

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# MIDWEST CLEAN DIESEL INITIATIVE

## **June 1 Marks Historic Milestone in Clean Diesel**

Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, EPA will require refiners and fuel importers to cut the sulfur content of highway diesel fuel 97 percent, from 500 parts per million to 15. In addition, labeling requirements apply to retailers and wholesale purchasers/consumers.

ULSD enables advanced pollution control technology for cars, trucks and buses. Consumers will be able to purchase ULSD and vehicles with clean diesel technology later this year. The agency expects a smooth transition and will closely monitor the industry as it transitions to ULSD making this historic milestone a reality that will benefit Americans' health and the environment.

More information on EPA's clean diesel initiatives [can be found at EPA's web site](#).

In keeping with its efforts to ensure smooth implementation, EPA is a member of the Clean Diesel Fuel Alliance, a stakeholder group dedicated to providing the public ULSD-related information. More information [can be found here](#).

## **Ohio EPA Announces First of Grant Recipients**

On June 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio EPA announced the first Diesel School Bus Retrofit grant awards. The Columbus Public School District was the recipient of \$88,440 to retrofit 88 buses with diesel oxidation catalysts.

In total, nine school districts throughout Ohio were awarded \$442,157 in grants to retrofit 238 buses with a variety of diesel oxidation catalysts, diesel particulate filters, engine pre-heaters and crankcase filters. For more details on the school districts receiving awards, please visit [the Ohio EPA web site](#).

*As a reminder, Ohio EPA's next grant application deadlines are September 1, 2006 and March 1, 2007.*



*Columbus Public Schools Fleet Services Supervisor Phil Downs (left) and Director of Operations Eric Pinkett (right) join Ohio EPA Director Joe Koncelik in celebrating the school district's grant award.*

## **Gov. Blagojevich Signs Anti-Idling Bill**

On June 9, 2006 Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed House Bill 4782, which prevents stationary diesel vehicles of more than 8,000 pounds from idling for more than 10 minutes in the Chicagoland area and in the St. Louis Metro-East Region. The law applies to vehicles operating in areas that do not meet federal air quality standards.

House Bill 4782 was sponsored by Rep. Elaine Nekritz (D-Des Plaines) and Sen. Jeff Schoenberg (D-Evanston). It provides exemptions from the idling limits when the outdoor air temperature is below 32 degrees or above 80 degrees. Other exemptions are granted to account for emergencies, traffic congestion, loading/unloading, when drivers are sleeping

in a sleeper berth, and certain other situations. A violator could be fined \$50 for a first offense and \$150 for a second or subsequent offense within any 12-month period. More information can be found [on the State of Illinois web site](#).

### **“Cleaner Air Program for School Buses -Plus” Workshops in Michigan**

The Okemos Public Schools’ “Clean Air Program for School Buses-Plus” project was designed and developed through a partnership between the EPA, the Okemos Public Schools, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Rotary District 6360 and the Michigan Association of Community and Adult Education. Okemos Public Schools will work with 112 participating school districts to retrofit over 375 Michigan School Buses. In addition, six educational workshops for transportation managers and staff, as well as any other interested school officials will be held and will cover information about: emission control technologies; fuels; idle reduction options; and, new bus purchase information. The workshops will be held in the following locations:

July 18	Waterford
July 19	Okemos
July 20	Monroe
August 1	Kalamazoo
August 2	Reeths-Puffer Schools (Muskegon)
August 23	Mt. Morris

For more information about these workshops, please contact the Project Director, John Zappala of Okemos Public Schools at 517-349-2209 Ext 7.

### **EPA Releases SIP Conformity Guide**

EPA has finalized the diesel retrofit guidance document, and it is now posted on the Office of Transportation and Air Quality website. The guidance is entitled, “Diesel Retrofits: Quantifying and Using Their Benefits in SIPs and Conformity -- Guidance for State and Local Air and Transportation Agencies,” and can be found [on EPA’s web site](#).

### **MCDI Partner Spotlight: Minnesota Environmental Initiative’s Project Green Fleet**

#### **Background**

Project Green Fleet (PGF) is a partnership among businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations to reduce pollution emitted from Minnesota school buses and to protect children’s health, and is managed by Clean Air Minnesota (CAM), a program of the Minnesota Environmental Initiative.



More than half of Minnesota’s air pollution is generated by mobile sources, such as cars, trucks and school buses. These pollutants can be harmful to human health - they can contribute to the development of heart and lung disease, and they can be especially problematic for the children who ride school buses every day. Recent studies reveal that pollution levels inside school buses can be up to five times higher than outdoor air.

PGF will help school districts and other school bus operators reduce diesel emissions by installing pollution-control equipment on Minnesota school buses to make them cleaner and safer for children and the communities in which they operate. By installing diesel retrofit equipment on school buses, a fleet can reduce certain outdoor air pollutants generated

from their buses by 40 to 90 percent and dramatically reduce the level of pollution inside the bus. Thanks to funding provided by their sponsors, PGF will retrofit at least 500 school buses by the end of 2007.

## **Program Update**

PGF's latest advancements are gaining emission and exposure reductions all over the state of Minnesota.

By the end of next month, the first block of 20 Independent School District 196 (serving Rosemount, Apple Valley and Eagan) buses should be retrofitted, with the remaining 20 to follow soon after.

In Rochester, a PGF proposal has been supported by the Mayo Foundation, which will allow the Program to begin retrofitting all of the eligible school buses and 8 transit buses. This partnership includes the Mayo Foundation, Rochester Public Utilities, the City of Rochester, Laidlaw Education Services, Rochester Public Schools and Donaldson Company.

In the Twin Cities, PGF is finalizing a grant from Washington County to retrofit 20 school buses in the County. They are also negotiating a proposal to pursue retrofits with the St. Louis Park School District and SLP Transportation.

Plans are also being finalized to complete 20 retrofits with local school districts in Duluth. Voyageur Bus Company will serve as the host for installing and teaching participating partners about the new pollution control technology. PGF would like to thank the Minnesota Power Company for leading the effort to gain new partners in the Duluth area.

PGF has been invited to submit a proposal to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation (BC/BS) under their new "*Growing Up Healthy: Kids and Communities*" funding initiative. While somewhat beyond the initiative's scope, BC/BS was impressed with their concept of retrofitting Head Start and other program buses serving kids 0 - 5 years old and will support a pilot project through a "special opportunities" fund. This is an important and exciting new area for the Program and one which has the potential to create many new partnerships.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is continuing their support of PGF with a new grant that will allow the Program to do at least another 24 retrofits. This further enhances the Program's ability to leverage and match funding from numerous public and private sources to gain voluntary emission and exposure reductions.

Clean Air Minnesota would also like to thank Flint Hills Resources for their continued support and for their sponsorship of the Minnesota Public Radio and Minnesota Public Television spots featuring PGF. CAM has received dozens of positive comments about the Project's radio and television exposure.

More information on Project Green Fleet can be found at [the PGF web site](#).

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