

Avaltroni, Robert

From: Kelpin, Gerry
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2002 11:37 AM
To: Egan, Michael; Avaltroni, Robert
Subject: Transportation Conformity

The Clean Air Act requires that all transportation projects that use federal money must show that they conform to the State Implementation Plan's(SIP) emission budget for those air pollutants where we have not yet achieved the ambient air quality standard. As part of the transportation planning process, both the transportation plans and the individual projects must show that they conform to the SIP. There are many steps involved, including modeling the emissions from the transportation sources.

The Clean Air Act lays out various timeframes and requirements concerning conformity. If the transportation plans or projects cannot be shown to conform to the SIP, federal money is frozen.

With the massive change in traffic and traffic patterns in lower Manhattan, a new transportation network model has to be put together and NYS is requesting an extension of the submission date for the next conformity determination to address these changes. In addition, NY's transportation coordination agency, which is responsible for preparing the transportation plans and the conformity work, was housed in the WTC. Three of their staff were lost and a wealth of information.

DEP follows the transportation planning issues from a distance these days. Citywide, the lack of a funded transportation plan has a big impact on the transportation agencies and could have indirect negative impacts on air quality.

DEC will explain this more, I'm sure.



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