Air Pollution Knows No Bounds:
Reducing Smog Regionally

New Jersey Clean Air Council
Annual Public Hearing and
Roundtable Discussion

April 14, 2015
9:30 a.m.

N.J. Dept. of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625

Achieving Cleaner Air: The Need for a Regional Approach

New Jersey is the most densely populated state and is located downwind from several states where pollutant emissions from stationary and mobile sources that cause smog--harmful ground-level ozone--are not always adequately controlled. This is especially troubling during hot, sunny weather. New Jersey must work with these neighboring states to reduce emissions of ozone precursors from these sources to achieve cleaner, healthier air. Air pollutants can travel with the wind over long distances, creating air quality problems hundreds of miles from pollution sources. This movement of pollutants over long distances is known as transport. The goal of the 2015 Clean Air Council public hearing and roundtable discussion is to identify and better understand the issues related to controlling emissions and transport of ozone and its precursors as a basis for action recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Where does ground-level ozone come from?

Pollution from electric generation facilities, factories, vehicles, and certain household products contribute to the formation of ozone. Two kinds of pollutants—oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—react when it's hot and sunny to produce ozone. A majority of NOx and VOCs that impact New Jersey's air quality come from electric generation facilities and mobile sources located outside New Jersey in upwind states (e.g., PA, OH, MD, NY).

We invite you to join us for a roundtable discussion following our key presenters. Below is a sample of questions that will be considered by the Council during the discussion:

- What are the regional challenges to identifying industrial sources of ozone-forming pollutants?
- To what extent can amendments to emission credit trading regulations (e.g., **C**lean **A**ir **I**nterstate **R**ule; **C**ross **S**tate **A**ir **P**ollution **R**ule) help further reduce ozone precursor emissions?
- How can greater use of NOx controls in upwind states, as well as throughout New Jersey, improve regional air quality and positively impact public health?
- What can New Jersey do to more quickly move toward compliance with the current EPA ozone standard, as well as likely more stringent future standards?
- Which emission source types (e.g., point, area, mobile) within New Jersey most negatively impact the health of our residents and residents of states downwind of New Jersey (e.g., RI, CT, VT)?
- What strategies can New Jersey power plants, industries, and mobile sources utilize to reduce our pollutant impact on downwind states?
- Which areas of the state with environmentally overburdened communities are most impacted by pollutant transport, and how will actions taken to better control ozone transport benefit these areas?
- What type of research program should NJDEP develop to study ozone transport issues?
- What legal remedies should be employed to encourage non-compliant businesses, as well as states, to use best achievable control technologies and encourage further state and federal action to reduce emission of ozone forming compounds?

How to Testify

The Clean Air Council has invited guest speakers who will address many of these issues at a roundtable forum. Members of the public are encouraged to join the conversation and submit detailed written comments to be incorporated into the hearing report. Written statements in Microsoft Word will be accepted until April 30, 2015 via email to Heidi.Jones@dep.nj.gov or on a flash drive mailed to New Jersey Clean Air Council, Mailcode 401-02, 401 E. State Street, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420. Those who wish to address the Council should contact Heidi Jones at (609) 777-0598 or via e-mail before April 3.