

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. EPA Region 5 Kicks-Off Midwest Clean Diesel Leadership Group

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 hosted the first meeting of its Midwest Clean Diesel Leadership Group on January 24th in Chicago. The group of 32 public-sector and private-industry organizations shares the goal of cutting emissions from one million diesel engines in the region by 2010.

The Leadership Group is co-chaired by Cummins Inc., Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Environmental Council and EPA Region 5, and was formed to reduce diesel emissions, thereby helping to achieve the air quality standards set forth in the Clean Air Act. Members of the group signed a Collaborative Principles document outlining their commitment to address challenges and pursue opportunities in funding and implementing diesel emission reduction programs.



The Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative Leadership Group Co-Chairs (from left to right):
Doug Scott, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Brian Mormino, Cummins, Inc.;
Mary A. Gade and Steve Rothblatt, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5;
Staci R. Putney McLennan, Ohio Environmental Council

"EPA helped form the Leadership Group to accelerate efforts toward cleaner air," said EPA Region 5 Administrator Mary A. Gade. "Cleaning up diesel emissions in this country will take a concerted, collaborative effort of public and private organizations, and this group will bring greater visibility, energy and resources to this effort."

"From schoolchildren to truck drivers, millions of Americans are exposed everyday to dangerous emissions from America's aging fleet of diesel-powered vehicles and heavy equipment," said Staci R. Putney McLennan, director of clean air programs at the Ohio Environmental Council. "The good news is that cost-effective pollution-control technologies are available. We look forward to collaborating with industry and government representatives to tackle this important challenge."

"We look forward to sharing the strategies and approaches we have used in Illinois with our colleagues from other Midwestern states," said Illinois EPA Director Doug Scott. "We are also interested in learning about strategies others have found effective, as well as how we all can maximize the clean air benefits from the ongoing technological advances."

"This initiative is about fostering a collaborative environment where we all work together for cleaner communities," said Brian Mormino, director of government relations for Cummins Inc. "Cummins is pleased to step forward with our public and private partners to lead this effort. We have made a significant investment to meet EPA's emissions standards for new engines and know that we can accomplish much more by leveraging our relationships to address those already in operation today."

The Leadership Group meeting opened with remarks from U.S. EPA, Region 5 Air Division Director Stephen Rothblatt; U.S. EPA, Region 5 Administrator Mary A. Gade; U.S. EPA Transportation and Regional Programs Director Merrylin Zaw-Mon; Illinois EPA Director Douglas P. Scott; and Indiana Department of Environmental Management Commissioner Thomas W. Easterly. The Leadership Group will focus on three strategic initiatives: Development of State Diesel Emission Reduction Programs, the Development of Educational and Outreach Campaigns for Fleet Owners, and the Development of Strategies to Educate Transportation and Planning Officials, Mayors, and Legislators. These Initiatives were discussed in breakout sessions. A summary will be available soon on the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative website.

EPA created the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative to reduce emissions from older, existing diesel engines not covered by EPA's stringent standards for cleaner fuels and new, cleaner engines. MCDI estimates that more than 3 million diesel engines in the Midwest would benefit from the use of cleaner fuels and idle-reduction and diesel-retrofit technologies and strategies. These include rebuilding, re-powering, replacing, refueling and retrofitting these engines with emission control devices. Already, the public-private partnership has undertaken more than \$30 million in projects, affecting 350,000 engines, and reducing air pollution by more than 3.5 million pounds per year.

More information on Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative and the MCDI Leadership Group is at

<http://www.epa.gov/midwestcleandiesel/>



**MIDWEST CLEAN DIESEL
INITIATIVE**
Leadership Group

Front Row (left to right): Derrick Clay, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission; David Abel, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission; Howard Hennemen, City of Chicago; Sadhu Johnston, City of Chicago; Staci Putney McLennan, Ohio Environmental Council*; Doug Scott, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency*; Brian Mormino, Cummins*; Steve Rothblatt, U.S. EPA; Ed Jepsen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Middle Row (left to right): Bill Droessler, Minnesota Environmental Initiative; Ken Katch, Caterpillar; Lucinda Legel, Flint Hills Resources; Dawn Fenton, Diesel Technology Forum; Greg Langford, Langford, Inc.; Mary Gade, U.S. EPA Region 5*; Merrylin Zaw-Mon, U.S. EPA; Tom Easterly, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; Carl Lisek, South Shore Clean Cities Coalition

Back Row (left to right): Jim Saber, Next Energy/Detroit Clean Cities Coalition; Bob Leidich, BP; Joe Koncelik, Greater Cleveland Partnership; G. Vinson Hellwig, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; Norman Stoner, Federal Highway Administration-Illinois Division; Brian Urbaszewski, American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago; Kate Agasie, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; David Thornton, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Harold Wimmer, American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest; Carolyn Watkins, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; Mayor Tom Murawski, Village of Midlothian; Roger Kuchar, International Truck and Engine Corporation; Fred Marsciano, Styline Transportation; Cesar Baumann, Engine Control Systems; Joe Kubsh, Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association; Stephen Laskowski, Ontario Trucking Association; Ian MacDonald, Engine Control Systems; Sam Spofforth, Clean Fuels Ohio

*MCDI Leadership Group Co-Chair

Not pictured: Tim Martin, Illinois Department of Transportation; and Ellen Garvey

Deadline for CMAQ Proposals for Chicago Region: Friday, February 2

Fiscal Year 2008 call for proposals under the Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality Improvement program for Northeastern Illinois are due Friday, February 2, 4:30 pm. Applications and schedule can be downloaded from <http://www.catsmpo.com/prog-cmaq-fy2008.htm>

Applications for diesel emission reduction projects such as retrofits and idle reduction projects would fall under the FY 2008 Other Application Form listed on the aforementioned website. For questions, please contact Ross Patronsky, Chief of the CMAQ Program at the Chicago Area Transportation Study: (312) 386-8796 or rpatronsky@catsmpo.com

Minnesota Governor Recommends \$3 Million for Clean Air Projects

Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty has announced his 2008 and 2009 Budget Recommendations, which include a request for a one-time appropriation of three million dollars to fund projects in three categories: Green Fleets, Green Fuels, and Green Energy. The Governor's Budget Recommendations were announced at the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative Leadership Group meeting by David Thornton, Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The request is for three million dollars from the state Environmental Fund for fiscal year 2008-2009, although this effort could lay the groundwork for projects with funding needs that span several funding cycles. This initiative will be carried out largely through competitive grants, loans and technical assistance.

More information on the Governor's Budget Recommendations can be found at: <http://www.budget.state.mn.us/budget/operating/index.shtml>

Indiana Receives CMAQ Funding for Diesel Retrofits

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), in partnership with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), recently was awarded \$483,000 under the Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program to install diesel oxidation catalysts on 575 INDOT heavy-duty trucks operating in (or adjacent to) counties in Indiana designated as non-attainment for ozone.

INDOT will be utilizing IDEM's Quantity Purchase Agreement for the emission control devices, which allows the oxidation catalysts to be purchased at a lower-than-normal price. For more information, please contact Shawn Seals at IDEM at (317) 233-0405 or sseals@idem.IN.gov



You are subscribed to the Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative e-mail list, a service brought to you by USEPA, Region 5 to inform you of news and related events on diesel programs in the Midwest. If you wish to have your name removed please email: nichols.jonathan@epa.gov