

# Regulatory Analysis Form

(Completed by Promulgating Agency)

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION  
IRRC

2019 JUN 19 P 2:36

(All Comments submitted on this regulation will appear on IRRC's website)	
(1) Agency Environmental Protection	
(2) Agency Number: 7 Identification Number: 546	
(3) PA Code Cite: 25 Pa. Code § 123.22	
(4) Short Title: Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil	
(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number and Email Address): Primary Contact: Laura Edinger, 783-8727, ledinger@pa.gov Secondary Contact: Jessica Shirley, 783-8727, jessshirley@pa.gov	
(6) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box):	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Final Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Final Omitted Regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Certification Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Certification by the Governor <input type="checkbox"/> Certification by the Attorney General
(7) Briefly explain the regulation in clear and nontechnical language. (100 words or less)  This proposed rulemaking would amend 25 Pa. Code § 123.22 (relating to combustion units) to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, generally sold for and used in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners for home or space heating, water heating, or both. This rulemaking proposes to lower the current limit of 500 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur to 15 ppm to address regional haze and visibility impairment. Regional haze and visibility impairment affect urban and rural areas as well as Federal Class I areas (which include National parks, forests, and wilderness areas). The proposed compliance date is 60 days after the rule would be published in its final form.	
This rulemaking will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval as a revision to the Commonwealth's State Implementation Plan (SIP) following publication of the final-form rulemaking in the <i>Pennsylvania Bulletin</i> .	
(8) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include <u>specific</u> statutory citation.  This proposed rulemaking is authorized under section 5(a)(1) of the Air Pollution Control Act (APCA) (35 P.S. § 4005(a)(1)), which grants the Environmental Quality Board (Board) the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the prevention, control, reduction, and abatement of air pollution in Pennsylvania. This proposed rulemaking is also authorized under section 5(a)(8) of the APCA (35 P.S. § 4005(a)(8)), which grants the Board the authority to adopt rules and regulations designed to implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C.A. §§ 7401—7671q).	

**(9) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation as well as any deadlines for action.**

There are no Federal or State laws, court orders or Federal regulations for the maximum allowable sulfur content of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners for home or space heating, water heating, or both. However, this rulemaking is proposed under provisions of the CAA and its implementing regulations specified below that require states to protect against regional haze and visibility impairment.

**Obligations under the CAA:** The CAA and its implementing regulations in 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart P (relating to protection of visibility) mandate actions to protect visibility, especially in Federal Class I areas. Section 169A(a)(1) of the CAA (42 U.S.C.A. § 7491(a)(1)), regarding visibility protection for Federal Class I areas, sets a National goal for the “prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution.” The Federal visibility regulations require restoration of natural levels of visibility in the mandatory Federal Class I areas by 2064. See 40 CFR 51.308(d)(1). The Federal regulations require that states revise their SIPs approved by the EPA, to implement the emission reduction measures for regional haze identified by Class I states as being necessary to make reasonable progress in any Class I area. See 40 CFR 51.308(d)(3). This proposed rulemaking fulfills that obligation.

**Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union:** Section 169B(c)(1) of the CAA (42 U.S.C.A. § 7492(c)(1)), regarding visibility, authorizes the Administrator of the EPA to establish a transport region for visibility impairment when there is reason to believe that pollutants from one or more states contribute to visibility impairment in Federal Class I areas. In 1999, the EPA and the affected states and tribes agreed to create five Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) to facilitate interstate coordination with regional haze SIPs. The Commonwealth is a member of the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) RPO established in 2001 to assist the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states in planning and developing their regional haze SIP revisions. The other MANE-VU states are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The District of Columbia, Native American tribes in the region, the EPA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service are also members of MANE-VU. There are 156 mandatory Federal Class I areas established under the CAA, including seven in the MANE-VU states. Although this Commonwealth does not have any mandatory Federal Class I areas, emissions from within the Commonwealth are considered to impact several Federal Class I areas in MANE-VU states as well as the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area in West Virginia and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

**Course of Action:** This proposed rulemaking is consistent with the course of action set forth in the *Statement of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU)* adopted on June 20, 2007 (2007 MANE-VU “Ask”), and in MANE-VU’s August 25, 2017, *Statement of the MANE-VU States Concerning a Course of Action Within MANE-VU Toward Assuring Reasonable Progress For the Second Regional Haze Implementation Period (2018-2028)* (2017 MANE-VU “Ask”). To address the impact of regional haze on mandatory Federal Class I areas within the MANE-VU region, the 2007 MANE-VU “Ask” established that the member states would pursue a coordinated course of action, including pursuing the adoption and implementation of the following strategy to reduce the sulfur content of distillate oil (a general classification for one of the petroleum fractions produced in conventional distillation operations) in the “inner zone” MANE-VU states (New Jersey, New York, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, or portions thereof), as follows: to 500 ppm (0.05% sulfur by weight) by 2012 and to 15 ppm (0.0015% by weight) by 2016. The 2017 MANE-VU “Ask” specifies that member states are to expeditiously pursue adoption of the low-

sulfur content maximum allowable limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil if they have not done so. This proposed rulemaking is designed to meet this aspect of the 2017 MANE-VU “Ask.”

**Implementation Plans and Reasonable Progress Goals:** In December 2010, the Department submitted the Commonwealth’s first regional haze implementation plan to the EPA as a revision to the Commonwealth’s SIP. To track visibility improvement, the Commonwealth must submit its second regional haze SIP revision to the EPA by July 31, 2021. The third regional haze SIP revision is due July 31, 2028, and then additional SIP revisions every 10 years thereafter.

The control measure in this proposed rulemaking is an important part of the Commonwealth’s efforts to meet the 2028 reasonable progress goals for reducing regional haze established by the Commonwealth in consultation with the member states of MANE-VU. In addition, the decreased emissions of sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) would contribute to the attainment and maintenance, or both, of the  $\text{SO}_2$ , fine particulate matter ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ), and ground-level ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in the Commonwealth and the MANE-VU region. Upon publication as final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, the Department will submit this proposed rulemaking to the EPA for approval as a SIP revision.

**Attainment and Maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards:** In addition to improving public health and the environment, decreased emissions of  $\text{SO}_2$  will also contribute to the attainment or maintenance, or both, of the 2012 annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS within this Commonwealth. On April 7, 2015, the EPA designated the Allegheny, Delaware, and Lebanon County areas as nonattainment with the 2012 annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS. See 80 FR 18535, 18549. The EPA subsequently determined that the Delaware and Lebanon County areas attained that NAAQS. See 81 FR 89868 (December 13, 2016) and 83 FR 9435 (March 6, 2018), respectively. The proposed maintenance plans for these areas have identified lowering the fuel oil standard to 15 ppm as a contingency measure to ensure that these areas will continue to be classified as attainment for the 2012 annual  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  NAAQS.

**(10) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.**

This proposed rulemaking is designed to lower the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, generally used in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners, to meet the Commonwealth’s obligations under the CAA and the MANE-VU “Asks” described in the response to Question 9. It will also make the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil consistent Statewide at 15 ppm.

**Formation of regional haze, fine particulate matter, and ground-level ozone:**

Haze is one of the most basic forms of air pollution. It degrades visibility in many American cities and scenic areas. Haze is caused when sunlight encounters tiny pollution particles in the air, which reduce the clarity and color of what we see, especially during humid conditions. Most haze is not naturally occurring. It is air pollution carried by the wind, often many hundreds of miles from where it originated.

Regional haze is visibility impairment produced by a multitude of combustion sources and activities that emit  $\text{SO}_2$ , nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ),  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  precursors. The combustion sources and activities are located across a broad geographic area. Visibility impairment is humanly perceptible change in visibility (such as light extinction, visual range, contrast, and coloration) from the visibility that would have existed under natural conditions.

SO<sub>2</sub> emissions released by the combustion of sulfur-containing No. 2 or lighter commercial fuel oil contribute to the formation of regional haze and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, both of which are serious public health and welfare threats and affect visibility.

*Environmental and public health and welfare benefits:* The Department estimates that implementation of this proposed control measure would reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by as much as 4,000 tons per year (tpy). These SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions would benefit public health and welfare, as well as the environment, by decreasing regional haze and visibility impairment in Federal Class I areas and within the Commonwealth. Decreased emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> would also contribute to the attainment or maintenance, or both, of the SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and ground-level ozone NAAQS in this Commonwealth and the MANE-VU region.

Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> also contribute to the formation of acid rain, which can cause lakes, rivers, and streams to be unsuitable for fish and other aquatic life, and erodes stone buildings and historical monuments, and paint on cars. Acid rain and PM<sub>2.5</sub> contribute to agricultural crop and vegetation damage, as well as degradation of the Chesapeake Bay. Thus, by reducing the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, this proposed rulemaking would decrease these adverse public health and welfare and environmental impacts.

This proposed rulemaking may also lead to the reduction of NO<sub>x</sub> and carbon dioxide emissions. The use of lower sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum allowable sulfur content of 15 ppm will improve furnace and oil heat burner combustion efficiency which should decrease emissions. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions contribute to public health and environmental problems, particularly in the Northeastern United States, including the formation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground-level ozone.

The adverse human health effects associated with exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> are significant. Epidemiological studies have shown a significant correlation between elevated PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels and premature mortality. Other notable adverse health effects include aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular disease (as indicated by increased hospital admissions, emergency room visits, absences from school or work and restricted activity days), lung disease, decreased lung function, asthma attacks, and certain cardiovascular problems.

Individuals particularly sensitive to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure include older adults, people with heart and lung disease, and children. Ground-level ozone is also a serious human and animal health and welfare threat, causing or contributing to respiratory illnesses and decreased lung function, agricultural crop loss, visible foliar injury to sensitive plant species, and damage to forests, ecosystems, and infrastructure. Adopting a maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would contribute to reducing these public health and welfare and environmental impacts.

*Statewide consistency:* On February 9, 2013, the Board amended its regulations at 25 Pa. Code § 123.22 to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from home heating and commercial fuel oils beginning July 1, 2016. See 43 Pa.B. 806 (February 9, 2013). Due to concerns, at the time, regarding the available supply of low-sulfur content distillate oil in various regions of the Commonwealth, the Board reduced the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 500 ppm rather than to 15 ppm, as recommended by the 2007 MANE-VU "Ask." On July 10, 2014, the EPA approved a SIP revision incorporating the amended low-sulfur content commercial fuel oil provisions into the Commonwealth's SIP. See 79 FR 39330 (July 10, 2014). The City of Philadelphia, Department of Public Health, Philadelphia Air Management Services (AMS) adopted a low-sulfur content commercial fuel oil requirement, enacted into law by the City of Philadelphia on July 15, 2014, as an amendment to Philadelphia Code, Title 3- Air Management Code, Chapter 3-200, § 3-207 (relating to sale of fuel oil) and to Philadelphia Air Management Regulation III (relating to the control of emissions of oxides and sulfur compounds), Section I. Since there was not a low-sulfur fuel supply concern within the Philadelphia region, the amendments reduced the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 15 ppm in

the City of Philadelphia, effective July 1, 2015. The Department, on behalf of AMS, submitted these amendments to the EPA as a revision to the Commonwealth's SIP on June 27, 2018. Thus, the City of Philadelphia currently has a lower standard than the rest of the Commonwealth.

This rule is being proposed, at this time, to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 15 ppm, because the availability of distillate oil with 15 ppm of sulfur or less various regions of this Commonwealth and Nationwide is no longer a concern. The supply of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm has increased over the last several years and fuel with a sulfur content between 15 ppm and 500 ppm has decreased to less than 1% of the overall supply of distillate oil distributed on the east coast.

**Anticipated emission reductions:** MANE-VU evaluated the burning of sulfur-containing distillate oil in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners to assess its contribution to the MANE-VU SO<sub>2</sub> emission inventory. The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) performed this evaluation for MANE-VU in 2005 using 2002 data, the most current information available at the time. The 2005 NESCAUM evaluation found that MANE-VU regional residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners, combined, contributed about 7% of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the MANE-VU SO<sub>2</sub> emission inventory. Commercial fuel oil combustion in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners, in the Commonwealth alone, contributed between 2% and 3% of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the MANE-VU region, depending on the season. The 2005 NESCAUM evaluation indicated that the Commonwealth would likely reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 25,000 tpy when the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is fully implemented.

Implementation of the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 500 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil beginning July 1, 2016, was expected to achieve reductions of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 21,000 tpy in this Commonwealth. See 43 Pa.B. 811. The Department expects to realize an additional 4,000 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction credits from implementation of this proposed rulemaking, achieving the full 25,000 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions anticipated in the 2007 MANE-VU "Ask." See 43 Pa.B. 807 and 811. While many of these anticipated emission reductions have already been achieved as a result of the marketplace and nearby state and local limits already in place, this proposed rulemaking, upon promulgation as a final-form regulation and approved by the EPA as a revision to the Commonwealth's SIP, would ensure that the full amount of emission reductions is realized.

**Economic benefits to commercial fuel oil users and consumers:** Nearly one in five households in this Commonwealth, or approximately 18% of households, uses No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for space heating.<sup>1</sup> Lowering the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil from 500 ppm to 15 ppm has the potential to improve furnace and oil heat burner efficiency by reducing fouling rates of furnace and oil heat burner heat exchangers and other components. Reduced furnace and oil heat burner fouling rates translate directly into lower vacuum-cleaning costs for fuel oil companies and homeowners by extending the service intervals. According to the NESCAUM report "Low Sulfur Heating Oil in the Northeast States: An Overview of Benefits, Costs and Implementation Issues," December 2005 (2005 NESCAUM Report), the added cost for the 15 ppm sulfur content commercial fuel oil is expected to be less than the savings produced by the cleaner operation of furnaces and oil heat burners.<sup>2</sup> While there may be an increase in fuel purchase costs for commercial fuel oil users and consumers who are not already using No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less, this increase would likely be offset by increased efficiency and lower maintenance costs incurred for residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners, or through competitive pricing that heating oil vendors would experience with other fuels. The 2005 NESCAUM Report listed an example whereby using a median hourly service cost of \$72.50 per hour for vacuum-cleaning a furnace and reducing the maximum allowable No. 2 commercial fuel oil sulfur content from 2500 ppm to 500 ppm would be expected to save \$29,000 a

year per 1,000 homes, or \$29.00 per home annually in the United States.<sup>3</sup> These savings have been and continue to be realized with the Commonwealth's 500 ppm standard. It is expected that implementing a maximum allowable sulfur content of 15 ppm would allow the users and consumers of commercial fuel oil to further extend their furnace-cleaning service intervals, thereby saving additional money. Further, the availability of 15 ppm or lower sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would enable the introduction of highly-efficient advanced technology condensing furnaces.

