

## **Appendix E**

### **Public Notice Report, Comments Received and Responses**

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Public Notice Report  
For the

North Carolina State Implementation Plan Revision:  
Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program

Clean Air Act Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to Remove 26  
Counties from North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection and  
Maintenance (I&M) Program

**Introduction**

On October 5, 2017, a pre-hearing version of the “North Carolina State Implementation Plan Revision: Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program” and “Clean Air Act Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration to Remove 26 Counties from North Carolina's Motor Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program” was released for public comment. A request for public hearing, in accordance with 40 CFR 51.102, and the public comment period were published on the North Carolina Division of Air Quality (DAQ) website, as well as to email distribution lists managed by the DAQ. The public comment period was open from October 5, 2017 through November 6, 2017. No requests for a public hearing were received. The public comment period elicited comments from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and three members of the public.

**Background**

The North Carolina General Assembly enacted Session Law 2017-10, Senate Bill 131 (An Act to Provide Further Regulatory Relief to the Citizens of North Carolina) which revised the state's I&M program. Section 3.5.(a) of the Act amended North Carolina General Statute §143-215.107A(c) to remove 26 of 48 counties from North Carolina's I&M program. The I&M program change will increase emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and carbon monoxide (CO) in counties where the vehicle emissions inspection requirements would be removed. Thus, a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision is being submitted to EPA to demonstrate that air quality would be maintained and that the SIP complies with the requirements of Section 110(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended.

Based on a technical study of county-level emissions increases associated with the proposed I&M program change, and current ambient air quality data, the DAQ concludes that removing the 26 counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP will not interfere with continued attainment or maintenance of any applicable National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Therefore, the DAQ is requesting EPA's approval to remove 26 counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP, which is a required before North Carolina can officially remove the counties from the I&M program.

In addition, the DAQ is proposing revisions to the SIP to update program-related data and to remove Section C (Basic I&M Performance Standards) of the SIP. The DAQ is proposing to

remove Section C from the SIP because (1) performance standard modeling is no longer required since the I&M program areas for which it was previously required have been redesignated to attainment for the pollutants that originally triggered this I&M requirement, and (2) the I&M program is being continued as part of the area's maintenance plan.

With this submission, the DAQ believes it has in good faith addressed the requirements of CAA Section 110(l) relative to removing 26 counties from North Carolina's I&M program and requests that EPA approve the proposed revisions to the North Carolina I&M SIP.

### **Summary of Public Comment Period**

The public notice comment period was open from October 5, 2017 through November 6, 2017. There were no requests for a public hearing. Comments were received from EPA and three members of the public, which are attached following this report.

The following is a summary of the pertinent comments raised during the public comment period, along with the DAQ's response.

**EPA comment:** EPA completed its review of the submittal and offered no comments at this time.

**DAQ response:** The DAQ acknowledges this comment. No revisions are required.

#### **Comments Submitted by Members of the Public:**

Mr. John Allen, Mr. Phil Hammett, and Mr. Bryan Leonard each submitted comments supporting removal of the 26 counties from the I&M program.

**DAQ response:** The DAQ acknowledges these three comments. No revisions are required.

### **Attachments to Public Notice Report**

- 1) Written comments from R. Scott Davis, Chief of the Air Planning and Implementation Branch, EPA, dated November 8, 2017.
- 2) Written comments received from John Allen, dated November 2, 2017.
- 3) Written comments received from Phil Hammett, dated October 20, 2017.
- 4) Written comments received from Bryan Leonard, dated October 11, 2017.
- 5) Public Notice Announcement by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

November 8, 2017

Mr. Michael A. Abraczinskas, Director  
North Carolina Department of Environmental  
Quality  
Division of Environmental Quality  
1641 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641

Dear Mr. Abraczinskas:

Thank you for your letter dated October 5, 2017, transmitting a prehearing package regarding the Noninterference Demonstration for Removing 26 Counties from North Carolina's Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program. We have completed our review of the submittal and offer no comments at this time.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lynorae Benjamin, Chief, Air Regulatory Management Section at (404) 562-9040, or have your staff contact Ms. Nacosta Ward at (404) 562-9140.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Scott Davis".

R. Scott Davis  
Chief  
Air Planning and Implementation Branch

**Strait, Randy P**

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**From:** John Allen <carolinadawg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 9:48 AM  
**To:** SVC\_DENR.DAQ.publiccomments  
**Subject:** [External] "Remove 26 Counties from I&M Program"

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I am a resident of Brunswick County and fully support the removal of Brunswick and the other 25 counties from the emissions testing portion of the annual inspection program.

Thanks you.

