



Citizens Advisory Council

to the Department of Environmental Protection

P.O. Box 8459 • Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8459 • 717-787-4527 • Fax 717-787-2878
March 3, 2009

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

RE: Draft Proposed Rulemaking: Fee Schedule Amendments
25 PA Code Article III. Air Resources
Chapters 121, 127 and 139

Dear Ms. Epps:

On February 17, 2009, the Bureau of Air Quality presented draft proposed rulemaking on new fee schedules to the Citizens Advisory Council's Air Committee. At Council's meeting on that same date, the Air Committee recommended, and Council concurred, that the proposed rulemaking should move forward to the Environmental Quality Board.

The new fees would cover costs for testing, auditing and monitoring activities that DEP is required to administer under the Clean Air Act (current fees have been in place since 1994). Additionally, the proposed rulemaking requires DEP to provide five-year evaluations to EQB assessing the fees and program costs. If the evaluations reveal any disparity between program income generated by the fees and the cost of administering the program, DEP can recommend regulatory changes to make sure fees meet program costs to ensure the program is self-sustaining.

In supporting this proposed rulemaking, Council would like the Department to provide some level of assurance that the increased revenue will result in additional staff support, particularly regarding permit reviews. We recommend that the Bureau be prepared to respond to this issue when the proposed rulemaking is presented at EQB.

Council thanks the Bureau for continuing to provide updates on air issues, policies and regulations. We look forward to future discussions. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sue Wilson, Council's Executive Director, at 787-4527.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Manfredi
Chair
Citizens Advisory Council

Gail M. Conner, Esquire
Chair
CAC Air Committee

cc: Susan Hoyle
Dean Van Orden
Arleen Shulman
Michele Tate