**Economic benefits to commercial fuel oil industry:** A requirement for 15 ppm or lower sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would benefit distributors of commercial fuel oil by increasing their space heating market competitiveness.

Another economic benefit is that the proposed maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is consistent with the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm that is required in highway diesel fuel and nonroad, locomotive, and marine (NRLM) transportation diesel fuel. This consistency would help refinery owners and operators, owners and operators of commercial fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel terminals, and distributors and carriers of commercial fuel oil minimize the number of storage tanks and trucks needed for segregating the different sulfur-content fuel and heating oils. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil could be combined with highway diesel fuel and NRLM transportation diesel fuel in the same tanks and trucks.

Additionally, since the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would now be implemented Statewide, compliance and recordkeeping would be simplified for the petroleum refining and distribution companies.

Please also see the response to Question 9.

**(11) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.**

This proposed rulemaking is more stringent than Federal standards because the Federal government does not regulate the sulfur content of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. The Commonwealth is, however, required to make progress toward achieving natural background visibility conditions at Federal Class I areas, under section 169A of the CAA and corresponding EPA regulations. Reduction of the maximum allowable sulfur content of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil has been identified as a reasonable and cost-effective strategy by MANE-VU. The Department reviewed the 2005 NESCAUM evaluation and associated MANE-VU recommendations and determined that the recommended maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is an appropriate measure to be pursued in this Commonwealth as part of the regional strategy to improve visibility. The Department indicated in its 2010 regional haze SIP revision that the Commonwealth would pursue adoption of reduced sulfur content in commercial fuel oil and other emission management strategies, as appropriate and necessary, as part of its long-term strategy to meet the reasonable progress goals contained in the SIPs of states with Federal Class I areas that may be affected by emissions from within the Commonwealth. MANE-VU modeling identified SO<sub>2</sub> emissions as the primary source of visibility impairment in the region. MANE-VU performed a cost-benefit analysis for lowered sulfur limits and determined that the benefits exceed the costs. In addition, reducing SO<sub>2</sub> emission levels would assist the Commonwealth in meeting current and anticipated NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>.

Please also see the response to Question 9.

**(12) How does this regulation compare with those of the other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?**

MANE-VU includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes in the Northeastern United States, the EPA, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Forest Service. All MANE-VU member states, except the Commonwealth, have adopted the same maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. Thus, industry and commercial businesses in the Commonwealth would not be put at a disadvantage by the proposed amendments.

Owners and operators of refineries and retail outlets of commercial fuel oil could still manufacture and sell No. 2 fuel oil with a sulfur content above 15 ppm, if the ultimate consumer is located outside of this Commonwealth and the MANE-VU region and in a state that does not have a sulfur content limit of 15 ppm (i.e. Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia).

**(13) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.**

No.

**(14) Describe the communications with and solicitation of input from the public, any advisory council/group, small businesses and groups representing small businesses in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved. (“Small business” is defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012.)**

In November 2017, the Department met with representatives from the Pennsylvania Petroleum Association (the Association) and member companies, including Shipley Energy, Walton, Inc., and Tevis Energy, and they indicated that the Association would like the maximum allowable sulfur content of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to be reduced to 15 ppm as soon as possible.

The Department presented the draft proposed Annex A to the Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee (SBCAC) on January 24, 2018, and the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) on February 8, 2018. During the AQTAC meeting, one member asked if the Department could set a compliance date sooner than July 1, 2019, for this proposed rulemaking. The Department explained that the compliance date is dictated by the time needed to proceed through the rulemaking process. The Department has revised the proposed compliance date from July 1, 2019, to 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final-form, as this proposed rulemaking would not be promulgated by July 1, 2019. Another AQTAC member noted a concern that the sulfur content in the heavier fuel oils remains unchanged. The Department cannot address this concern here because it is beyond the intended purpose of this proposed rulemaking, which is to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 15 ppm consistent with the 2017 MANE-VU “Ask.” Both committees voted unanimously to concur with the Department’s recommendation to present this proposed rulemaking to the Board for consideration for publication as a proposed rulemaking.

The Department presented the draft proposed Annex A to the Citizens Advisory Council’s (CAC) Policy and Regulatory Oversight (PRO) Committee on February 9, 2018. On the recommendation of the PRO Committee the CAC concurred on February 20, 2018, to present this proposed rulemaking to the Board for consideration.

In the Department's discussions with refiners operating in the Commonwealth, United Refining and Monroe Energy, LLC (Monroe) indicated that they can meet the proposed 15 ppm low-sulfur content limit for the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil produced at each of their facilities. In addition, American Refining Group, Inc. (ARG) indicated that it is already producing No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for sale in New York which meets a maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm. Currently, ARG supplies No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of less than 500 ppm to northern counties in this Commonwealth. PES also has the ability to produce No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm and currently produces most of the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil distributed along the east coast.

**(15) Identify the types and number of persons, businesses, small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012) and organizations which will be affected by the regulation. How are they affected?**

*Types of persons, businesses, small businesses, and organizations that would be affected.* This proposed rulemaking would apply to the owner and operator of a refinery, terminal, distributor, carrier, or retail outlet fuel storage facility that produces, conveys, stores, or sells No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, as well as the ultimate consumer that uses No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, in the Commonwealth.

*Numbers of persons, businesses, small businesses, and organizations that would be affected.* The Department estimates that this proposed rulemaking may affect as many as 812 entities and as many as 892,800 households, who will simply be buying and using compliant fuel.

The Department used the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for the subject industry sectors to develop lists of potentially affected entities. The NAICS separates the industry into two classifications: Petroleum Bulk Stations and Terminals (NAICS code 424710) and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (except Bulk Stations and Terminals) (NAICS code 424720).

The Department provided these NAICS codes to the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center's Environmental Management Assistance Program (EMAP) with a request for a list of entities in each classification. EMAP provided the Department with a list of 70 facility owners and operators identified by NAICS code 424710 and a list of 441 facility owners and operators identified by NAICS code 424720, for a total of 511 potentially affected entities. Under the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Chapter 1, Part 121, the small business-size standard in number of employees for each of these NAICS classifications is 200 employees. The Department determined that of these 511 potentially subject entities, the owners and operators of 424 facilities (83%) are small businesses by that definition. For the remaining entities, the owners and operators of eight facilities were determined not to be small businesses and the small business status of 79 facility owners and operators could not be determined.

The owners and operators of many of these small business-sized facilities may in fact not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade, or permit the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil and therefore would not be subject to this proposed rulemaking. For this reason, the projected number of 424 potentially subject small business-sized facility owners and operators is likely higher than the number of small business-sized entities that would actually be subject to this proposed rulemaking.

The Department also used these NAICS codes to review the Department databases (Discoverer, Environmental Facility Application Compliance Tracking System (eFACTS), and Air Information Management System (AIMS)) to gather information about potentially affected facility owners and

operators. The review of the Department databases indicated that there are 128 fuel oil terminal operation owners and operators and 684 distributors of petroleum products for a total of 812 potentially affected entities; not all of these businesses handle No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil.

The difference between the EMAP's number of 511 and the Department's database number of 812 is likely because the Department's databases are for the owners and operators of previously and currently permitted (or inspected) facilities based on regulatory criteria for requiring a permit (or being inspected), while the EMAP list is based on a self-reported classification of a facility by the facility owner or operator.

This proposed rulemaking may also apply to owners and operators of other facilities that have not yet been identified, because NAICS codes are self-reported and facility owners and operators may not have identified themselves under the appropriate NAICS code. For purposes of this proposed rulemaking, the Department assumed that all identified businesses involved in the production, conveyance, or sale of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would be affected by this proposed rulemaking.

*How are they affected?* Refineries, terminals, distributors, carriers, and retail outlet fuel storage facilities would be prohibited from producing, conveying, storing, or selling No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil intended for use in this Commonwealth that exceeds the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm. The ultimate consumer located in this Commonwealth may use the commercial fuel oil that was stored prior to the proposed compliance date of this rulemaking, 60 days after publication of the rule in its final-form.

According to the 2005 NESCAUM Report, the added cost for producing the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum allowable sulfur content of 15 ppm is expected to be less than the savings produced by the cleaner operation of residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners.<sup>4</sup> While there may be a price increase for the users of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum allowable sulfur content of 15 ppm, this increase would likely be partially offset by increased combustion efficiency and lower maintenance costs incurred for residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners, or through competitive pricing that heating oil vendors would experience with other fuels, natural gas in particular.

By June 1, 2010, nonroad transportation diesel fuel was required to meet a maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm. NRLM transportation diesel fuel is the same as No. 2 commercial fuel oil and is often used as home heating oil. Market forces and regulations for transportation-related diesel fuels in the United States and internationally will be the major forces affecting this industry, because the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for residential heating is a very small portion of diesel fuel consumption. If this proposed rulemaking is promulgated as a final-form regulation, No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil consumed in this Commonwealth would have the same maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm as NRLM transportation diesel fuel.

This proposed rulemaking would retain the provision for the Department to temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content limit for a commercial fuel oil, if supply in an air basin (or air basins) or a particular geographic area (for nonair basins) is reasonably unavailable. This provides flexibility for the regulated community in this specific situation.

The ARG refinery in Bradford, Pennsylvania, currently uses a hydrotreating desulfurization process for producing its No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm that is shipped to New York. To produce No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content that is 15 ppm or less, the ARG refinery processes fuel oil with a sulfur content of 500 ppm through an additional hydrotreating step to go from 500 ppm to 15 ppm. This proposed rulemaking would likely cause the ARG

refinery hydrotreating desulfurization process to increase production, as No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum allowable sulfur content of 15 ppm for marketing in the Commonwealth would need to be processed through its hydrotreater. This would potentially create a need for additional maintenance of the hydrotreater and thereby increased maintenance costs for ARG. However, switching to a maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil Statewide would allow ARG to dedicate its fuel oil storage tanks to 15 ppm and lower sulfur content fuel oil, rather than dedicating separate tanks for differing sulfur content fuels, which could reduce ARG's storage and distribution costs.

The PES, United Refining, and Monroe refineries are currently producing No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less for marketing in the Commonwealth. The proposed rulemaking control measure would likely have no impact on these refineries.

Please also see the response to Question 16.

**(16) List the persons, groups or entities, including small businesses, which will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number that will be required to comply.**

*Refineries.* There are four refineries in the Commonwealth, owned by four different companies, namely PES, United Refining, ARG, and Monroe. Each refinery currently produces No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less. Owners and operators of refineries outside the Commonwealth would be indirectly affected if they supply distributors that sell No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth. However, maximum allowable sulfur content limits have been established in motor fuels for 30 years, so the industry has the technical capacity to implement the new requirements.

*Terminal owners, distributors and carriers, and retail outlet fuel storage facility owners and operators.* A total of 812 potentially affected entities were documented from a review of the Department's databases. There are 128 fuel oil terminal owners and operators and 684 distributors and carriers and retail outlet fuel storage facility owners and operators of petroleum products in this Commonwealth; not all of these entities handle No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. The terminal operators include those with familiar names from the petroleum industry, such as Sunoco and Gulf Oil. Several major distributors also operate terminals, including Buckeye Energy. While the size of distributor and carrier and retail outlet storage facility operations varies, members of the petroleum distribution industry, as a whole, have been regulated for many years. Existing systems to track the quantity and composition of fuel are longstanding for purposes of compliance with environmental and tax regulations.

As explained in the response to Question 15, 424 facility owners and operators of the potentially subject 511 entities identified by EMAP were identified as small businesses under the SBA Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Chapter 1, Part 121. Data was not available for 79 entities to determine whether they may be considered to be small businesses, and eight entities were not considered to be small businesses because the number of employees exceeded the size standard.

*End-users and consumers.* No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is generally sold for and used in residential and commercial oil heat burners and furnaces. The Department reviewed data maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) to determine how many households may be impacted by the proposed reduction in maximum allowable sulfur content limit from 500 ppm to 15 ppm for home heating oil. A review of U.S. Census Bureau 2016 data indicates that there are an estimated 4.96 million households in this Commonwealth. A review of the EIA State Energy Profile for the Commonwealth estimates that 18% of those homes use No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for space heat. Multiplying 4.96 million households times 18% of households indicates that there are

approximately 892,800 households that may use this fuel (4.96 million households x 18% of households). However, the burden of compliance with the proposed rulemaking would not be on households – it would be on those that offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade, or permit the use of commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth. These are the suppliers, distributors, and vendors selling to ultimate consumers. No recordkeeping or reporting would be required of ultimate consumers at private residences or apartment complexes and condominiums; all they need to do is buy and use compliant fuel.

(U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder Household and Families, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Estimated PA Total Households in 2016.

([https://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_16\\_5YR\\_S1101&prodType=table.](https://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_16_5YR_S1101&prodType=table.)) (EIA State Energy Profiles (<https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=PA>)).

Please also see the response to Question 15.

**(17) Identify the financial, economic and social impact of the regulation on individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities and other public and private organizations. Evaluate the benefits expected as a result of the regulation.**

The financial impact of this proposed rulemaking would be comparable for individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities, and other public and private organizations. Costs or savings are directly related to the volume of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm produced or consumed by each of these entities. This proposed rulemaking is unlikely to negatively impact employment because the current employees involved with the production and transfer of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would likely still be needed to work regardless of the sulfur content of the fuel oil; the volume of fuel oil demand would likely not change significantly, just the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for the fuel oil supplied.

