



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary  
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

November 2021

Re: Compliance Advisory – Diesel Truck Idling and Fugitive Dust Emissions

To whom it may concern:

Since June of 2021, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Air and Radiation Administration has been running a targeted inspection program in and around the town of Cheverly. This effort is a partnership among community members, MDE, and the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health Laboratory at the University of Maryland to address environmental justice concerns in a community that is subjected to a heavy environmental burden from a number of sources of air pollution. The project involves using information gathered from a dense community driven network of 22 local air monitors spread throughout the community to help determine potential pollution hotspots and what type of activities may be contributing to those hotspots.

As part of the targeted inspection effort, MDE observed numerous instances of diesel truck idling that may be violations of Maryland's anti-idling law. In Maryland, drivers are not legally allowed to idle longer than five minutes unless they meet certain exemptions. Idling emits pollutants that impact air quality, the health of community residents and the environment. Idle reduction is a very high priority as diesel particulate is a highly toxic air pollutant and hinders the state's ability to achieve the federal ambient air quality standards.

Please work with the personnel in charge of your operations to make sure that any idling associated with your operations is in compliance with state law. MDE will continue to target the Cheverly area and partner with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland State Police to ensure compliance with state law as well as address any illegal idling that may be occurring.

During this summer's targeted inspection program, MDE also issued several Notices of Violation (NOVs) of MDE's fugitive dust regulations on several hot, dry days in July 2021. To ensure reasonable precautions are being taken to control fugitive dust so that it is not impacting the Cheverly community, MDE will continue to maintain an inspection presence in the Cheverly area over the next year. This initiative will commence over the winter months, but the initiative will continue into next summer since dust emissions often ramp up in the warmer months. MDE's goal for this initiative is for sources to put effective controls in place to eliminate the potential for dust events.

A list of websites with additional information on these programs is enclosed. If you have any questions about this project or need more information, please email MDE at [mdeair.othercompliance@maryland.gov](mailto:mdeair.othercompliance@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director  
Air and Radiation Administration

Enclosure

Additional information can be found on the following websites:

Information on the Cheverly Air Quality Monitoring Project is available on the [Cheverly Green Plan](https://sites.google.com/site/cheverlygreenplan/now-under-way-current-initiatives/the-air-we-breathe) website (<https://sites.google.com/site/cheverlygreenplan/now-under-way-current-initiatives/the-air-we-breathe>).

The Maryland law regarding the maximum period of idling can be found in the Maryland Transportation Article, Section 22-402(c)(3).

MDE's fugitive dust regulation, COMAR 26.11.06.03D, is available from the Division of State Documents ([http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle\\_chapters/26\\_Chapters.aspx](http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/subtitle_chapters/26_Chapters.aspx)).

MDE's IdleFreeMD program website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/MobileSources/idlefreeMD/Pages/index.aspx>

The Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC Idle Reduction Program, Turn Your Engine Off: (<http://turnyourengineoff.org/>)

## Handouts

The enclosed "Idle Free" cards are being provided for your use to remind drivers of the health, environmental, and economic benefits of reducing idling.