John Allen  
Southport

## **Strait, Randy P**

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**From:** battlestar305 <battlestar305@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 20, 2017 3:21 PM  
**To:** SVC\_DENR.DAQ.publiccomments  
**Subject:** [External]

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As a resident of North Carolina, I would like to encourage the exemption of as many motor vehicles as possible in as many NC counties as possible from the state emissions (OBDII) inspection. I feel that at this time, the inspection has served its purpose in the mostly rural counties of the state and should be done away with. Should the situation become different in later years, it could be re-implemented. However, as of this time, it is only another financial burden to those of us who own and maintain a motor vehicle.

Phil Hammett

17 Goldsboro Rd., BSL  
Southport, NC

910-845-2386

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Gun control means hitting your target.

## Strait, Randy P

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**From:** Bryan Leonard <bleonard@secureworks.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:38 AM  
**To:** SVC\_DENR.DAQ.publiccomments  
**Subject:** [External] Remove 26 Counties from I&M Program

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Classification: //SecureWorks/Confidential - Limited External Distribution:

Please do away with the I&M program for the counties. It puts another financial strain on families as we have to constantly spend hundreds to thousands of dollars on costly repairs on vehicles for issues that do not affect the safety of the vehicle being driven just to be able to register. A safety inspection is all that is needed, as long as the vehicle is safe to operate on the roadway without causing an issue to the driver or passengers in the vehicle and other vehicles on the roadway then the car should be allowed to drive on NC highways.

Bryan Leonard  
Client Implementation Services  
Dell SecureWorks  
SOC: 877-838-7960 ext. 114796  
Direct: 404-417-4796  
[bleonard@secureworks.com](mailto:bleonard@secureworks.com)

Dell SecureWorks is [recognized as an industry leader](#), providing world-class information security services to help organizations of all sizes protect their IT assets, comply with regulations and reduce security costs. To learn more, visit [www.secureworks.com](http://www.secureworks.com).

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**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PURPOSE:** The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality (DAQ), hereby gives notice regarding its Pre-hearing Draft of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) Revision and Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration for Removing 26 Counties from North Carolina's Emissions Inspection and Maintenance (I&M) Program. Section 3.5.(a) of Session Law 2017-10 amended North Carolina General Statute (NCGS) §143-215.107A(c) to remove 26 of 48 counties from North Carolina's I&M program. Based on a technical study of county-level emissions increases associated with the proposed I&M program change, and current ambient air quality data, the DAQ concludes that removing the 26 counties from the I&M SIP will not interfere with continued attainment or maintenance of any applicable NAAQS. With these submittals, the DAQ is requesting EPA's approval to remove 26 counties from North Carolina's I&M SIP, which is a required before North Carolina can officially remove the counties from the I&M program. Persons wishing to submit comments or request a public hearing are invited to do so.

**COMMENT PROCEDURES:** Any person wishing to comment may submit a written statement for inclusion in the record of proceedings regarding the Pre-hearing Draft of the SIP Revision and CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration for Removing 26 Counties from North Carolina's I&M Program. Written comments should be received by no later than November 6, 2017.

**REQUESTS FOR A PUBLIC HEARING:** Requests for a public hearing must be in writing and include a statement supporting the need for such a hearing, an indication of your interest in the subject, and a brief summary of the information intended to be offered at such hearing. A public hearing will be scheduled if requested. A separate notice will be announced for the hearing including the date, time and location. Written requests for a public hearing should be received no later than October 19, 2017, and addressed to Randy Strait, Division of Air Quality, 1641 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1641.

**INFORMATION:** Copies of the Pre-hearing Draft of the SIP Revision and CAA Section 110(l) Noninterference Demonstration for Removing 26 Counties from North Carolina's I&M Program may be downloaded from the DAQ website at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality/air-quality-planning/state-implementation-plans/inspection-maintenance-program-sip>.

Comments can be submitted to:

daq.publiccomments@ncdenr.gov

(Please type "Remove 26 Counties from I&M Program" in the subject line)

Comments can be mailed or faxed to:

Randy Strait

Fax: (919) 707-8721

NC Division of Air Quality

1641 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1641

The Pre-hearing Draft of the demonstration may be reviewed in person during normal business hours at the following DAQ offices:

Raleigh Central Office, Planning Section (919) 707-8403

Asheville Regional Office (828) 296-4500

Fayetteville Regional Office (910) 433-3300

Mooresville Regional Office (704) 663-1699

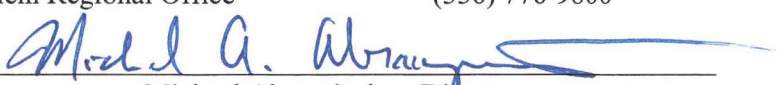
Raleigh Regional Office (919) 791-4200

Washington Regional Office (252) 946-6481

Wilmington Regional Office (910) 796-7215

Winston-Salem Regional Office (336) 776-9800

Date: 10/5/17

  
Michael Abraczinskas, Director