Furnace and oil heat burner maintenance costs for consumers would likely be lower for those that do not already use No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less, due to less fouling of their heat exchangers. According to the 2008 National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) “Northeast Heating Oil Assessment” (2008 NORA Assessment), although compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil may cost the ultimate consumer a few cents per gallon more, savings on maintenance costs are orders of magnitude higher, depending on hourly rates for maintenance, and would help defray the impact of increased purchase costs. Decreased fouling improves the efficiency of the unit, which results in less fuel usage.<sup>5</sup> The 2005 NESCAUM Report noted a median annual savings of \$29.00 per household on furnace vacuuming by using 500 ppm sulfur content commercial fuel oil instead of 2500 ppm. However, beginning July 1, 2016, the Commonwealth began regulating No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to a sulfur content of no more than 500 ppm. Therefore, the savings noted in the 2005 NESCAUM Report would be realized beginning July 1, 2016. It is expected that, in limited circumstances of around 1%, where the reduction of the maximum allowable sulfur content from 500 ppm to 15 ppm has not yet occurred, this would allow the end-users of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to further extend their service intervals and have a net savings. As previously discussed, the PES, United Refining, ARG, and Monroe refineries already produce No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm and therefore, the financial impact on most consumers would likely be cost neutral.

From a social perspective, the Commonwealth is the only MANE-VU state that has not lowered their maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil from 500 ppm to 15 ppm. The Department’s research shows that the market can now provide an adequate supply of compliant fuel to the Commonwealth, as No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm is already widely produced and distributed in the MANE-VU region, which includes the Commonwealth.

Implementation of this proposed rulemaking would put the Commonwealth in the same position as all other MANE-VU States. Therefore, any retail cost variations would be due solely to local, regional, and National market forces, as well as State and local taxes and other applicable requirements. A cost analysis is provided in the response to Question 19.

Please also see the response to Question 18.

**(18) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.**

Lowering the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil from 500 ppm of sulfur to 15 ppm would benefit the approximately 12.8 million residents and the numerous animals, crops, vegetation, and natural areas of this Commonwealth, as well as the residents and environments of downwind states, through reduced levels of regional haze and reduced SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and ground-level ozone pollution.

Costs to the industry to comply with this proposed rulemaking would be outweighed by the public health and welfare benefits and economic benefits of this proposed rulemaking. Emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere and subsequent formation of regional haze, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and ground-level ozone would be reduced by using No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less. Implementation of the proposed maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is expected to realize an additional 4,000 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions, achieving the full 25,000 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions anticipated in the 2007 MANE-VU "Ask." These emission reductions would support the Commonwealth's efforts to reduce regional haze as well as to attain and maintain the health-based and welfare-based ambient air quality standards for SO<sub>2</sub>, ozone, and fine particulate matter. This proposed rulemaking, if published as a final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and approved by the EPA as a revision to the Commonwealth's SIP, would ensure that any SO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions that have not been previously attained would be realized, and the Commonwealth would be able to take credit for these additional reductions.

Another benefit would be that less commercial fuel oil would be burned because of the improved combustion efficiency of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less. This would result in less use of fossil fuel resources. This would also result in reduced costs both for end-users to maintain combustion equipment because there would be less fouling of heat exchangers and to heat homes and buildings. Improved combustion efficiency would also contribute to reduced emissions of NO<sub>x</sub>, which would reduce the formation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground-level ozone pollution.

At elevated levels, ground level ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> can adversely affect the environment and human health. Health effects include premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, aggravated asthma, and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing. According to the PA Department of Health *2015 Asthma Prevalence in Pennsylvania Fact Sheet*, 9.6 percent or 955,374 adults and 10.2 percent or 269,423 children currently suffer from asthma. This is significantly higher than the national average of 8.3 percent for both children and adults. All Commonwealth residents, particularly asthma sufferers, will therefore benefit from the indirect emission reductions resulting from this proposed rulemaking.

Statewide and regional consistency of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil sulfur content limits and consistency of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil sulfur content limits with transportation diesel sulfur limits would help refinery owners and operators and owners and operators of fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel terminals, distributors and carriers, and retail outlet fuel storage facility owners and operators by

easing tank storage constraints and recordkeeping requirements. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil could be combined with NRLM transportation diesel fuel in the same tanks and trucks. The only difference between the two fuels prior to sale to consumers is that the Internal Revenue Service requires heating oil and other distillate fuel oils that are not for highway use to be colored with a red dye. The red color identifies the fuel as exempt from the Federal, state, and local taxes applied to fuels sold for use on public roadways and as illegal for use in vehicles that normally operate on roadways.<sup>6</sup>

Regional implementation of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content limit of 15 ppm would help industry comply with the Commonwealth's regulations and other states' regulations by providing a broad Mid-Atlantic and Northeast market for low-sulfur content product. In addition, compliance and recordkeeping would be simplified for the petroleum refining and distribution companies in this Commonwealth because the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would be uniform across the state. Reducing costs to producers through regional consistency would likely reduce fuel costs to consumers in the Commonwealth.

**(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the regulated community associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.**

The 2008 NORA Assessment estimated that there would be a 6.3-to-6.8 cent-per-gallon (cpg) incremental production cost for refining 500 ppm versus 2500 ppm sulfur content home heating oil (No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil), including capital costs. Incremental production costs were estimated to be as much as 8.9 cpg for refining 15 ppm sulfur content versus 2500 ppm. Data showing the incremental production cost difference for refining 15 ppm versus 500 ppm sulfur content home heating oil was not found. However, by taking the difference between the incremental costs to produce 500 ppm and 15 ppm sulfur content home heating oil versus 2500 ppm sulfur content home heating oil, the incremental production cost to produce home heating oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less versus home heating oil with a sulfur content of 500 ppm or less would likely be no more than 2.6 cpg (8.9 cpg – 6.3 cpg = 2.6 cpg). These are estimated costs for refiners without desulfurization capabilities. For refiners that have desulfurization capabilities, the incremental cost of producing 15 ppm versus 2500 ppm sulfur content home heating oil was estimated to be 4.6 cpg. Note that these are costs to the producers; prices to the ultimate consumer would be influenced by factors additional to the cost of reducing the sulfur content in the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil.

The EIA data for Adjusted Sales of Distillate Fuel Oil by End Use indicates that residential customers in this Commonwealth purchased 411 million gallons of distillate fuel oil in 2015. As explained in the response to Question 16, the Department estimates that there may be as many as 892,800 households in this Commonwealth that use distillate fuel oil for home or space heating, water heating, or both. Therefore, on average, each household used 460 gallons of distillate fuel oil in 2015 (411,000,000 gallons/892,800 households in this Commonwealth). The average price of home heating oil in 2015 was \$2.60 per gallon (per gal) (excluding taxes), also according to the EIA. By multiplying the average price per gallon by the average number of gallons used, it is estimated that each household spent \$1,196 on distillate fuel oil in 2015, excluding taxes ( $\$2.60 \times 460 \text{ gal} = \$1,196$ ). If the additional cost of producing 15 ppm sulfur content home heating oil versus 500 ppm is 2.6 cpg (\$0.026 per gallon), as explained above, the estimated annual increased cost to the residential customer would be no more than \$12.00 ( $\$2.60 \text{ per gal cost} + \$0.026 \text{ per gal increase} = \$2.626 \text{ per gal}$ ;  $\$2.626 \text{ per gal} \times 460 \text{ gal} = \$1,208$ ;  $\$1,208 - \$1,196 = \$12.00 \text{ additional cost}$ ).

Refinery owners and operators would no longer need to dedicate capacity to manufacturing and distributing several different products because the proposed No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm is consistent with the maximum allowable sulfur content limit already imposed Nationwide for most transportation diesel fuels. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is similar to

nonroad transportation diesel fuel. By 2014, most transportation diesel fuel was limited to a maximum allowable sulfur content of 15 ppm. Harmonizing the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil and nonroad transportation diesel fuels in the MANE-VU region avoids the need for supplying another fuel product, with separate tanks and administrative costs.

In addition, this proposed rulemaking would eliminate regional differences in maximum allowable sulfur content limits for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth, simplifying compliance for and by the regulated industry. A compliance date of 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final-form is proposed in response to comments made at previous MANE-VU stakeholders' meetings in December 2008 (distributors) and February 2009 (refiners), as well as more recent meetings and discussions in 2017 and 2018. The stakeholders commented that, while new limits should not take effect during the heating season, which is the winter months, the new limits should be implemented as soon as possible.

New legal, accounting or consulting procedures would not be required.

**(20) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to local governments associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.**

Local governments would be affected by this regulation primarily in their purchase of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for space heating, water heating, or both. It could be assumed that local government use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for these purposes is proportionate to the general population's use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. About 18% of households in this Commonwealth rely on No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for home or space heating, water heating, or both. This usage is concentrated more in the eastern part of the Commonwealth than in other parts. (EIA State Energy Profiles ([http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state\\_energy\\_profiles.cfm?sid=PA](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=PA)))

Costs for the production of compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil by refineries are discussed in the response to Question 19. The wholesale and retail price differential for compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil that affects local governments would be influenced by many factors additional to the cost of reducing the sulfur content of the fuel oil, including the demand and supply in the international markets for petroleum, diesel fuel, and fuel oil. Therefore, costs, savings, or both, to local governments cannot be precisely projected. In recent years, the annual average spot market price (wholesale price at the New York Harbor) differential between No. 2 diesel fuel with 15 ppm or lower sulfur content and No. 2 home heating oil (No. 2 commercial fuel oil) with 15 ppm or lower sulfur content has been between 7-11 cpg.<sup>7</sup>

Local governments would also likely realize savings due to lower furnace and oil heat burner maintenance costs due to less fouling of their heat exchangers. Although compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil may cost a few cents per gallon more, savings on maintenance costs would help to defray that impact. Decreased fouling typically improves efficiency of the combustion unit, which means less fuel usage and thereby reduced purchase costs. As explained in the response to Question 10, most of these cost savings have likely already been realized as the majority of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil produced and distributed in this Commonwealth has a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less.

**(21) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to state government associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.**

State government would be affected by this regulation primarily in its purchase of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for space heating, water heating, or both, at Commonwealth facilities. The Pennsylvania Department of General Services (DGS) purchased at least 2,091,720 gallons of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil between July 2016 and June 2017.<sup>8</sup>

Costs to produce compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil by the owners and operators of refineries are discussed in the response to Question 19. The wholesale and retail price differential for compliant fuel that affects State government would be influenced by factors in addition to the cost of improving the sulfur content of the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, including demand and supply in the international markets for petroleum, diesel fuel, and fuel oil. Therefore, costs, savings, or both, to State government cannot be precisely projected. In recent years, the annual average spot market price (wholesale price at the New York Harbor) differential between No. 2 diesel fuel with 15 ppm or lower sulfur content and No. 2 home heating oil (No. 2 commercial fuel oil) with 15 ppm or lower sulfur content has been between 7-11 cpg.<sup>9</sup>

State government would also likely realize savings due to lower furnace and oil heat burner maintenance costs due to less fouling of heat exchangers. Although compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil may cost a few cents per gallon more, savings on maintenance costs would help to defray that impact. Decreased fouling typically improves efficiency of the combustion unit, which means less fuel oil usage and thereby lower purchase costs. As explained in the response to Question 10, most of these cost savings have likely already been realized as the majority of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil produced and distributed in this Commonwealth has a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less.

**(22) For each of the groups and entities identified in items (19)-(21) above, submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.**

No additional legal, accounting, or consulting procedures are expected for the groups identified in items (19)-(21) above. No additional reporting, recordkeeping, or other paperwork would be required.

**(22a) Are forms required for implementation of the regulation?**

There are no forms required for the implementation of this regulation.

**(22b) If forms are required for implementation of the regulation, attach copies of the forms here. If your agency uses electronic forms, provide links to each form or a detailed description of the information required to be reported. Failure to attach forms, provide links, or provide a detailed description of the information to be reported will constitute a faulty delivery of the regulation.**

Not applicable.

(23) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

This table represents the Department's best estimates of fiscal savings and costs, given the huge number of uncertainties involved, primarily in predicting the price of the affected fuel, but also in the investments that may be needed by refineries to supply end-users with compliant No.2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. The cost of those investments has not been included in the total costs below because fuel supplies could come from other suppliers, and because noncompliant fuel could be exported and sold by the refiners to other markets.

Only the rows for the regulated community are completed because the best data available to the Department, namely, the Pennsylvania sales data from the EIA, does not break out local and State government costs or savings. The values in the table were derived using the following assumptions:

Total costs:

1. The production cost increase would be \$0.026 per gallon to reduce sulfur content from 500 ppm to 15 ppm No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. Please see the response to Question 19.
2. 1,081,489,000 gallons of distillate fuel oil were purchased in the Commonwealth in 2015. (EIA data: Adjusted Sales of Distillate Fuel Oil by End User information totaling the Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Oil Company, Farm and Electric Power sectors.)
3. The increase in price would be similar to the increase in cost to manufacture compliant fuel oil.
4. Little change in demand or other variables would affect the actual price of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil.
5. 1,081,489,000 gallons x \$0.026 per gallon equals \$28,118,714.

Cost increase for residential sector:

1. The production cost increase would be \$0.026 per gallon to reduce the sulfur content from 500 ppm to 15 ppm No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. Please see the response to Question 19.
2. 411,000,000 gallons of distillate fuel oil purchased by residential customers in the Commonwealth in 2015. (EIA data: Adjusted Sales of Distillate Fuel Oil by End Use.)
3. The increase in price would be similar to the increase in cost to manufacture compliant fuel oil.
4. Little change in demand or other variables would affect the actual price of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil.
5. 411,000,000 gallons x \$0.026 per gallon equals \$10,686,000. This would be an approximate annual increase of \$12 per household using No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, which is assumed to be already realized. The offset from furnace and oil heat burner efficiencies is not factored in. Please also see the response to Question 19 and the "Total savings, residential sector only," in this response to Question 23.

