



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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June 6, 2014

Submitted electronically to ADVANCE@epa.gov

Ozone and PM Advance
c/o Laura Bunte
OAQPS, C304-01
4930 Old Page Road
Durham, NC 27703

Dear Ms. Bunte:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the annual update on Minnesota's participation in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) voluntary Ozone Advance and PM Advance programs.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) submitted the [Final Report: A Collaborative Plan to Reduce Emissions](#) (Report) from Minnesota's [Clean Air Dialogue](#) as our path forward in May, 2013. The Report addressed emissions of both ozone and of fine particulates. It was the MPCA's intention to proceed under both Ozone Advance and PM Advance using the 24 recommendations in the Report.

The recommendations in the Report fall into six categories: Area Sources; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; Mobile Diesel; Point Source; Transportation Demand Management and Wood Smoke. Most of the recommendations were scoped to allow resources to focus on low-income individuals, neighborhoods or groups that bear disproportionate impacts from air pollution.

Several highlights from this year's work on Ozone Advance and PM Advance projects are:

- 55 Clean Diesel and 14 Project Green Fleet retrofits, saving a total of 1.8 tons of particulates and 15 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
- Legislative funding of grants to small and mid-size businesses for volatile organic compound (VOC) reduction projects, with \$320,000 available
- The installation of 92 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to be completed by June 30, 2014

The MPCA and its partners have completed a number of administrative and project tasks over the past year. A critical step for Minnesota was to develop a structure to implement the path forward. [Clean Air Minnesota](#) – a partnership between business, government, and nonprofit air quality leaders – serves as the stakeholder group for the Ozone and PM Advance Programs. [Environmental Initiative](#) (a 501c3 nonprofit organization) convenes Clean Air Minnesota. This coalition includes approximately 25 partner organizations (Attachment 1).

In October 2013, Clean Air Minnesota began to meet (Attachment 2). In January 2014, Clean Air Minnesota members selected high-priority project areas for focused attention.

- Education and outreach to Reduce VOC Emissions from Small- to Mid-Sized Businesses
- Air Quality Improvements and Urban Heat Island Mitigation Through Community Forestry
- Incentives for Diesel Engine Retrofit/Power/Rebuild/Replace

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- High Emitting Vehicle Repair Project
- Air Alert Education and Best Management Practices Outreach
- Develop the Transit System (Bus and Rail) in the Seven County Metro Region
- Wood Stove/Fireplace Change-Outs
- Wood Smoke Reduction Education and Outreach

In addition, a measurement team was also formed to track benefits and outcomes, focusing on four measures of particular importance: emissions, exposure, economics, and education. A working document, which is a summary of the metrics and measures for the priority projects as of April 30, 2014 is in Attachment 3.

From January through April 2014, Clean Air Minnesota teams have met regularly to develop project plans (Attachment 4) to implement the priority recommendations. The teams include new partnerships and plans based on best practices research. In some cases, such as the diesel programs, the teams continue to promote and strengthen ongoing projects that have the potential to achieve additional reductions. Attachments 5 contain project updates on these activities.

Clean Air Minnesota's meeting agendas, presentations and handouts may be viewed at the [Working Group Meetings](#) web page of Clean Air Minnesota, along with a [Project Status Spreadsheet](#). The enclosures to this letter are additional materials related to timelines; project definition and planning; and tracking and measures.

The MPCA has also formed an internal work group regarding non-point sources of air emissions. The workgroup consists of staff, supervisors and managers who have an interest in the implementation of projects from the Report and related Agency efforts. The team meets monthly to discuss the status and budget of active projects, develop proposals and respond to questions or issues that arise. An example of the meeting minutes is in Attachment 6.

We look forward to continuing work with our partners and making further progress on our emission reduction initiatives and education efforts. If you have questions, please contact Barbara Conti, of my staff, at 651-757-2288 or barbara.conti@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



J. David Thornton
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Steve Rosenthal, US EPA Region 5
Gena Gerard, Environmental Initiative

Attachments – (listed on next page)

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ATTACHMENT 1: Clean Air Minnesota Membership

ATTACHMENT 2: Clean Air Minnesota Meeting Schedule 2013 – 2015

ATTACHMENT 3: CAM Measurements and Outcomes Dashboard (April 30, 2014)

ATTACHMENT 4: Clean Air Minnesota Project Plans

ATTACHMENT 5: Clean Air Minnesota Project Status Updates: Activities May 2013 – May 2014

ATTACHMENT 6: Example of MPCA Non-Point Team Meeting Minutes