UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

March 4, 2008

Kathleen O. Laffey, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
19 Chenell Drive, Suite One
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Newington-Dover Spaulding Turnpike Improvements, Stafford and Rockingham Counties, New Hampshire (CEQ# 20080034)

Dear Ms. Laffey:

The Environmental Protection Agency-New England Region (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the improvements to the Spaulding Turnpike/NH Route 16 in Newington and Dover, New Hampshire. The FEIS describes work necessary to reconstruct and widen a 3.5 mile section of the Spaulding Turnpike to improve safety, reduce congestion and better accommodate anticipated increases in traffic demand.

While we have no outstanding objections to the project we note that the FEIS does not provide a description of FHWA/NHDOT commitments (as recommended by EPA in our scoping and DEIS comments) to implement either diesel retrofits or the use of low sulfur fuel as mitigation for anticipated air quality impacts. Instead the FEIS states that "the merits and practicality of more stringent specification measures will be considered, possibly through a voluntary incentive program, during the final design process and discussed with the contracting community at large," (FEIS Volume 4, Section F1, page 9, of the Response to Comments, responding to EPA's letter dated October 2, 2006.) This is a good start but we continue to strongly encourage FHWA/NHDOT to commitment to implement diesel retrofits, cleaner fuels, and idle reduction measures for construction and other diesel equipment. A list of diesel exhaust control technologies, including EPA verified emission control technologies and fuels and CARB-verified emission control technologies is available at http://www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/verif-list.htm.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the FEIS for the Spaulding Turnpike Improvements project. Please contact Timothy Timmermann (617-918-1025) of EPA's Office of Environmental Review with any comments or questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator

Attachment

cc:

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