Cost increase for nonresidential sector (this includes State and local governments, commercial entities, industrial entities, oil companies, farms and electric power producers):

1. Total costs – residential costs = nonresidential costs: \$28,118,714 - \$10,686,000 = \$17,432,714.

Total savings, residential sector only:

1. The 2005 NESCAUM Report estimates a median annual savings of \$29.00 per household on furnace vacuuming by using 500 ppm sulfur content commercial fuel oil instead of 2500 ppm sulfur content commercial fuel oil. This savings would be realized beginning July 1, 2016. While the intervals between furnace vacuuming may be longer for furnaces burning 15 ppm sulfur content fuel oil versus furnaces burning 500 ppm sulfur content fuel oil, no documentation could be found. Therefore, any further savings are assumed to be realized beginning July 1, 2016. Residential savings would be \$29.00 per year for furnace vacuum-cleaning (response to Question 10) x 892,800 households in this Commonwealth that use No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil (response to Question 16) = \$25,891,200 per year.

	<b>Current FY Year 18/19</b>	<b>FY+1 Year 19/20</b>	<b>FY+2 Year 20/21</b>	<b>FY+3 Year 21/22</b>	<b>FY+4 Year 22/23</b>	<b>FY+5 Year 23/24</b>
<b>SAVINGS:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Regulated Community (residential)</b>	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)	\$25,891,200	\$25,891,200	\$25,891,200	\$25,891,200
<b>Local Government</b>	"	"	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)			
<b>State Government</b>	"	"	"	"	"	"
<b>Total Savings</b>	"	"	\$25,891,200	\$25,891,200	\$25,891,200	\$25,891,200

<b>COSTS:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Regulated Community (residential)</b>	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)	\$10,686,000	\$10,686,000	\$10,686,000	\$10,686,000
<b>Regulated Community (nonresidential including local/State government)</b>	"	"	\$17,432,714	\$17,432,714	\$17,432,714	\$17,432,714
<b>Total Costs</b>	"	"	\$28,118,714	\$28,118,714	\$28,118,714	\$28,118,714

REVENUE LOSSES:		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Regulated Community (refineries)	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Government	"	"	Not quantifiable (see note in the explanation above)				
State Government	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Total Revenue Losses	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

**(23a) Provide the past three year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.**

Program	FY-3 (15/16)	FY-2 (16/17)	FY-1 (17/18)	Current FY (18/19)
Environmental Program Management (161-10382)	\$28,277,000	\$26,885,000	\$29,413,000	\$30,932,000
Clean Air Fund Major Emission Facilities (215-20077)	\$17,373,000	\$16,931,000	\$17,480,000	\$17,878,000
Clean Air Fund Mobile and Area Facilities (233-20084)	\$10,142,000	\$8,228,000	\$8,727,000	\$9,369,000

**(24) For any regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), provide an economic impact statement that includes the following:**

**(a) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation.**

The Department estimates that as many as 424 small businesses would potentially be subject to this proposed rulemaking.

This proposed rulemaking would apply to anyone, including a small business, who offers for sale, delivers for use, exchanges in trade, or permits the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth. The owner and operator of a refinery, pipeline, terminal, distributor, carrier, or retail outlet fuel storage facility that produces, conveys, stores, or sells No.2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, as well as the ultimate consumer that uses No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth, would likely be affected.

As described in the response to Question 15, EMAP provided the Department with a list of entities in this Commonwealth identified as Petroleum Bulk Stations and Terminals (NAICS code 424710) and Petroleum and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers (except Bulk Stations and Terminals) (NAICS code 424720); the list identified 70 and 441 entities, respectively, for a total of 511 entities. Under the SBA Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Chapter 1, Part 121, the size standard in number of employees for these two NAICS codes is 200 employees. The Department determined that of these 511 entities, 424 are small businesses that would potentially be subject to this proposed rulemaking, eight were not small businesses, and the small business status of 79 of them was not able to be determined. These

entities include the owners and operators of terminals, distributorships, carriers, and retail outlet fuel storage facilities. It should be noted that the owners and operators of many of these small business-sized facilities assumed to be subject to this proposed rulemaking may in fact not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade, or permit the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil and, therefore, would not be subject to this proposed rulemaking. Consequently, the projected number of 424 potentially subject small business-sized facilities is likely higher than the actual number of small business-sized facilities that would be subject to this proposed rulemaking.

This proposed rulemaking may also apply to owners and operators of other facilities that have not yet been identified. If this proposed rulemaking would apply to other facility owners and operators, they would likely also be small businesses.

**(b) The projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.**

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements for owners and operators of affected small businesses would not change from what is already required other than the identification of the sulfur content of the shipment being at or below 15 ppm, whereas previously it was at or below 500 ppm. There are no further legal, accounting or consulting procedures established in this proposed rulemaking.

**(c) A statement of probable effect on impacted small businesses.**

Minimal adverse impact is expected for the owners and operators of small business-sized facilities because compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less is readily available. These entities include the owners and operators of terminals, distributorships, carriers, and retail outlet fuel storage facilities. For a more detailed explanation, please see the response to Question 15.

**(d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the proposed regulation.**

There are no less intrusive or less costly alternative regulatory provisions available. The proposed control measure is a regional initiative for the MANE-VU states to assist in reducing regional haze in Federal Class I areas, as well as to assist in reducing the formation of ground-level ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursors throughout the region.

**(25) List any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, the elderly, small businesses, and farmers.**

No special provisions were developed or needed.

**(26) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.**

One alternative considered and rejected was to use a later compliance date. This proposed rulemaking has a compliance date of 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final-form, for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to meet the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm, because in addition to the Pennsylvania Petroleum Association requesting this limit to be implemented as soon as possible, the Department believes the environmental and economic advantages are great and the likelihood of supply problems is small.

In addition, a request to require the use of a certain percentage of biodiesel as a component of the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil was considered and rejected. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil may already contain biodiesel and the request to require a certain percentage is outside the scope of this proposed rulemaking.

**(27) In conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis, explain whether regulatory methods were considered that will minimize any adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), including:**

**(a) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses.**

Less stringent compliance and reporting requirements are not appropriate or necessary for small businesses under this proposed rulemaking. This proposed rulemaking would not amend the current regulatory reporting requirements. Recordkeeping is minimal and reporting is only necessary upon Department request. Further, since the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would be implemented Statewide and would be consistent with the maximum allowable sulfur content limits for highway diesel fuel and NRLM transportation diesel fuel, compliance and recordkeeping should be simplified for the petroleum refining and distribution companies. This consistency would help refinery owners and operators, owners and operators of commercial fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel terminals, and distributors and carriers of commercial fuel oil to minimize the number of storage tanks and trucks needed for segregating different sulfur-content fuel and heating oils. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil could be combined with highway diesel fuel and NRLM transportation diesel fuel in the same tanks and trucks.

**(b) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses.**

Establishment of a less stringent compliance schedule or deadline for small businesses is not appropriate or necessary because recordkeeping is minimal and reporting is only necessary upon Department request. This proposed rulemaking does not amend the current regulatory recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

**(c) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses.**

Consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses is not appropriate or necessary because recordkeeping is minimal and reporting is only necessary upon Department request. This proposed rulemaking does not amend the existing reporting requirements. As discussed in the response to Question 27(a), this proposed rulemaking consolidates and simplifies the compliance requirements by establishing one Statewide sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, which benefits the owners and operators of all subject facilities, including small business-sized facilities.

**(d) The establishment of performing standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the regulation.**

This proposed rulemaking does not include performance standards for anyone because the rulemaking does not include design or operational standards that could be replaced by a performance standard.

**(e) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulation.**

This proposed rulemaking does not exempt owners and operators of small businesses from the proposed requirements because this is a MANE-VU initiative which should apply to all subject entities. In addition, it is not necessary to exempt the owners and operators of small businesses from this proposed rulemaking given that No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil is readily available within the MANE-VU region, which includes this Commonwealth.

**(28) If data is the basis for this regulation, please provide a description of the data, explain in detail how the data was obtained, and how it meets the acceptability standard for empirical, replicable and testable data that is supported by documentation, statistics, reports, studies or research. Please submit data or supporting materials with the regulatory package. If the material exceeds 50 pages, please provide it in a searchable electronic format or provide a list of citations and internet links that, where possible, can be accessed in a searchable format in lieu of the actual material. If other data was considered but not used, please explain why that data was determined not to be acceptable.**

*Assessment of Reasonable Progress for Regional Haze In MANE-VU Class I Areas*, July 9, 2007, located at: [http://www.marama.org/visibility/RPG/FinalReport/RPGFinalReport\\_070907.pdf](http://www.marama.org/visibility/RPG/FinalReport/RPGFinalReport_070907.pdf)

Contribution of Home Heating Oil to SO<sub>2</sub> Emission Inventory by State, PowerPoint Slide, Arthur Marin, NESCAUM, 2005. Copy attached.

Low Sulfur Heating Oil in the Northeast States: An Overview of Benefits, Costs and Implementation Issues, NESCAUM, December 2005, located at: <https://www.nescaum.org/activities/major-reports>.

MARAMA Workshop on Energy and Air Quality Issues, PowerPoint Presentation, September 23, 2008, Arthur Marin, NESCAUM. Copy attached.

NESCAUM Evaluation for MANE-VU (2005 NESCAUM evaluation), copy attached.

2008 Northeast Heating Oil Assessment, National Oilheat Research Alliance (NORA) (2008 NORA Assessment), Hart Energy Consulting, copy attached.

Pennsylvania Department of General Services fuel report by email November 21, 2017. Copy attached.

Statement of the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) Concerning a Course of Action within MANE-VU Toward Assuring Reasonable Progress, June 20, 2007, David Littell, Chair, MANE-VU, and Commissioner, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, located at:  
[https://otcair.org/MANEVU/Upload/Publication/Formal%20Actions/Statement%20on%20Controls%20in%20MV\\_072007.pdf](https://otcair.org/MANEVU/Upload/Publication/Formal%20Actions/Statement%20on%20Controls%20in%20MV_072007.pdf)

Statement of the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) States Concerning a Course of Action within MANE-VU Toward Assuring Reasonable Progress for the Second Regional Haze Implementation Period (2018-2028), August 25, 2017, David Foerster, Executive Director, MANE-VU/OTC, located at: <https://otcair.org/MANEVU/Upload/Publication/Formal%20Actions/MANE-VU%20Intra-Regional%20Ask%20Final%208-25-2017.pdf>

U.S. Energy Information Administration State Energy Profiles (<https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=PA>)

**(29) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| A. The length of the public comment period:  | <u>60+ days</u>                     |
| B. The date or dates on which any public meetings or hearings will be held:  | <u>Quarter 3, 2019</u>              |
| C. The expected date of delivery of the final-form regulation:   | <u>Quarter 4, 2019</u>              |
| D. The expected effective date of the final-form regulation:   | <u>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020</u>  |
| E. The expected date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required:<br><u>this rulemaking in its final-form.</u> | <u>60 days after publication of</u> |
| F. The expected date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained:  | <u>N/A</u>                          |

**(30) Describe the plan developed for evaluating the continuing effectiveness of the regulations after its implementation.**

The Department will closely monitor this proposed regulation after publication as a final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for its effectiveness and recommend updates to the Board as necessary.

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Profiles

<sup>2</sup>NESCAUM report: “Low Sulfur Heating Oil in the Northeast States: An Overview of Benefits, Costs and Implementation Issues,” December 2005, page 3-1.

<sup>3</sup>NESCAUM report: “Low Sulfur Heating Oil in the Northeast States: An Overview of Benefits, Costs and Implementation Issues,” December 2005, pages 3-2 and 3-3.

<sup>4</sup>NESCAUM report: “Low Sulfur Heating Oil in the Northeast States: An Overview of Benefits, Costs and Implementation Issues,” December 2005, page 3-1.

<sup>5</sup>“Northeast Heating Oil Assessment” by Hart Energy Consulting for National Oilheat Research Alliance, March 2008, page 36.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, “Heating Oil Explained,”  
[https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=heating\\_oil\\_home](https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=heating_oil_home).

<sup>7</sup>U.S. Energy Information Administration, New York Harbor Low Sulfur No. 2 Diesel Spot Price and No. 2 Heating Oil Spot Price, (annual), obtainable from EIA Petroleum Navigator at  
<https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/data.php#prices>.

<sup>8</sup>Pennsylvania Department of General Services fuel report by email, November 21, 2017.

<sup>9</sup>U.S. Energy Information Administration, New York Harbor Low Sulfur No. 2 Diesel Spot Price and No. 2 Heating Oil Spot Price, (annual), obtainable from EIA Petroleum Navigator at  
<https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/data.php#prices>.

# Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee

to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection  
PO Box 8468  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468

January 24, 2018

Honorable Patrick McDonnell  
Secretary  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

**Re: Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Sulfur Limits in No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil  
(25 Pa. Code Chapter 123)**

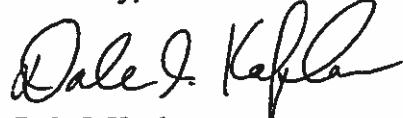
Dear Secretary McDonnell:

On January 24, 2018, the Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee (Committee) discussed the proposed rulemaking draft Annex A to amend 25 Pa. Code, § 123.22 (relating to combustion units) to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content in number 2 (No. 2) and lighter commercial fuel oil, sold for and used in combustion units, from the current limit of 500 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur to 15 ppm. The proposed compliance date is July 1, 2019. The rulemaking would require No. 2 fuel oil offered for sale, delivered for use, exchanged in trade or used in this Commonwealth to meet the new sulfur limit on and after July 1, 2019. The proposed amendments would achieve additional sulfur dioxide emission reductions, which would assist in reducing regional haze and assure the protection of public health and welfare and the environment.

The Committee requests that the Department, as it develops this rulemaking, research the impact on the regulated community related to the capacity and supply of commercial fuel oil with a sulfur limit of 15 ppm and incorporate this information into the proposed rulemaking supporting documents. Further, the Committee requests consideration of an implementation date that allows sufficient time for compliance.

