

# NATIONAL IDLING REDUCTION NETWORK NEWS

January 2005



## Preliminary National Idling Reduction Plan to be Unveiled at TMC Meeting

Initial results from the planning process begun at the National Idling Reduction Planning Conference held in Albany in May 2004 will be presented on February 16, 2005, at the American Trucking Associations' Technology and Maintenance Council Meeting in Tampa, Florida. In the session entitled, "Potential Electrical/Electronic Solutions for Idle Reduction," Dr. Linda Gaines of Argonne National Laboratory will explain how the technology, finance, regulation, and outreach working groups are developing a national consensus on appropriate actions to reduce unnecessary idling of all heavy vehicles as quickly as possible. It is hoped that early unveiling of preliminary ideas will enable additional inputs and constructive suggestions from additional stakeholders. *Source:* Linda Gaines, Argonne National Laboratory

## West Coast Diesel Collaborative Request for Proposals Closes on February 11, 2005

Regions 9 and 10 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are soliciting Initial Proposals to reduce diesel emissions along the West Coast. EPA expects to award up to 20 grants having a total value of \$1 million. Closing date for applications is February 11, 2005. Applications should support regional collaborative demonstration projects that reduce diesel emissions and protect human health and the environment. Projects should be regional in scope, include a diverse group of stakeholders, leverage funds from a variety of sources, and achieve real measurable reductions and results. Further information can be found at <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/EPA/OGD/GAD/EPA-GRANTS-122104-001/Grant.html>.

*Source:* Michelle Roos, EPA

## California to Hold Public Meetings on Goods Movement and Ports

On January 27-28, 2005, the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency will host a 2-day public meeting in Los Angeles on Goods Movement and Ports. The discussion will focus on the entire "coast to border" goods movement system, including ports, railways, existing roads and highways, dedicated truck lanes, and logistics centers. Representatives from ports; railroads; the shipping and trucking industries; labor, environmental and community groups; Federal, State, and local governments; and others interested in issues associated with goods movement are being asked to participate. Further information can be found at

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/offroad/marinevess/meetings/012705gmp.pdf>

## Allegheny County to Hold Public Hearing on Idling Reduction

The Allegheny County (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) Health Department will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 14, 2005, to accept comments on a proposed regulation to prevent unnecessary idling from heavy-duty diesel-powered vehicles. School buses were covered by a previous regulation. The proposed regulation would limit idling to 5 minutes for commercial trucks, buses, construction vehicles, locomotives, and marine vessels. There would be exceptions depending on the temperature and the need to power heating, air-conditioning, and

Terry Levinson, editor • (202) 488-2472 • [tlevinson@anl.gov](mailto:tlevinson@anl.gov)

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auxiliary equipment during the driver's sleeping or resting time. Further information is available at <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/05006/438076.stm> and <http://www.achd.net/>. Source: Joe Tario, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

## Massachusetts Crackdown on Idling School Buses Yields Results

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is continuing its crackdown on school buses that idle unnecessarily. During inspections in the early fall of 2004, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) cited 11 school bus operators for violating a State law that limits idling to 5 minutes, with only three exceptions. There were violations by 10 percent of the buses observed at 35 percent of the schools that inspectors visited. By late fall of 2004, after the announcement of the violations, DEP officials found violations by only 2 percent of the school buses observed at 14 percent of the schools visited. DEP later announced enforcement actions against another three companies who provide school bus services. The law applies to both diesel- and gasoline-powered vehicles. Further information can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/pao/news/busidle2.htm>.

Source: Julie Ross, Massachusetts DEP

## Material Installations Ordered to Pay Fine and Retrofit Equipment

As noted in the November 2004 issue of this newsletter, Material Installations, Inc., of North Andover, Massachusetts, had been cited by EPA for violations of the Massachusetts anti-idling law. Since that time, the company has agreed to pay \$45,817 in fines and will install diesel emissions control equipment on most of its fleet. EPA can enforce this law because it is part of the State's effort to meet Federal air-quality standards. Further information can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/region1/pr/2005/jan/dd050102.html>. Source: Joe Tario, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

## Canadian Truckers Respond to Anti-Idling Campaign

The Truckers Idling Reduction Program, conducted by the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention (C2P2), was presented to 1,500 truck drivers at the U.S.-Canada border crossing and weigh scales along Canadian Highway 402. This highway runs into U.S. Interstate Highways 69 and 94 at Port Huron, Michigan, over the Blue Water Bridge. The purpose was to illustrate to truckers, through various mechanisms, the impacts of idling and what they can do to operate engines with the least amount of emissions. The group says that during the 6-week campaign, about half the drivers pledged support for anti-idling initiatives. Furthermore, 160 drivers signed a declaration agreeing to reduce their idling for 1 hour a day for 1 week. Further information can be found at <http://www.todaystrucking.com/displayarticle.cfm?ID=3695>.

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## OOIDA Offers Financing for Trucks and Trailers

The Owner-Operators Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) has recently started a Truck Finance Program for its members who want to buy or lease new or used trucks and trailers. Auxiliary power units or other idling reduction equipment can be rolled into the price to be financed. According to OOIDA, this financing allows owner-operators greater opportunities and more competitive choices than those offered by dealers.

[http://www.landlinemag.com/todays\\_news/Daily/2005/Jan05/010605.htm#5](http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2005/Jan05/010605.htm#5)

## Idling Reduction Featured in *Mechanical Engineering Magazine*

*Mechanical Engineering*, published by the America Society of Mechanical Engineers, has a feature article in its January 2005 issue on-line devoted to technologies available to reduce the need for idling of heavy vehicles. It also mentions the National Idling Reduction Planning Conference last May in Albany and the call from the attendees to develop the National Idling Reduction Plan. Further information can be found at

<http://www.memagazine.org/contents/current/features/idlehour/idlehour.html>. Source: Joe Tario, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

## *Overdrive* Article Summarizes Uneven Enforcement of Anti-Idling Regulations

The cover story of the December 2004 issue of *Overdrive* offers interviews with State air-quality officials who discuss their views on enforcing anti-idling regulations in their jurisdictions. The article provides a nice summary of when and how often the regulations are enforced and why some are enforced more than others.

<http://www.etrucker.com/apps/news/article.asp?id=45557> Source: Tom Perrot, New West Technologies

## Port of Long Beach Interested in Novel Diesel Emission Control Device

The Harbor Commissioners of the Port of Long Beach have recently lauded the potential of a novel device from Advanced Control Technology, Inc., to control diesel emissions from ships in port or at anchor just outside the harbor. The invention captures diesel exhaust from ships by deploying a flexible hood over their smokestacks. The hood is placed on the smokestack by a robotic arm, and the captured exhaust is diverted to a tank where pollutants would be removed by a two-stage, "wet-scrubbing" process. The whole system would be mounted aboard a barge, making it mobile. While the company is trying to negotiate a \$10 million, 5-year contract for two barges, the system still needs approval from the California Air Resources Board. According to an environmental consultant for the Port, this technology could be more cost-effective for reducing pollution than electrically powering or "cold ironing" ships at port.

<http://www.enn.com/today.html?id=6904>

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## Summary of State Anti-Idling Regulations

Here is the most up-to-date list of regulations in States and municipalities that cover anti-idling regulations ([http://www.atri-online.org/research/results/idling\\_chart.pdf](http://www.atri-online.org/research/results/idling_chart.pdf)), although it does not include the changes in Pittsburgh. 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.

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