

December 7, 2010

Joyce E. Epps, Esquire
Director, Bureau of Air Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
P. O. Box 8468
12th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Ms. Epps:

On October 18, 2010 the Citizens Advisory Council's Air Committee discussed a draft High Electric Demand Day (HEDD) regulation that is under consideration by the department. HEDD units are basically units which only operate during days of high electric demand which are also often high ozone days. HEDD units often have no NO_x controls, or even NO_x standards to meet, yet are highly compensated since they run when electricity prices are high due to the high demand. They are critical to the reliability of the electric power system, but can contribute significantly to ozone non-attainment.

This regulation would require registration of HEDD units (with several defined exemptions) with a maximum standby power rating that equals or exceeds 100 kW. It would also establish future emission standards for these units, with some alternative compliance options.

During the discussion, staff indicated that they had consulted with AQTAC, power generators, EPA and PJM. The Air Committee recommended that the PUC also be consulted to ensure that the regulation will achieve the intended results in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

On its December 7, 2010 conference call, the committee concurred with presenting the proposed rulemaking to the Environmental Quality Board in order to seek broader public comment. The committee will share its recommendation with the full CAC at the January 2011 meeting.

We thank the Bureau of Air Quality for the opportunity to comment on this package, and for providing regular updates on air issues, policies and regulations. If there are any questions, please contact Sue Wilson, Council's Executive Director, at 787-4527.

Sincerely,

John Walliser
Chair, Air Committee