The Committee voted 6-0-0 to concur with the Department's recommendation to present the proposed rulemaking amendments to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration for adoption and publication for public comment as proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,



Dale I. Kaplan  
Chair

cc: Krishnan Ramamurthy, Director, PA DEP BAQ  
Susan Hoyle, PA DEP BAQ  
Susan Foster, PA DEP BAQ  
Nancy Herb, PA DEP BAQ  
Bryan Oshinski, PA DEP BAQ  
Jesse Walker, PA DEP BRC

# Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee

to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PO Box 8468

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468

February 8, 2018

Honorable Patrick McDonnell  
Secretary  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Sulfur Limits in No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil  
(25 Pa. Code Chapter 123)

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

On February 8, 2018, the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) discussed the proposed rulemaking draft Annex A to amend 25 Pa. Code, § 123.22 (relating to combustion units) to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content in number 2 (No. 2) and lighter commercial fuel oil, sold for and used in combustion units, from the current limit of 500 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur to 15 ppm. The proposed compliance date is July 1, 2019. The rulemaking would require No. 2 fuel oil offered for sale, delivered for use, exchanged in trade or used in this Commonwealth to meet the new sulfur limit on and after July 1, 2019. The proposed amendments would achieve additional sulfur dioxide emission reductions, which would assist in reducing regional haze and assuring the protection of public health and welfare and the environment.

The Committee voted 14-0-0 to concur with the Department's recommendation to present the proposed rulemaking amendments to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration for adoption and publication for public comment as proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,



Patrick K. O'Neill Esq.  
Chair

February 8, 2018

cc: Krishnan Ramamurthy, Director, PA DEP BAQ  
Randy Bordner, PA DEP BAQ  
Kirit Dalal, PA DEP BAQ  
Susan Hoyle, PA DEP BAQ  
Jesse Walker, PA DEP BRC



February 20, 2018

*Allegheny County*

Cynthia Carrow  
John J. Walliser, Esq.

*Bedford County*

William Fink

*Chester County*

Donald S. Welsh

*Cumberland County*

Duane E. Mowery  
James Welty

R. Timothy Weston, Esq.

*Delaware County*

James A. Schmid

*Fayette County*

John R. Over, Jr.

*Greene County*

Terry L. Dayton

*Indiana County*

John St. Clair

*Lancaster County*

James Sandoe

*Philadelphia County*

David Dunphy  
Jerome Shabazz

*Tioga County*

Thaddeus K. Stevens

*Washington County*

Mark Caskey

Secretary Patrick  
McDonnell, Ex-officio

Honorable Patrick McDonnell

Secretary

Department of Environmental Protection

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 2063

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

Re: Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Sulfur Limits in No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil (25 Pa. Code Chapter 123)

Dear Secretary McDonnell:

On February 20, 2018, the Citizens Advisory Council discussed the proposed rulemaking draft Annex A to amend 25 Pa. Code, § 123.22 (relating to combustion units) to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content in Number 2 (No. 2) and lighter commercial fuel oil, sold for and used in combustion units, from the current limit of 500 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur to 15 ppm. The proposed compliance date is July 1, 2019. The rulemaking would require No. 2 fuel oil offered for sale, delivered for use, exchanged in trade, or used in this Commonwealth to meet the new sulfur limit on and after July 1, 2019. The proposed amendments would achieve additional sulfur dioxide emission reductions, which would assist in reducing regional haze and assuring the protection of public health and welfare and the environment.

The CAC voted to concur with the Department's recommendation to present the proposed rulemaking amendments to the Environmental Quality Board for consideration for adoption and publication for public comment as proposed rulemaking.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Welsh, Chair  
Citizens Advisory Council

cc: Krishnan Ramamurthy, Director, PA DEP BAQ  
Randy Bordner, PA DEP BAQ  
Kirit Dalal, PA DEP BAQ  
Susan Hoyle, PA DEP BAQ  
Jesse Walker, PA DEP BRC  
Lee Ann H. Murray, Esq., CAC



**FACE SHEET  
FOR FILING DOCUMENTS  
WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE  
BUREAU**

**(Pursuant to Commonwealth Documents Law)**

**RECEIVED  
IRRC**

**2019 JUN 19 P 2:3b**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality.  
Attorney General

By:

(Deputy Attorney General)

DATE OF APPROVAL

**MAY 28 2019**

Check if applicable

Copy not approved. Objections attached.

Copy below is hereby certified to be true and correct copy of a document issued, prescribed or promulgated by:

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

(AGENCY)

DOCUMENT/FISCAL NOTE NO. 7-546

DATE OF ADOPTION APRIL 16, 2019

BY   
**PATRICK M. McDONNELL**

CHAIRPERSON

EXECUTIVE OFFICER CHAIRPERSON OR SECRETARY

Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality  
Executive or Independent Agencies

BY   
**MARISA H. Z. LEHR**

**MAY 02 2019**

DATE OF APPROVAL

(Deputy General Counsel)  
(Chief Counsel—Independent Agency)  
(Strike inapplicable title)

Check if applicable. No Attorney General Approval or objection within 30 days after submission.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for No. 2  
and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil

25 Pa. Code § 123.22



**PROPOSED RULEMAKING**  
**TITLE 25. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**  
**[25 PA. CODE CH. 123]**

**Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for  
No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil**

The Environmental Quality Board (Board) proposes to amend Chapter 123 (relating to standards for contaminants) to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil, generally sold for and used in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners for home or space heating, water heating, or both, from the current limit of 500 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur to 15 ppm. This reduction will address regional haze and visibility impairment impacting Federal Class I areas and will also improve visibility impairment in urban and rural areas of the Commonwealth. The proposed compliance date of this rulemaking is 60 days after publication of the rulemaking in its final form.

This proposed rulemaking will be submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval as a revision to the Commonwealth's State Implementation Plan (SIP) following publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

This proposed rulemaking is given under Board order at its meeting of April 16, 2019.

**A. Effective Date**

This proposed rulemaking will be effective upon publication as a final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

**B. Contact Persons**

For further information, contact Kirit Dalal, Chief, Division of Air Resource Management, Bureau of Air Quality, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468, (717) 772-3436; or Jesse C. Walker, Assistant Counsel, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel, Rachel Carson State Office Building, P.O. Box 8464, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8464, (717) 787-7060. Information regarding submitting comments on this proposed rulemaking appears in Section J of this preamble. Persons with a disability may use the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service, (800) 654-5984 (TDD users) or (800) 654-5988 (voice users). This proposed rulemaking is available on the Department of Environmental Protection's (Department) website at [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov) (select "Public Participation," then "Environmental Quality Board (EQB)").

**C. Statutory Authority**

This proposed rulemaking is authorized under section 5(a)(1) of the Air Pollution Control Act (APCA) (35 P.S. § 4005(a)(1)), which grants the Board the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the prevention, control, reduction and abatement of air pollution in this Commonwealth. This proposed rulemaking is also authorized under section 5(a)(8) of the APCA (35 P.S. § 4005(a)(8)), which grants the Board the authority to adopt rules and regulations

designed to implement the provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C.A. §§ 7401—7671q).

#### D. *Background and Purpose*

Among other things, this proposed rulemaking would allow the Department to address regional haze and visibility impairment. Haze is one of the most basic forms of air pollution. It degrades visibility in many American cities and scenic areas. Haze is caused when sunlight encounters tiny pollution particles in the air, which reduce the clarity and color of what we see, especially during humid conditions. Most haze is not natural. It is air pollution carried by the wind often many hundreds of miles from where it originated. Regional haze is visibility impairment produced by a multitude of combustion sources and activities emitting sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ), fine particulate matter or particle matter 2.5 micrometers or less ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ), and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  precursors. The combustion sources and activities are located across a broad geographic area. Visibility impairment is humanly perceptible change in visibility (such as light extinction, visual range, contrast, and coloration) from the visibility that would have existed under natural conditions.

The  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions released by combustion of sulfur-containing No. 2 or lighter commercial fuel oil contribute to the formation of regional haze and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , both of which are serious public health and welfare threats and affect visibility. Numerous scientific studies have linked  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including: premature death in people with heart or lung disease; nonfatal heart attacks; irregular heartbeat; aggravated asthma; decreased lung function; and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing. People with heart or lung disease, children, and older adults are the most likely to be affected by fine particle pollution exposure.

Fine particles are similar in size to the wavelength of light, and are most efficient, per unit of mass, at reducing visibility. Particles affect visibility through the scattering and absorption of light.  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions oxidize in the atmosphere to form sulfate particles. Visibility impairment, including regional haze, in rural areas of eastern North America is primarily due to sulfate particles. The CAA and its implementing regulations codified in 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart P (relating to protection of visibility) mandate actions to protect visibility, especially in Federal Class I areas, which include National parks, forests and wilderness areas.

In 1977, Congress added section 169A of the CAA (42 U.S.C.A. § 7491), regarding visibility protection for Federal Class I areas. Section 169A(a)(1) of the CAA (42 U.S.C.A. § 7491(a)(1)), sets a National goal for the “prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution.” The Federal visibility regulations require restoration of natural levels of visibility in the mandatory Federal Class I areas by 2064. See 40 CFR 51.308(d)(1). The Federal regulations further require that states consider the implementation, in their regional haze SIPs, of the emission reduction measures identified by Class I states as being necessary to make reasonable progress in any Class I area. See 40 CFR 51.308(d)(3). In 1990, Congress added section 169B of the CAA (42 U.S.C.A. § 7492), regarding visibility, to authorize further research and regular assessments of the progress made so far toward the National visibility goals. Section

169B(c)(1) of the CAA (42 U.S.C.A. § 7492(c)(1)), authorizes the EPA Administrator to establish a transport region for visibility impairment when there is reason to believe that pollutants from one or more states contribute to visibility impairment in Federal Class I areas.

In 1999, the EPA and the affected states and tribes agreed to create five Regional Planning Organizations (RPO) to facilitate interstate coordination with regional haze SIPs. The Commonwealth is a member of the Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU) RPO, established in 2001, to assist the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states in planning and developing their regional haze SIP revisions. The other MANE-VU states are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. The District of Columbia, Native American tribes in the region, the EPA, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Forest Service are also members of MANE-VU. There are 156 mandatory Federal Class I areas established under the CAA, including seven in the MANE-VU states. Although this Commonwealth does not have a mandatory Federal Class I area in it, emissions from this Commonwealth are considered to impact several Federal Class I areas in MANE-VU states, as well as the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area in West Virginia and Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. This proposed rulemaking would address, in part, those impacts.

MANE-VU evaluated the residential and commercial furnace and oil heat burner categories for their contribution to the MANE-VU SO<sub>2</sub> emission inventory from the burning of sulfur-containing distillate oil (a general classification for one of the petroleum fractions produced in conventional distillation operations). The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) performed this evaluation for MANE-VU in 2005 using 2002 data, which was the most current information available at the time of the study (2005 NESCAUM evaluation). The 2005 NESCAUM evaluation found that the combined SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from all MANE-VU regional residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners contributed about 7% to the MANE-VU total SO<sub>2</sub> emission inventory. In the Commonwealth, commercial fuel oil combustion in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners contributed between 2% and 3% of the SO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the MANE-VU region, depending on the season.

To address the impact of regional haze on mandatory Federal Class I areas within the MANE-VU region, the members adopted a course of action on June 20, 2007, in the *Statement of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU)* (2007 MANE-VU “Ask”). The 2007 MANE-VU “Ask” established that the member states would pursue a coordinated course of action, including pursuing the adoption and implementation of the following strategy to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content of distillate oil in the “inner zone” MANE-VU states (New Jersey, New York, Delaware and this Commonwealth, or portions thereof), as follows—to 500 ppm (0.05% sulfur by weight) by 2012 and to 15 ppm (0.0015% by weight) by 2016. The 2005 NESCAUM evaluation indicated that the anticipated annual SO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction benefits in this Commonwealth would be approximately 25,000 tons per year (tpy) when the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil was fully implemented.

The Department reviewed the 2005 NESCAUM evaluation and the 2007 MANE-VU “Ask” recommendations and determined that the recommended lower maximum allowable sulfur

content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil was an appropriate measure to be pursued as part of the regional strategy to improve visibility. Lowering the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil sold for and used in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners in this Commonwealth would contribute to the MANE-VU goals of improving visibility in the region's mandatory Federal Class I areas. Actions taken by the Department to reduce haze on a regional level would also improve visibility in this Commonwealth's recreational and urban areas.

On February 9, 2013, the Board amended its regulations at 25 Pa. Code § 123.22 to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from home heating and commercial fuel oils beginning July 1, 2016. See 43 Pa.B. 806 (February 9, 2013). The Board reduced the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil beginning July 1, 2016, to 500 ppm, rather than to 15 ppm, due to concerns at the time regarding the available supply of low sulfur content distillate oil in various regions of the Commonwealth. The EPA approved a SIP revision incorporating the amended maximum allowable sulfur content limits for No. 2 and lighter, as well as heavier commercial fuel oil provisions into the Commonwealth's SIP at 79 FR 39330 (July 10, 2014).

The City of Philadelphia, Department of Public Health, Philadelphia Air Management Services (AMS) adopted a low-sulfur content commercial fuel oil requirement, enacted into law by the City of Philadelphia on July 15, 2014, as an amendment to Philadelphia Code, Title 3- Air Management Code, Chapter 3-200, § 3-207 (relating to sale of fuel oil) and to Philadelphia Air Management Regulation III (relating to the control of emissions of oxides and sulfur compounds), Section I. Since there was not a low-sulfur fuel supply concern within the Philadelphia region, the amendments reduced the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 15 ppm in the City of Philadelphia, effective July 1, 2015. The Department, on behalf of AMS, submitted these amendments to the EPA as a revision to the Commonwealth's SIP on June 27, 2018.

