

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



July 31, 2012

Hon. Heather McTeer- Hudson, Chairwoman

Greenville, Mississippi

Hon. Terry Bellamy

Asheville, North Carolina

Hon. Evelyn Delorme Camacho

Vieques, Puerto Rico

Hon. Salud Carbajal

Santa Barbara, California

Hon. Teresa Coons

Grand Junction, Colorado

Hon. Robert Cope

Salmon, Idaho

Hon. Ronald K. Davis

Prichard, Alabama

Hon. Bob Dixon

Greensburg, Kansas

Hon. Jill Duson

Portland, Maine

Hon. Edward Emmett

Harris County, Texas

Dr. Hector Gonzalez

Laredo, Texas

Hon. Phil Gordon

Phoenix, Arizona

Ms. Susan Hann

Palm Bay, Florida

Hon. Tom Hickner

Bay County, Michigan

Hon. Jennifer Hosterman

Pleasanton, California

Hon. Elizabeth Kautz

Burnsville, Minnesota

Mr. Aaron Miles

Nez Perce, Idaho

Hon. Marilyn Murrell

Arcadia, Oklahoma

Hon. Adam Ortiz

Edmonston, Maryland

Hon. Steve (Mon-wah) Ortiz

Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation

Hon. Carolyn Peterson

Ithaca, New York

Hon. Dana Redd

Camden, New Jersey

Hon. Randy Roach

Lake Charles, Louisiana

Hon. Chris Ross

Unionville, Pennsylvania

Hon. David J. Somers

Snohomish County, Washington

Mr. Jeffrey Tiberi

Helena, Montana

Hon. Mary Margaret Whipple

Arlington, Virginia

Hon. Lisa A. Wong

Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Frances Eargle, DFO

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) appreciates the opportunity to work with you and the US EPA on a wide range of issues of interest and concern to local governments. More specifically, the Committee is particularly grateful to have the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Stationary Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE NESHAP), released by EPA on May 22, 2012. The LGAC has reviewed and considered the proposed changes. Pursuant to the Committee's charter, we offer the following comments regarding emissions standards for RICE at major and area sources of hazardous air pollutants (HAP) emissions.

Total Hydrocarbon Compliance Demonstration Option

The LGAC commends EPA's inclusion of alternative testing options for owners and operators of certain stationary 4-stroke rich burn (4SRB) spark ignition (SI) engines to demonstrate compliance with NESHAP. As you are aware, initial and continuous performance testing for formaldehyde in order to meet compliance standards is difficult and costly to measure. The option to test for total hydrocarbon compliance (THC) in place of formaldehyde compliance is easier and less costly; this option will substantially reduce the burden of the compliance rule for owners and operators of these engines, both in time and cost.

Emergency Demand Response/Peak Shaving

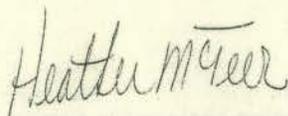
The LGAC also appreciates EPA's proposal to increase the number of hours, from 15 hours per year to 100 hours per year, that owners and operations of RICE can operate their engines as part of an emergency demand response and for voltage support. This allows localities to meet independent system operator (ISO) and regional transmission organization (RTO) tariffs and other requirements for participating in various emergency demand response programs, as well as providing ample time for monitoring and testing these engines. This action will assist in stabilizing the grid, preventing electrical blackouts and supporting local electric system reliability.

Additionally, the allowance of 50 hours per year for peak shaving until 2017 will give sources an additional resource for maintaining reliability while facilities are coming into compliance with the NESHAP from Coal and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units. As a result, our communities will be able to prevent electricity blackouts or reliability problems that were raised in response to the Coal and Oil-Fired Electric Utility NESHAP. This allowance is especially important in rural areas that may rely on small electric cooperatives that have agreements with owners of small emergency engines to maintain voltage and electric reliability; the ability to use these hours as part of a financial agreement is critical.

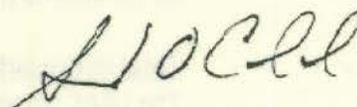
Non-Emergency Stationary SI RICE Greater than 500 HP Located at Area Sources

The LGAC supports EPA's proposal to create a subcategory of existing stationary SI 4SLB and 4SRB located in rural areas. Engines located in remote areas that are not close to significant human activity may be difficult to access and unmanned most of the time. Because of this remoteness, the costs for testing and continuous monitoring requirements may be burdensome, and the HAP emissions reductions that would be achieved may not justify the high cost, considering the engines are located in sparsely populated areas. The LGAC finds EPA's definition of the subcategory – the existing Department of Transportation (DOT) classification system, in which engines located in an area with fewer than 10 buildings intended for human occupancy within a 220 yard radius are considered remote – to be reasonable and well-established. The overlap of this approach for engines with DOT's pipeline classification system creates a harmonization that reduces the implementation and enforcement burdens for states.

Sincerely,



Mayor Heather McTeer
Chair, LGAC



Supervisor Salud Carbajal
Chair, Air, Climate & Energy Workgroup