



AKPIRG

ALASKA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

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FACTS ON ALASKA'S *DIRTY* DIESEL

Through an exemption in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Alaska is currently allowed to burn the dirtiest diesel fuel in the USA. Alaska's diesel fuel is six times more toxic, containing an unregulated 2700 ppm average sulfur content, compared to 500 ppm in the lower 48 and Canada. Urban Alaska will switch with the rest of the country to ultra-low sulfur diesel by 2007, which contains only 15 ppm.

AkPIRG wants to bring cleaner diesel to Alaska NOW -- Here's why:

Congress passed amendments to the Clean Air Act to clean up sulfur because:

- Sulfur emissions cause cancer, genetic mutations, other health ailments (asthma, bronchitis)
- Diesel-equipped engines can emit 30-100 times more pollution than gasoline cars
- Over 90% of diesel emission is small enough to enter the lungs

The Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA) found the EPA's proposal to grant Alaska a permanent exemption "shocking" because:

- Diesel engines have a significantly higher exhaust emission
- High sulfur diesel reduces engine performance which leads to increased maintenance and replacement costs for engine manufacturers, owners, operations and small businesses.
- Advanced engines will require the ultra-low sulfur diesel and cannot run on any other type

The Environmental Protection Agency asserts that switching to Ultra-low sulfur diesel will:

- Reduce emissions from diesel engines by 90%
- Be equivalent to removing 13 million diesel powered trucks and buses from the roadway
- Prevent 8300 premature deaths and 9500 hospitalizations
- Have a cost benefit of greater than \$70 billion/year when fully effective

The Natural Resources Defense Council recently issued a study stating:

- Children who ride diesel school buses may be exposed to as much as four times or more toxic diesel exhaust than people riding in vehicles traveling directly behind such buses
- Exposure levels on the buses are more than 8 times the average ambient pollution level in California, and as much as 46 times the diesel fumes cancer risk exposure threshold established by the EPA.

Roughly 48,000 children ride the bus to school in Alaska, where diesel is six times dirtier.