On August 25, 2017, MANE-VU issued the *Statement of the MANE-VU States Concerning a Course of Action Within MANE-VU Toward Assuring Reasonable Progress For the Second Regional Haze Implementation Period (2018-2028)* (2017 MANE-VU "Ask"). The 2017 MANE-VU "Ask" specified that member states are to expeditiously pursue adoption of the low-sulfur content maximum allowable limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil if they have not done so already. The Department has determined that the availability of distillate oil within various regions of the Commonwealth and Nationwide, with a maximum allowable limit of 15 ppm of sulfur or less, is no longer of concern. The supply of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm has increased over the last several years, and fuel with a sulfur content between 15 ppm and 500 ppm has decreased to less than 1% of the overall supply of distillate oil distributed on the east coast. This proposed rulemaking is designed to implement the 2017 MANE-VU "Ask" course of action to pursue adoption of a maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil Statewide for purposes of reducing regional haze and visibility impairment in the Commonwealth and affected Federal Class I areas.

The EPA's regional haze regulations require all states, even those that do not contain a Federal Class I area, to submit a SIP revision containing emission reduction strategies to improve

visibility in Class I areas affected by emissions from within the state. See 40 CFR 51.308(d)(3). States are required to evaluate advancement toward reasonable progress goals every 5 years to assure that emission controls are on track with emission reduction forecasts in the SIP. The first progress report is due 5 years from the submittal of the initial regional haze implementation plan. See 40 CFR 51.308(g). If emission controls are not on track to meet SIP forecasts, then a state would need to take action to assure that emission controls by 2018 would be consistent with the SIP or to revise the SIP to be consistent with the revised emission forecast. The Commonwealth submitted its first regional haze SIP revision to the EPA in December 2010. To track visibility improvement, the Commonwealth must submit its second regional haze SIP revision to the EPA by July 31, 2021. The third regional haze SIP revision is due July 31, 2028, and then additional SIP revisions every 10 years thereafter.

In addition to improving public health and the environment, decreased emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> will also contribute to the attainment or maintenance, or both, of the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS within this Commonwealth. On April 7, 2015, the EPA designated the Allegheny, Delaware, and Lebanon County areas as nonattainment with the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS. See 80 FR 18535, 18549 (April 7, 2015). The EPA subsequently determined that the Delaware and Lebanon County areas attained that NAAQS. See 81 FR 89868 (December 13, 2016) and 83 FR 9435 (March 6, 2018) respectively. The proposed maintenance plans for these areas has identified lowering the fuel oil standard to 15 ppm as a contingency measure to ensure that these areas will continue to be classified as attainment for the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS.

The Department presented the draft proposed Annex A to the Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee (SBCAC) on January 24, 2018, and the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) on February 8, 2018. During the AQTAC meeting, one member asked if the Department could propose a compliance date sooner than July 1, 2019, for the proposed rulemaking. The Department explained that the compliance date is dictated by the time needed to proceed through the rulemaking process. The Department has revised the proposed compliance date from July 1, 2019, to 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final-form, as this proposed rulemaking would not be promulgated by July 1, 2019. Another AQTAC member noted a concern that the sulfur content in the heavier fuel oils remains unchanged. The Department cannot address this concern here because it is beyond the intended purpose of this proposed rulemaking, which is to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 15 ppm consistent with the 2017 MANE-VU “Ask.” Both committees voted unanimously to concur with the Department’s recommendation to present this proposed rulemaking to the Board for consideration for publication as a proposed rulemaking.

The Department presented the draft proposed Annex A to the Citizens Advisory Council’s (CAC) Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee on February 9, 2018. On the recommendation of the Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee, on February 20, 2018, the CAC concurred with the Department’s recommendation to present this proposed rulemaking to the Board for consideration.

## *E. Summary of Regulatory Requirements*

This proposed rulemaking would amend 25 Pa. Code § 123.22(a)–(g). Subsection (a) applies to nonair basins, and subsections (b)–(e) apply to specified air basin areas. The air basin areas are defined in section 121.1 (relating to definitions). A nonair basin is, by exclusion, an area of this Commonwealth not included in the definitions of the air basins in section 121.1.

The proposed amendments to subsection (a)(2)(i) would delete the two existing tables of maximum allowable sulfur content limits and add one table with two columns of maximum allowable sulfur content limits expressed as ppm by weight and percentage by weight for three groups of commercial fuel oil. The three groups of commercial fuel oil are grades No. 2 and lighter oil, No. 4 oil, and No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil. The first column of limits would apply prior to the proposed compliance date and the second column of limits would apply on and after the proposed compliance date. The maximum allowable sulfur content limits prior to the proposed compliance date, for each grade of commercial fuel oil, would not change from current limits. This proposed rulemaking would revise the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil to 15 ppm (0.0015%) beginning 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final-form; it would not revise the maximum allowable sulfur content limits for the No. 4 oil and No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oils. The existing limits for these grades of commercial fuel oil will continue to apply.

This proposed rulemaking would amend subsection (a)(2)(ii) to allow commercial fuel oil to be used in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer on and after the proposed compliance date, if it was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to the proposed compliance date and met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content limit through the day prior to the proposed compliance date. The only proposed amendment to subsection (a)(2)(ii) is replacement of the compliance date of July 1, 2016, with the proposed compliance date of 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final form.

The proposed amendment to subsection (a)(2)(iii) would delete the applicability date. Subsection (a)(2)(iii) authorizes the Department to temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content limit for a commercial fuel oil if the Department determines that an insufficient quantity of compliant commercial fuel oil is reasonably available in a nonair basin area.

This proposed rulemaking would amend subsections (b), (c) and (e), which apply to certain air basins, as described in subsection (a). Subsection (b) applies to the following air basins: Erie; Harrisburg; York; Lancaster; and Scranton, Wilkes-Barre. Subsection (c) applies to the following air basins: Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton; Reading; Upper Beaver Valley; and Johnstown. Subsection (e) applies to the Southeast Pennsylvania air basin.

Subsection (d), which is presented slightly differently, applies to the Allegheny County; Lower Beaver Valley; and Monongahela Valley air basins. Subsection (d)(2)(i) would be amended to delete the words “on or after July 1, 2016” and the existing table of maximum allowable sulfur content limits. This proposed rulemaking would add one table of maximum allowable sulfur content limits to subsection (d)(2)(i) as described for subsection (a)(2)(i). Subsection (d)(2)(ii) is

proposed to be amended to replace the prior applicability date of July 1, 2016, with the proposed compliance date. Subsection (d)(2)(ii) would also be amended to allow commercial fuel oil to be used in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer on and after the proposed compliance date if it was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to the proposed compliance date and met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content limit through the day prior to the proposed compliance date. The Allegheny County; Lower Beaver Valley; and Monongahela Valley air basins did not have a prior applicable store by date in subsection (d)(2)(ii) because these air basins did not regulate the sulfur content of commercial fuel oil grades of No. 2 and lighter oil, No. 4 oil, and No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil prior to July 1, 2016. The sulfur content limit of 500 ppm for No. 2 and lighter oil for these basins was implemented with the final-form rulemaking published at 43 Pa.B. 806. See 43 Pa.B. pages 809, 826. This proposed amendment to subsection (d)(2)(ii) to include the store by date was made to the proposed rulemaking Annex A after the presentations to the SBCAC and AQTAC committees and to the CAC Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee. Subsection (d)(2)(iii) would be amended as described for subsection (a)(2)(iii).

This proposed rulemaking would amend the sampling and testing provisions of subsection (f)(2) and (3) to delete the applicability date of July 1, 2016.

This proposed rulemaking would amend the recordkeeping and reporting provisions of subsection (g)(1) to delete the applicability date of July 1, 2016, and subsection (g)(1)(v)(A) to delete the words "The sulfur content of this shipment is 500 ppm or below" from the prescribed statement. This proposed rulemaking would specify wording for the prescribed statement for shipments prior to the proposed compliance date and for shipments on or after that date. Specifically, this proposed rulemaking would add subsection (g)(1)(v)(A)(I) to revise the specified statement to indicate that prior to the proposed compliance date, the sulfur content of the shipment is 500 ppm or below. Subsection (g)(1)(v)(A)(II) would be added to revise the specified statement to indicate that on and after the proposed compliance date, the sulfur content of this shipment is 15 ppm or below.

#### *F. Benefits, Costs and Compliance*

##### *Benefits*

Lowering the maximum allowable sulfur content of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil from 500 ppm of sulfur to 15 ppm would benefit the Commonwealth's 12.8 million residents, numerous animals, crops, vegetation and natural areas, as well as the residents and environments of downwind states, through reduced regional haze, and reduced SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground-level ozone pollution. SO<sub>2</sub> is the most significant pollutant involved in the formation of regional haze. Visibility impairment, including regional haze, in rural areas of eastern North America occurs primarily due to sulfate particles. Sulfate particles are formed in the atmosphere when SO<sub>2</sub> emissions oxidize.

SO<sub>2</sub> emissions also contribute to the formation of acid rain, which makes lakes, rivers and streams unsuitable for many fish and other aquatic life, and erodes stone buildings, historical monuments, and paint on cars. Acid rain and PM<sub>2.5</sub> contribute to agricultural crop and vegetation

damage and to degradation of the Chesapeake Bay. The reductions in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions would reduce air pollution threats to public health and welfare and the environment and would contribute to improving visibility. Decreased emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> would also contribute to the attainment and maintenance, or both, of the SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and ground-level ozone NAAQS in this Commonwealth and the MANE-VU region.

NO<sub>x</sub> emissions would also decrease due to furnace and oil heat burner efficiency improvements. Emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> contribute to public health and environmental problems in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states, including the formation of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground-level ozone.

The existence of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the atmosphere not only produces regional haze but also causes significant adverse health effects. Epidemiological studies have shown a significant correlation between elevated PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels and premature mortality. Other important health effects associated with PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure include aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular disease (as indicated by increased hospital admissions, emergency room visits, absences from school or work and restricted activity days), lung disease, decreased lung function, asthma attacks and certain cardiovascular problems. Individuals particularly sensitive to PM<sub>2.5</sub> exposure include older adults, people with heart and lung disease and children. High levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> affect animals in ways similar to humans. Ground-level ozone is a serious human and animal health and welfare threat, causing or contributing to respiratory illnesses and decreased lung function, agricultural crop loss, visible foliar injury to sensitive plant species, and damage to forests, ecosystems and infrastructure.

Emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, should also be reduced because the overall consumption of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil should decrease with improved combustion efficiency resulting from the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a lowered sulfur content of 15 ppm.

Implementation of the maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 500 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil beginning July 1, 2016, was expected to achieve reductions of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions of at least 21,000 tpy in this Commonwealth. See 43 Pa.B. 811. The Department expects that the Commonwealth would realize an additional 4,000 tpy of SO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions from implementation of the proposed lower maximum allowable sulfur content limit of 15 ppm for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. See 43 Pa. B. 807 and 811. While many of these anticipated emission reductions have already been achieved as a result of the marketplace and nearby state and local limits already in place, this proposed rulemaking, if promulgated as a final-form rulemaking and approved by the EPA as a revision to the Commonwealth's SIP, would ensure that the full amount of emission reductions is realized.

Commercial fuel oil users and consumers would benefit financially through lower combustion equipment maintenance costs. According to the United States Energy Information Administration's (EIA) State Energy Profiles, approximately 18% of the households in this Commonwealth consume No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for space heat. Low-sulfur content commercial fuel oil has the potential to improve furnace and oil heat burner combustion efficiency by reducing fouling rates of furnace and oil heat burner heat exchangers and other components. Reduced furnace and oil heat burner fouling rates translate directly into lower

vacuum-cleaning costs for fuel oil companies and homeowners by extending the service intervals. Further, the availability of low-sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would enable the introduction of highly efficient advanced technology condensing furnaces.

The commercial fuel oil industry would also benefit from having consistent maximum allowable sulfur content limits in both No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel including nonroad, locomotive and marine (NRLM), and highway transportation diesel fuel. Consistent maximum allowable sulfur content limits would help refinery owners and operators, distributors, carriers and owners and operators of commercial fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel terminals minimize the number of tanks and trucks needed. The maximum allowable sulfur content level required in NRLM and highway transportation diesel fuels is already 15 ppm. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil could be combined with NRLM and highway transportation diesel fuel in the same tanks and trucks, thus minimizing the number of vehicles needed. Since the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would now be consistent Statewide, compliance and recordkeeping would also be simplified for the petroleum refining and distribution companies.

#### *Costs and Compliance*

This proposed rulemaking would apply to the owner and operator of a refinery, pipeline, terminal, distributor, carrier or retail outlet fuel storage facility that produces, conveys, stores or sells No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. The proposed requirements focus on persons or entities that "offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil." These are the suppliers and operators selling to the ultimate consumer.

There are four refineries in the Commonwealth, owned by four different companies. Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES), United Refining Company and Monroe Energy, LLC refineries currently produce No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm or less. The American Refining Group, Inc. (ARG) produces No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of 15 ppm to be sold to New York, and No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a sulfur content of less than 500 ppm for north and northwestern counties in this Commonwealth. PES has the ability to produce No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a maximum sulfur content of 15 ppm and currently produces most of the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil distributed along the east coast. Owners and operators of refineries outside of the Commonwealth would be indirectly affected if they supply distributors that sell No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth. However, maximum allowable sulfur content limits have been established in motor fuels for 30 years, so the industry has the technical capacity to implement the new requirements.

There are 128 fuel oil terminal operations and 684 distributors of petroleum products in this Commonwealth; not all operations handle No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. The terminal operators include those with familiar names from the petroleum industry, including Sunoco and Gulf Oil. Several major distributors also operate terminals, including Buckeye Energy. While the size of distributor operations ranges from large to small, members of the petroleum distribution industry, as a whole, have been regulated for many years. Existing systems to track

the quantity and composition of fuel are long standing for purposes of compliance with environmental and tax regulations.

End-users of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil are generally homeowners and those living in rental units. The EIA State Energy Profile estimates that 18% of households in this Commonwealth use No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for home or space heating, water heating, or both.

