

Reports from the Work Groups of the Mobile Sources Technical Review Subcommittee
for the MSTRS meeting of October 24, 2001

Modeling - Gene Tierney, (734) 214-4456, tierney.gene@epa.gov

The modeling workgroup will meet on October 23rd to discuss progress and proposals regarding EPA's new mobile source emission model, discuss analysis methods for on-board emission data, and hear updates on modeling work being performed by California, Georgia Tech and DOT. EPA is asking the workgroup to review proposals for the design, use, and implementation schedule of EPA's new model by the end of the year, and to report the results of this review to the MSTRS at February's meeting.

Air Toxics - Drew Kodjak, (734) 214-4804, kodjak.drew@epa.gov

The Workgroup met on October 23rd to discuss its future work. The Workgroup's co-chairs proposed that the Workgroup focus its resources and energies over the next year on developing a single suite of mobile source air toxic emissions testing and analytical protocols for each of the 21 mobile source air toxics identified in the 202(l) rule (March, 2001). At present, formaldehyde is the only mobile source air toxic with an emissions testing and analytical protocol in the federal register. The need for such an effort is apparent from the increasing body of evidence showing that mobile source air toxics pose a risk to public health (e.g., National-Scale Assessment, Diesel Health Assessment Document), the lack of standard federal test methods, and the variability found within the current group of test methods. The group will seek to prioritize its efforts on those pollutants that pose the greatest risk to public health and which are emitted in significant quantities from mobile sources (e.g., benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, 1,3-butadiene, acrolein, diesel PM/ organic gases). Next steps include: (1) Develop a detailed workplan; (2) Identify, compile and review existing protocols; (3) Assess strengths and weaknesses of each protocol; and (4) Draft and submit recommendations to the Mobile Source Technical Review Subcommittee. In order for this effort to be successful, the workgroup will need to supplement its existing membership with technical experts in emissions testing and analytical methods from all stakeholder groups represented on the MSTRS. The Workgroup requests that each organization consider allocating appropriate staff resources to this effort.

On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) - Ed Gardetto, (734) 214-4322, gardetto.edward@epa.gov

The OBD Technical Review Workgroup held a meeting in conjunction with the Colorado State University Clean Air Conference in Estes Park, Colorado. This meeting was held on September 11, 2001. While the events of this day created an understandable distraction to all involved, the meeting was held. Areas in which information was presented included the following:

- Discussion of the importation of 1996 and 1997 Canadian vehicles with non-US OBD systems
- Latest data from the Colorado Department of Health OBD/FTP study
- Update regarding scan tool concerns and OBD I/M
- Discussion of the need for the establishment of a method for evaluating an OBD I/M programs effectiveness
- Discussion of OBD system's durability and warranty coverage
- Discussion of possible conflict of interest in OEM dealerships performing OBD I/M evaluations in states

The workgroup plans to meet next in conjunction with the winter MSTRS meeting.

Nonroad Workgroup - Glenn Passavant, (734) 214-4408, passavant.glenn@epa.gov.

The Nonroad workgroup met several times over the last several months and will be presenting recommendations before the Subcommittee on October 24, 2001.

Lab Upgrade Workgroup - Mike Sabourin, (734) 214-4316, sabourin.michael@epa.gov

The Emissions Test Laboratory Workgroup reconvened in reconvened in May and has met five times over the summer. The workgroup has their final report entitled “2001 Technical Review and Analysis of the Laboratory Modernization Plan for the OTAQ National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory” to the Subcommittee for review prior to the October 24 MSTRS meeting. The workgroup will make a presentation to the Subcommittee based on this report.