

Reports from the Work Groups of the Mobile Sources Technical Review Subcommittee for the MSTRS meeting of June 12, 2002

Modeling - Gene Tierney, (734) 214-4456, tierney.gene@epa.gov

At the February MSTRS meeting, the modeling workgroup presented an update on EPA's proposal for the new generation model MOVES, and identified issues which the group has agreed requires further discussion. These issues include the reliability of on-board emission measurement, the accuracy of modal modeling approach, user data requirements, and the handling of program benefits in MOVES. The focus of June's MWG meeting will be to provide an update on EPA's progress on MOVES development, focusing on the issues raised by the workgroup.

Air Toxics - Kathryn Sargeant, (734) 214-4441, sargeant.kathryn@epa.gov

At the last meeting of the FACA toxics workgroup on February 13th, proposed revisions to ARB Method 102/103 "Procedure For the Determination of C2 to C12 Hydrocarbons in Automotive Exhaust Samples by Gas Chromatography" were discussed in an attempt to standardize the test method in order to limit variability. The US automakers were opposed to any changes to this method citing cost. Toyota offered to present the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) findings on ARB method 102/103 and the proposed EPA changes to the method at the April FACA meeting, which was postponed until June. It was also decided that Drew Kodjak would prepare a draft workgroup charter for the next meeting. At the upcoming June 11th meeting, the Workgroup will review a presentation by JAMA and discuss their stance and findings, as well as, what direction the group should head in, in order to reach a consensus on a "standardized" measurement procedure for determination of benzene, 1,3-butadiene, ethylbenzene, n-hexane, naphthalene, styrene, toluene, and xylenes in SI and CI exhaust. The workgroup charter, drafted by Drew Kodjak before his departure from EPA, will also be distributed to the group before the meeting and its contents will be discussed.

OBD Technical Workgroup - Ed Gardetto, (734) 214-4322, gardetto.edward@epa.gov

The OBD Technical Review Workgroup met on February 14, 2002 following the last MSTRS meeting. The workgroup reviewed data from OBD I/M operating programs and found the programs to be generally running smoothly. Minor specific problems were raised regarding procedures for specific vehicles. The group was also presented a summary of data from EPA's High-Mileage OBD/FTP test program which is now at 86 vehicles tested. Results of this testing are proving to be consistent with previous studies done on OBD with an FTP test as the standard. Data was also presented from the Colorado Department of Health OBD/FTP study, this study is now at approximately 70 vehicles. These data are still an area of discussion within the group as to what conclusions can be drawn from the test program. The workgroup was informed during this presentation that the sampling method would soon include using Federal final cut points instead of the Colorado phase-in cut points. This has been an area of concern for the workgroup for this test program. Lastly, Missouri AAA presented findings from a study done at their facility which showed very high OBD failure rates. The group provided feedback to Missouri AAA including concerns that the sampling method appeared to be bias towards vehicles with MIL illuminations and did not represent a random sample of the general fleet. The workgroup will meet again on June 13, 2002.

Heavy-Duty Vehicle In-Use Testing Workgroup - Dennis Johnson, (202) 564-9278, johnson.dennis@epa.gov

The Heavy-Duty Vehicle In-use Testing Workgroup has initiated discussions on testing and inspection and maintenance (I/M) programs for in-use heavy-duty vehicles. Much discussion has focused on existing programs and past studies of opacity testing programs. Testing programs being developed in the state of California have also been discussed.. A draft charter for the workgroup has been widely circulated and discussed. The workgroup will now be focusing primarily on technical and administrative aspects of testing options.

OBD Policy Workgroup - Lori Stewart, (202) 564-1104, stewart.lori@epa.gov

The OBD Policy Workgroup held its second meeting on February 12, 2002. The workgroup has since held two teleconference calls. The first call, on March 21, continued the discussion of the message statement on the lack of overlap between I/M tailpipe test and OBD I/M test failures. During the second conference call, on April 23, the subgroup on the manufacturer conflict of interest issue reported out their progress, and the full workgroup discussed how to proceed to develop a document to address this issue.

The next meeting is scheduled all-day on June 11, 2002. The topics to be covered include an update on OBD data acquired through EPA's high mileage vehicle study, an update on a Colorado Department of Health study on OBD, further discussion of the conflict of interest issue, and a discussion of the goals and timeline of the OBD Policy Workgroup.