Market forces and regulations for transportation-related diesel fuels in the United States and internationally will be factors affecting this industry, since the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil for residential heating is a very small portion of diesel fuel consumption. If this proposed rulemaking is promulgated as a final-form rulemaking, No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil sold or distributed for use in this Commonwealth would have the same maximum allowable sulfur content limit as NRLM and highway transportation diesel fuel.

The 2008 National Oilheat Research Alliance's "Northeast Heating Oil Assessment," by Hart Energy Consulting, estimated that there would be a 6.3-to-6.8 cent-per-gallon (cpg) incremental production cost for 500 ppm versus 2500 ppm sulfur content home heating oil (No. 2 commercial fuel oil), including capital costs. Incremental production costs were estimated to be as much as 8.9 cpg for 15 ppm sulfur content versus 2500 ppm. However, where refiners have desulfurization capabilities, the incremental cost of producing 15 ppm sulfur versus 2500 ppm sulfur content home heating oil was estimated to be 4.6 cpg. Data showing the cost difference between 500 ppm and 15 ppm sulfur content home heating oil was not found. However, by subtracting the 500 ppm and 15 ppm sulfur content home heating oil costs, the estimated costs would likely be no more than 2.6 cpg (8.9 cpg – 6.3 cpg = 2.6 cpg). Note that these are costs to the producers; prices to the ultimate consumer would be influenced by factors additional to the cost of reducing the sulfur content in the No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil.

Furnace and oil heat burner maintenance costs for consumers would be lower for those that do not already use 15 ppm low-sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil due to less fouling of their heat exchangers. Decreased fouling improves efficiency of the furnace or oil heat burner, which results in lower fuel usage and longer time periods between cleanings. Although 15 ppm low-sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil may cost a few cents per gallon more, savings on maintenance costs would help to defray that impact.

#### *Compliance assistance plan*

The Department plans to educate and assist the public and regulated community in understanding the proposed requirements and how to comply with them. This would be accomplished through the Department's ongoing compliance assistance program. The Department would also work with the Small Business Assistance Program to aid the owners and operators of facilities less able to handle matters with in-house staff.

### *Paperwork requirements*

There are no additional paperwork requirements associated with this proposed rulemaking with which industry would need to comply. As in the existing regulation, this proposed rulemaking would require that, beginning with the refinery owner or operator who sells or transfers No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil and ending with the ultimate consumer, each time the physical custody of or title to a shipment of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil changes hands, the transferor would be required to provide the transferee with an electronic or paper record of the transaction. Each affected person would be required to keep the records in electronic or paper format for 2 years. No recordkeeping or reporting would be required of ultimate consumers at private residences or apartment complexes and condominiums.

### *G. Pollution Prevention*

The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.A. §§ 13101—13109) established a National policy that promotes pollution prevention as the preferred means for achieving state environmental protection goals. The Department encourages pollution prevention, which is the reduction or elimination of pollution at its source, through the substitution of environmentally friendly materials, more efficient use of raw materials and the incorporation of energy efficiency strategies. Pollution prevention practices can provide greater environmental protection with greater efficiency because they can result in significant cost savings to facility owners and operators that permanently achieve or move beyond compliance.

This proposed rulemaking would prevent emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> air pollutants by requiring a lower maximum allowable amount of sulfur in No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil used in this Commonwealth, thereby reducing regional haze and ambient levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in this Commonwealth and throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states. This proposed rulemaking would not require add-on controls, although existing provisions allow the use of controlled noncompliant fuel if the controlled emissions are equivalent to those obtained with compliant No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil.

### *H. Sunset Review*

The Board is not establishing a sunset date for this proposed regulation, since it is needed for the Department to carry out its statutory authority. The Department will closely monitor this proposed rulemaking after publication as a final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* for its effectiveness and recommend updates to the Board as necessary.

### *I. Regulatory Review*

Under section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on June 19, 2019 the Department submitted a copy of this proposed rulemaking and a copy of a Regulatory Analysis Form to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and to the Chairpersons of the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees. A copy of this material is available to the public upon request.

Under section 5(g) of the Regulatory Review Act, IRRC may convey comments, recommendations or objections to this proposed rulemaking within 30 days of the close of the public comment period. The comments, recommendations or objections must specify the regulatory review criteria in section 5.2 of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5b) which have not been met. The Regulatory Review Act specifies detailed procedures for review prior to final publication of the rulemaking by the Department, the General Assembly and the Governor.

*J. Public Comments*

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, support or objections regarding this proposed rulemaking to the Board. Comments, suggestions, support or objections must be received by the Board by September 9, 2019.

Comments may be submitted to the Board online, by e-mail, by mail or express mail as follows. Comments submitted by facsimile will not be accepted.

Comments may be submitted to the Board by accessing eComment at <http://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment>.

Comments may be submitted to the Board by e-mail at RegComments@pa.gov. A subject heading of this proposed rulemaking and a return name and address must be included in each transmission.

If an acknowledgement of comments submitted online or by e-mail is not received by the sender within 2 working days, the comments should be retransmitted to the Board to ensure receipt.

Written comments should be mailed to the Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477. Express mail should be sent to the Environmental Quality Board, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301.

*K. Public Hearings*

The Board will hold three public hearings for the purpose of accepting comments on this proposed rulemaking. The hearings will be held at 1 p.m. on the following dates:

August 6, 2019 Department of Environmental Protection  
Southwest Regional Office  
Waterfront Conference Rooms A&B  
400 Waterfront Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

August 7, 2019 Department of Environmental Protection  
Southeast Regional Office  
Schuylkill Conference Rooms  
2 East Main Street  
Norristown, PA 19401

August 8, 2019 Department of Environmental Protection  
Southcentral Regional Office  
Susquehanna Conference Rooms A&B  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Persons wishing to present testimony at a hearing are requested to contact the Environmental Quality Board, P.O. Box 8477, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477, (717) 787-4526 at least 1 week in advance of a hearing to reserve a time to present testimony. Oral testimony is limited to 5 minutes for each witness. Witnesses are requested to submit three written copies of their oral testimony to the hearing chairperson at the hearing. Organizations are limited to designating one witness to present testimony on their behalf at each hearing.

Persons in need of accommodations as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should contact the Board at (717) 787-4526 or through the Pennsylvania AT&T Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) or (800) 654-5988 (voice users) to discuss how the Board may accommodate their needs.

Patrick McDonnell,  
*Chairperson*



**PROPOSED RULEMAKING**  
**Annex A**  
**TITLE 25. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**PART I. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**SUBPART C. PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**ARTICLE III. AIR RESOURCES**

**CHAPTER 123. STANDARDS FOR CONTAMINANTS**  
**SULFUR COMPOUND EMISSIONS**

**§ 123.22. Combustion units.**

(a) *Nonair basin areas.* Combustion units in nonair basin areas must conform with the following:

\* \* \* \*

(2) *Commercial fuel oil.*

(i) Except as specified in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii), a person may not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil in nonair basin areas if the commercial fuel oil contains sulfur in excess of the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content set forth in the following [tables] table:

<i>[Grades Commercial Fuel Oil</i>	<i>Maximum Allowable % Sulfur by Weight through June 30, 2016</i>
No. 2 and Lighter (viscosity less than or equal to 5.82cSt)	0.5
No. 4, No. 5, No. 6 and heavier (viscosity greater than 5.82cSt)	2.8

*Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Beginning July 1, 2016,  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight*

<i>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)</i>		
No. 2 and lighter oil	500 ppm	(0.05%)
No. 4 oil	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)
No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)]

**Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content**  
**Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight**

<u>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)</u>	<u>Through blank</u> <i>(Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)</i>	<u>Beginning blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)</u>
<u>No. 2 and lighter oil</u>	<u>500 ppm</u> <u>(0.05%)</u>	<u>15 ppm</u> <u>(0.0015%)</u>
<u>No. 4 oil</u>	<u>2,500 ppm</u> <u>(0.25%)</u>	<u>2,500 ppm</u> <u>(0.25%)</u>
<u>No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil</u>	<u>5,000 ppm</u> <u>(0.5%)</u>	<u>5,000 ppm</u> <u>(0.5%)</u>

(ii) Commercial fuel oil that was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to [July 1, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.), which met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for commercial fuel oil through [June 30, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.), in subparagraph (i) at the time it was stored, may be used by the ultimate consumer in this Commonwealth on and after [July 1, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.).

(iii) [Beginning July 1, 2016, the]The Department may temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for a commercial fuel oil set forth in subparagraph (i) if the following occur:

(A) The Department receives a written request at the address specified in subsection (h) for a suspension or increase on the basis that compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available in a nonair basin area. The request must include the following:

(I) The nonair basin county or counties for which the suspension or increase is requested.

(II) The reason compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available.

(III) The duration of time for which the suspension or increase is requested and the justification for the requested duration.

(B) The Department determines that an insufficient quantity of compliant commercial fuel oil is reasonably available in the nonair basin area and that the circumstances leading to the insufficiency are due to events that could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented and are not due to lack of prudent planning on the part of the transferor of the commercial fuel oil into or within the specified nonair basin area.

(C) The Department approves the request, in writing, prior to the transferor distributing the noncompliant commercial fuel oil into or within the specified nonair basin area.

(iv) The Department will limit a suspension or increase in the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content granted under subparagraph (iii) to the shortest duration in which adequate supplies of compliant commercial fuel oil can be made reasonably available, but in no case longer than 60 days from the date the Department grants the suspension or increase.

\* \* \* \* \*

(b) *Erie; Harrisburg; York; Lancaster; and Scranton, Wilkes-Barre air basins.* Combustion units in these subject air basins must conform with the following:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) *Commercial fuel oil.*

(i) Except as specified in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii), a person may not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil in the subject air basins if the commercial fuel oil contains sulfur in excess of the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content set forth in the following [tables] table:

<i>[Grades Commercial Fuel Oil</i>	<i>Maximum Allowable % Sulfur by Weight through June 30, 2016</i>
No. 2 and Lighter (viscosity less than or equal to 5.820cSt)	0.3
No. 4, No. 5, No. 6 and heavier (viscosity greater than 5.820cSt)	2.8

*Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Beginning July 1, 2016,  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight*

<i>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)</i>		
No. 2 and lighter oil	500 ppm	(0.05%)
No. 4 oil	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)
No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)

*Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight*

<i>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)</i>	<i>Through blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)</i>	<i>Beginning blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)</i>
---	--	--

<u>No. 2 and lighter oil</u>	<u>500 ppm</u>	<u>(0.05%)</u>	<u>15 ppm</u>	<u>(0.0015%)</u>
<u>No. 4 oil</u>	<u>2,500 ppm</u>	<u>(0.25%)</u>	<u>2,500 ppm</u>	<u>(0.25%)</u>
<u>No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil</u>	<u>5,000 ppm</u>	<u>(0.5%)</u>	<u>5,000 ppm</u>	<u>(0.5%)</u>

(ii) Commercial fuel oil that was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to [July 1, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.), which met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for commercial fuel oil through [June 30, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.), in subparagraph (i) at the time it was stored, may be used by the ultimate consumer in this Commonwealth on and after [July 1, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.).

(iii) [Beginning July 1, 2016, the] The Department may temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for a commercial fuel oil set forth in subparagraph (i) if the following occur:

(A) The Department receives a written request at the address specified in subsection (h) for a suspension or increase on the basis that compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available in a subject air basin. The request must include the following:

(I) The subject air basin for which the suspension or increase is requested.

(II) The reason compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available.

(III) The duration of time for which the suspension or increase is requested and the justification for the requested duration.

(B) The Department determines that an insufficient quantity of compliant commercial fuel oil is reasonably available in the air basin and that the circumstances leading to the insufficiency are due to events that could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented and are not due to lack of prudent planning on the part of the transferor of the commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.

(C) The Department approves the request, in writing, prior to the transferor distributing the noncompliant commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.

(iv) The Department will limit a suspension or increase in the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content granted under subparagraph (iii) to the shortest duration in which adequate supplies of compliant commercial fuel oil can be made reasonably available, but in no case longer than 60 days from the date the Department grants the suspension or increase.

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton; Reading; Upper Beaver Valley; and Johnstown air basins. Combustion units in these subject air basins must conform with the following:

\* \* \* \*

(2) Commercial fuel oil.

(i) Except as specified in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii), a person may not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil in the subject air basins if the commercial fuel oil contains sulfur in excess of the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content set forth in the following [tables] table:

<i>[Grades Commercial Fuel Oil</i>	<i>Maximum Allowable % Sulfur by Weight through June 30, 2016</i>
No. 2 and Lighter (viscosity less than or equal to 5.820cSt)	0.3
No. 4, No. 5, No. 6 and heavier (viscosity greater than 5.82cSt)	2.0

*Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Beginning July 1, 2016,  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight*

*Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)*

No. 2 and lighter oil	500 ppm	(0.05%)
No. 4 oil	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)
No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)]

*Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight*

*Grades Commercial Fuel Oil  
(Consistent with ASTM D396)*

*Through blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)*

*Beginning blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)*

<u><i>No. 2 and lighter oil</i></u>	<u><i>500 ppm</i></u>	<u><i>(0.05%)</i></u>	<u><i>15 ppm</i></u>	<u><i>(0.0015%)</i></u>
<u><i>No. 4 oil</i></u>	<u><i>2,500 ppm</i></u>	<u><i>(0.25%)</i></u>	<u><i>2,500 ppm</i></u>	<u><i>(0.25%)</i></u>
<u><i>No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil</i></u>	<u><i>5,000 ppm</i></u>	<u><i>(0.5%)</i></u>	<u><i>5,000 ppm</i></u>	<u><i>(0.5%)</i></u>

(ii) Commercial fuel oil that was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to [July 1, 2016] *blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)*, which met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for commercial fuel

oil through [June 30, 2016] blank (*Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.*), in subparagraph (i) at the time it was stored, may be used by the ultimate consumer in this Commonwealth on and after [July 1, 2016] blank (*Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.*).

(iii) [Beginning July 1, 2016, the] The Department may temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for a commercial fuel oil set forth in subparagraph (i) if the following occur:

(A) The Department receives a written request at the address specified in subsection (h) for a suspension or increase on the basis that compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available in a subject air basin. The request must include the following:

(I) The subject air basin for which the suspension or increase is requested.

