods Movement Action Plan being jointly carried out by the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) and the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency (BT&H). Information about the Cal EPA – BT&H effort can be found at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/gmp/gmp.htm>. CARB staff will refine the draft emission reduction plan, based on input from the general public, affected industries, the Cal EPA and BT&H Goods Movement Action Plan work groups, local air districts, and other stakeholders. The health risk assessment will undergo peer review concurrent with the public review process. Public workshops on the plan will be scheduled early next year. Finally, a CARB public hearing on the emission reduction plan will be held in the spring of 2006 (exact date to be determined). For further information, please contact Cynthia Marvin, Assistant Division Chief, Planning and Technical Support Division, at (916) 322-0285 or cmarvin@arb.ca.gov.

Back Issues of National Idling Reduction Network News Available On-Line

If you are a new subscriber or have misplaced an issue of this newsletter, all issues are now located at http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/resources/fcvt_national_idling.shtml.

Summary of State Anti-Idling Regulations

The most up-to-date list of anti-idling regulations in States and municipalities is available at <http://www.atri-online.org/2005.ATRI.IdlingCompendium.pdf>. If your State or municipality has changed anything listed here or if it is in error, please let us know, and we'll make sure to inform our readership. This newsletter is also a place to let people know that you are thinking of adding or changing regulations and are soliciting comments.



Incentives and Funding Opportunities for Idling Reduction Projects

The U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Cities program provides a listing of Federal and State programs that offer incentives and funding for idling reduction projects. Further information can be found at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/idle/incentives.html>. Please let us know if the information needs to be changed or updated.

The West Coast Diesel Collaborative has a comprehensive listing of grant and loan programs available from many States to purchase or apply for a loan for on-board idling reduction equipment. For the listing of these programs, please go to <http://www.westcoastdiesel.org/programs.htm>.

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