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Statement of the Ozone Transport Commission Calling on the United States Environmental Protection Agency to Improve the Effectiveness of the SmartWay® Program in the Ozone Transport Region

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) states call on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support the OTC in seeking additional emission reductions through increased participation in the Agency's SmartWay® program along the heavily travelled corridors (e.g. I-95, I-76) in the Ozone Transport Region (OTR). These highway corridors are major thoroughfares for the movement of goods via trucks and emissions from heavy duty truck traffic adversely impact the quality of air.

Residents in some parts of the OTR continue to be exposed to some of the unhealthiest air in the country. Twelve areas with a population of 40 million people remain in nonattainment of the 2008 health based standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) for ozone, while several areas continue to violate the 1997 84 ppb ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard. Further reductions in ozone forming pollutants (i.e., Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)) are needed quickly.

According to recent EPA and OTC modeling, mobile sources are the largest anthropogenic contributors to elevated ozone levels in the OTR. The projected mobile source emission inventory demonstrates that heavy-duty diesel emissions are likely to be the largest source of mobile NO_x emissions in 2020 in the OTR.

The SmartWay® Program is a voluntary partnership among EPA, trucking companies, rail carriers, logistics companies, commercial manufacturers, retailers, and other federal and state agencies. It aims to reduce emissions from goods movement supply chains by creating incentives for the SmartWay® participants to improve fuel efficiency.

The OTC calls on the EPA to:

- Encourage companies involved with the movement of goods in the OTR to increase participation in the SmartWay® program, improve performance, and thus potentially decrease NO_x and VOC emissions; and
- Work together with the OTC States to collect data and develop methods to quantify additional NO_x and VOC emission reductions that could be associated with the effort to increase participation in the SmartWay® program by carriers transporting goods in the OTR.

Adopted by the Commission on November 19, 2014

Jane Herndon