(II) The reason compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available.

(III) The duration of time for which the suspension or increase is requested and the justification for the requested duration.

(B) The Department determines that an insufficient quantity of compliant commercial fuel oil is reasonably available in the air basin and that the circumstances leading to the insufficiency are due to events that could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented and are not due to lack of prudent planning on the part of the transferor of the commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.

(C) The Department approves the request, in writing, prior to the transferor distributing the noncompliant commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.

(iv) The Department will limit a suspension or increase in the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content granted under subparagraph (iii) to the shortest duration in which adequate supplies of compliant commercial fuel oil can be made reasonably available, but in no case longer than 60 days from the date the Department grants the suspension or increase.

\* \* \* \* \*

(d) *Allegheny County; Lower Beaver Valley; and Monongahela Valley air basins.* Combustion units in these subject air basins must conform with the following:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) *Commercial fuel oil.*

(i) Except as specified in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii), a person may not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil in the subject air basins [on or

after July 1, 2016], if the commercial fuel oil contains sulfur in excess of the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content set forth in the following table:

**[Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Beginning July 1, 2016,  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight**

**Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)**

No. 2 and lighter oil	500 ppm	(0.05%)
No. 4 oil	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)
No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)]

**Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content**  
**Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight**

**Grades Commercial Fuel Oil  
(Consistent with ASTM D396)**

**Through blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)**

**Beginning blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)**

No. 2 and lighter oil	500 ppm	(0.05%)	15 ppm	(0.0015%)
No. 4 oil	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)
No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)

(ii) Commercial fuel oil that was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to [July 1, 2016] **blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)**, which met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content **through blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)**, at the time it was stored, may be used by the ultimate consumer in this Commonwealth on and after [July 1, 2016] **blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)**.

(iii) [Beginning July 1, 2016, the]The Department may temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for a commercial fuel oil set forth in subparagraph (i) if the following occur:

(A) The Department receives a written request at the address specified in subsection (h) for a suspension or increase on the basis that compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available in a subject air basin. The request must include the following:

(I) The subject air basin for which the suspension or increase is requested.

- (II) The reason compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available.
  - (III) The duration of time for which the suspension or increase is requested and the justification for the requested duration.
- (B) The Department determines that an insufficient quantity of compliant commercial fuel oil is reasonably available in the air basin and that the circumstances leading to the insufficiency are due to events that could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented and are not due to lack of prudent planning on the part of the transferor of the commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.
- (C) The Department approves the request, in writing, prior to the transferor distributing the noncompliant commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.
- (iv) The Department will limit a suspension or increase in the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content granted under subparagraph (iii) to the shortest duration in which adequate supplies of compliant commercial fuel oil can be made reasonably available, but in no case longer than 60 days from the date the Department grants the suspension or increase.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (e) *Southeast Pennsylvania air basin.* Combustion units in the Southeast Pennsylvania air basin must conform with the following:

\* \* \* \* \*

**(2) Commercial fuel oil.**

- (i) Except as specified in subparagraphs (ii) and (iii), a person may not offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil in a combustion unit in the Southeast Pennsylvania air basin if the commercial fuel oil contains sulfur in excess of the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content set forth in the following [tables] table:

<i>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil</i>	<i>Maximum Allowable % Sulfur by Weight through June 30, 2016</i>	
	<i>Inner Zone</i>	<i>Outer Zone</i>
No. 2 and Lighter (viscosity less than or equal to 5.820cSt)	0.2	0.3
No. 4, No. 5, No. 6 and heavier (viscosity greater than 5.82cSt)	0.5	1.0

*Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Beginning July 1, 2016,  
Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight*

<i>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)</i>		
No. 2 and lighter oil	500 ppm	(0.05%)
No. 4 oil	2,500 ppm	(0.25%)
No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil	5,000 ppm	(0.5%)

**Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content**  
**Expressed as Parts per Million (ppm) by Weight or Percentage by Weight**

<u>Grades Commercial Fuel Oil (Consistent with ASTM D396)</u>	<u>Through blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)</u>	<u>Beginning blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.)</u>
<u>No. 2 and lighter oil</u>	<u>500 ppm      (0.05%)</u>	<u>15 ppm      (0.0015%)</u>
<u>No. 4 oil</u>	<u>2,500 ppm      (0.25%)</u>	<u>2,500 ppm      (0.25%)</u>
<u>No. 5, No. 6 and heavier oil</u>	<u>5,000 ppm      (0.5%)</u>	<u>5,000 ppm      (0.5%)</u>

(ii) Commercial fuel oil that was stored in this Commonwealth by the ultimate consumer prior to [July 1, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.), which met the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for commercial fuel oil through [June 30, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 59 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.), in subparagraph (i) at the time it was stored, may be used by the ultimate consumer in this Commonwealth on and after [July 1, 2016] blank (Editor's note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.).

(iii) [Beginning July 1, 2016, the]The Department may temporarily suspend or increase the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content for a commercial fuel oil set forth in subparagraph (i) if the following occur:

(A) The Department receives a written request at the address specified in subsection (h) for a suspension or increase on the basis that compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available in the subject air basin. The request must include both of the following:

- (I) The reason compliant commercial fuel oil is not reasonably available.
  - (II) The duration of time for which the suspension or increase is requested and the justification for the requested duration.
- (B) The Department determines that an insufficient quantity of compliant commercial fuel oil is reasonably available in the air basin and that the circumstances leading to the insufficiency are due to events that could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented and are not due to lack of prudent planning on the part of the transferor of the commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.

(C) The Department approves the request, in writing, prior to the transferor distributing the noncompliant commercial fuel oil into or within the air basin.

(iv) The Department will limit a suspension or increase in the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content granted under subparagraph (iii) to the shortest duration in which adequate supplies of compliant commercial fuel oil can be made reasonably available, but in no case longer than 60 days from the date the Department grants the suspension or increase.

\* \* \* \* \*

*(f) Sampling and testing.*

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) ~~[Beginning July 1, 2016, a]~~A refinery owner or operator who produces commercial fuel oil intended for use or used in this Commonwealth is required to sample, test and calculate the actual sulfur content of each batch of the commercial fuel oil as specified in paragraph (1).

(3) ~~[Beginning July 1, 2016, and prior]~~Prior to offering for sale, delivering for use, exchanging in trade or permitting the use of commercial fuel oil in this Commonwealth, a person other than the ultimate consumer that accepts a shipment of commercial fuel oil from a refinery or other transferor, shall sample, test and calculate the actual sulfur content of the commercial fuel oil in accordance with paragraph (1) if the shipment lacks the record required under subsection (g)(1) that enables the transferee to determine if the sulfur content of the shipment of commercial fuel oil meets the applicable maximum allowable sulfur content.

*(g) Recordkeeping and reporting.*

(1) Beginning with the refinery owner or operator who sells or transfers commercial fuel oil into or within this Commonwealth for use in this Commonwealth and ending with the ultimate consumer, each time the physical custody of, or title to, a shipment of commercial fuel oil changes hands~~[on or after July 1, 2016]~~, the transferor shall provide to the transferee an electronic or paper record described in this paragraph. This record must legibly and conspicuously contain the following information:

- (i) The date of the sale or transfer.
- (ii) The name and address of the transferor.
- (iii) The name and address of the transferee.
- (iv) The volume of commercial fuel oil being sold or transferred.

(v) The identification of the sulfur content of the shipment of commercial fuel oil, determined using the sampling and testing methods specified in subsection (f)(1), expressed as one of the following statements:

(A) For a shipment of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil [“**The sulfur content of this shipment is 500 ppm or below.**”];

**(I) Prior to blank (Editor’s note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.) – “The sulfur content of this shipment is 500 ppm or below.”**

**(II) On and after blank (Editor’s note: The blank refers to the date 60 days after the effective date of adoption of this proposed rulemaking when published as a final-form rulemaking.) – “The sulfur content of this shipment is 15 ppm or below.”**

\* \* \* \*





June 19, 2019

David Sumner  
Executive Director  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street, 14th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Proposed Rulemaking: Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil (#7-546)

Dear Mr. Sumner:

Pursuant to Section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act, please find enclosed a copy of a proposed rulemaking for review by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission). This proposal is scheduled for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on July 6, 2019, with a 66-day public comment period. The Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) adopted this proposal on April 16, 2019.

The enclosed rulemaking proposes to reduce the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil in the Commonwealth, generally sold for and used in residential and commercial furnaces and oil heat burners and furnaces for home or space heating, water heating, or both. The sulfur content limit would be reduced from the current 500 parts per million (ppm) to 15 ppm, beginning 60 days after publication of this rulemaking in its final form.

This proposed rulemaking would allow the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or Department) to address regional haze and visibility impairment. The sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) emissions released by combustion of sulfur-containing No. 2 or lighter commercial fuel oil contribute to the formation of regional haze and fine particulate matter (fine particles or  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ), both of which are serious public health and welfare threats and affect visibility. Regional haze is visibility impairment produced by a multitude of sources and activities emitting  $\text{SO}_2$ , nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ),  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  precursors, which are located across a broad geographic area. Visibility impairment is a humanly perceptible change in visibility (such as light extinction, visual range, contrast, and coloration) from the visibility that would have existed under natural conditions. Regional haze and visibility impairment affect urban and rural areas as well as Federal Class I areas (which include national parks, forests, and wilderness areas).

This proposed rulemaking would apply to the owner and operator of a refinery, pipeline, terminal, distributor, carrier or retail outlet fuel storage facility that produces, conveys, stores or sells No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil. The proposed requirements focus on persons or entities that “offer for sale, deliver for use, exchange in trade or permit the use of commercial fuel oil.” These are the suppliers and operators selling to the ultimate consumer. Costs to the



industry are expected to be minimal, if any, as Pennsylvania refineries have the capability to produce 15 ppm No. 2 fuel oil.

The financial impact of this proposed rulemaking would be comparable for individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities, and other public and private organizations. Costs or savings are directly related to the volume of No. 2 fuel oil consumed by each of these entities. This proposed rulemaking will not impact refinery employment because the volume of fuel oil demand would likely not change significantly; just the maximum allowable sulfur content limit for the fuel oil supplied would change.

Commercial fuel oil users and consumers would benefit financially through lower combustion equipment maintenance costs. Low-sulfur content commercial fuel oil has the potential to improve furnace and oil heat burner combustion efficiency by reducing fouling rates of furnace and oil heat burner heat exchangers and other components, which translates directly into lower vacuum-cleaning costs for fuel oil companies and homeowners by extending the service intervals. Further, the availability of low-sulfur content No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil would enable the introduction of highly efficient advanced technology condensing furnaces.

The commercial fuel oil industry would also benefit from having consistent maximum allowable sulfur content limits in both No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel including nonroad, locomotive and marine (NRLM), and highway transportation diesel fuel. These content limits would help refinery owners and operators, distributors, carriers and owners and operators of commercial fuel oil and transportation diesel fuel terminals minimize the number of tanks and trucks needed. The maximum allowable sulfur content level required in NRLM and highway transportation diesel fuels is already 15 ppm. No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil could be combined with NRLM and highway transportation diesel fuel in the same tanks and trucks, thus minimizing the number of vehicles needed.

Lowering the maximum allowable sulfur content of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil from 500 ppm of sulfur to 15 ppm would benefit the Commonwealth's 12.8 million residents through reduced regional haze, and reduced SO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and ground-level ozone pollution; through reduced NO<sub>x</sub> emissions; and through the reduction in PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the atmosphere. These reductions can result in improved overall public health and safety. Further, emissions of carbon dioxide should also be reduced because the overall consumption of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil should decrease with improved combustion efficiency resulting from the use of No. 2 and lighter commercial fuel oil with a lowered sulfur content of 15 ppm.

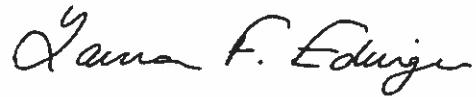
DEP presented the draft proposed Annex A to the Small Business Compliance Advisory Committee (SBCAC) on January 24, 2018, and the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) on February 8, 2018. Both committees voted unanimously to concur with DEP's recommendation to present this proposed rulemaking to the Board for consideration as a proposed rulemaking. DEP presented the draft proposed Annex A to the Citizens Advisory Council's (CAC) Policy and Regulatory Oversight (PRO) Committee on February 9, 2018. On February 20, 2018, the CAC concurred with DEP's recommendation to present this proposed rulemaking to the Board for consideration.



As set forth in the Regulatory Review Act, the Department will consider any comments and recommendations made by the Commission, as well as the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees and public commenters, prior to final adoption of the enclosed rulemaking.

Please contact me by e-mail at [ledinger@pa.gov](mailto:ledinger@pa.gov) or by telephone at 717.783.8727 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Laura Edinger  
Regulatory Coordinator

Enclosures



..

TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO  
THE REGULATORY REVIEW ACT

I.D. NUMBER: 7-546

SUBJECT: Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for  
No. 2 & Lighter Commercial Fuel  
Oil

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TYPE OF REGULATION

- Proposed Regulation  
 Final Regulation  
 Final Regulation with Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Omitted  
 120-day Emergency Certification of the Attorney General  
 120-day Emergency Certification of the Governor  
 Delivery of Titled Regulation  
a.  With Revisions      b.  Without Revisions

2019 JUN 19 P 2 3b

RECEIVED  
IRRC

FILING OF REGULATION

DATE

SIGNATURE

DESIGNATION

6/19/19 Douglas W. Denner

Majority Chair, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Representative Daryl Metcalfe

6/19/19 Greg Vitali

Minority Chair, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Representative Greg Vitali

6/19/19 Patti Cawley

Majority Chair, SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Senator Cease Yaw

6/19/19 John F. Hoffman

Minority Chair, SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY  
Senator John Hudock

6/19/19 Stacy F. Hoffman

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
David Sumner

6/19/19 Courtnie Bryant

ATTORNEY GENERAL (for Final Omitted only)  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU (for Proposed only)

