

## **OTC MOVES TO CUT POLLUTION FROM DIESEL TRUCKS AND BUSES**

(June 16, 1999, Saratoga Springs, New York) - The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) today at its Annual Meeting endorsed diesel testing programs as a way of cutting pollution from heavy duty diesel trucks and buses. As a part of its action, OTC also encouraged additional interstate agreements which help to implement OTC's endorsement. A Memorandum of Understanding of nine States (also approved today), developed by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the State of Maryland, is the first such implementing agreement. Other OTC States are actively examining how to implement programs within their jurisdictions.

"We know our citizens want smoking diesels to be cleaned up," said John Cahill, Chair of the OTC and Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. "We're now making real progress towards that goal throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States."

Testing of diesel vehicles involves either roadside testing or periodic testing of fleets, or both. If smoke levels exceed certain specified levels, repairs are required within a specific amount of time, or vehicle owners can face fines or other penalties. OTC's action stressed the importance of consistency of smoke test methods and standards across the region. It also endorsed reciprocity among States on compliance periods for repairs.

The OTC was created by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to coordinate regionally the development of control plans for ground-level ozone in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Vermont are represented on the OTC.