August 6, 2001

TO:        All Interested Parties

SUBJECT:  PUBLIC WORKSHOP REGARDING NEW IN-USE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ON-ROAD HEAVY-DUTY DIESEL-FUELED RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES

Background: In August 1998 the Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) identified particulate matter (PM) exhaust from diesel-fueled engines as a toxic air contaminant. Following that determination, the ARB formed a Diesel Advisory Committee with a wide variety of stakeholders to develop the Risk Reduction Plan to Reduce Particulate Matter Emissions from Diesel-Fueled Engines and Vehicles (Diesel Risk Reduction Plan or DRRP). The DRRP, approved by the Board in September 2000, identified the addition of emission control devices to in-use engines as a vital component of the overall PM control strategy.

ARB staff recently began the public process of developing regulations for the control of PM emissions from in-use diesel-fueled engines. Over the course of the next few years, ARB staff is scheduled to bring regulations to the Board addressing the use of emission control strategies to reduce in-use emissions for heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, the procedure for verifying the durability and emission reductions of emission control systems (ECS), and the use of low sulfur diesel fuel (less than 15 parts per million sulfur content). For more information, you may access ARB’s website: http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/dieselrrp.htm.

Workshop: This proposed regulation applies to on-road heavy-duty diesel-fueled engines used in heavy-duty residential and commercial solid waste collection vehicles. In order to provide an opportunity for public review, ARB staff will hold a second public workshop to discuss the upcoming regulatory requirements. Issues to be discussed include revised implementation timelines, strategies used to achieve lower diesel PM emissions, dual fuel vehicles, reporting requirements, and compliance. The workshop will be held in the afternoon at the ARB facility in Sacramento and at the old state building in downtown Los Angeles. Note that the workshops may end earlier than scheduled if all issues have been discussed.
After our first workshop on this rule, we revised the rule concepts to incorporate oral and written comments from the public. The most current Solid Waste Collection Vehicle Rule Proposed Regulation Order (Draft) is included as Attachment 1. In summary, this proposed rule applies more stringent diesel PM in-use performance standards to heavy-duty diesel-fueled engines in on-road heavy-duty residential and commercial solid waste collection vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 14,000 pounds or greater. The proposed in-use performance standard could be met by using a diesel PM emission control system (ECS), repowering the engine with or without an ECS, converting to an alternative fuel engine, or retiring the engine. All engines relying on diesel fuel would need to use low sulfur diesel fuel by July 1, 2003. Depending on the path chosen, the implementation deadlines range from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2008. The streamlined reporting requirements are also addressed in the proposed draft rule.

Staff encourages comments regarding this draft of the proposed solid waste collection vehicle rule, the retrofit procedures, and low sulfur diesel fuel availability. ARB staff is especially interested in comments on the revised scope, the classification of dual fuel solid waste collection vehicles, and the implementation schedule outlined in Attachment 1. To ensure any confidential information is handled properly, commenters should identify confidential information as such when submitted. The guidelines for ARB’s handling of designated confidential information can be found in the website (http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/confid.htm). Comments are due by September 7, 2001, so we will have time to address them by the Board hearing scheduled for December.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the workshop, please contact Ms. Crystal Reul, Staff, Retrofit Implementation Section, by e-mail at creul@arb.ca.gov or by phone at (626) 350-6543, or Dr. Nancy Steele, Manager, Retrofit Implementation Section, by e-mail at nsteele@arb.ca.gov or by phone at (626) 350-6598.

Sincerely,

//s//

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

Attachments