



Daniel Skopec
Acting Secretary

Air Resources Board

Robert F. Sawyer, Ph.D., Chair
9480 Telstar Avenue, Suite 4
El Monte, California 91731 www.arb.ca.gov



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 22, 2006

Mail-Out #MSC 06-08

TO: All Interested Parties

SUBJECT: PUBLIC WORKSHOPS TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE ZERO EMISSION BUS TECHNOLOGY AND PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) staff invites you to participate in a public workshop to discuss the status of the Zero Emission Bus (ZBus) technology and staff's proposed regulatory changes. Previous workshops were held in Sacramento on October 27, 2005, and April 14, 2006, and in El Monte on January 27, 2006. The ZBus regulations can be found in title 13, California Code of Regulations, section 2023.3.

In February 2000, the Board confirmed its continued commitment towards reducing emissions from public transportation by establishing a fleet rule for transit agencies, more stringent emission standards for new urban bus engines and promoting advanced technologies by adopting ZBus demonstration and ZBus acquisition requirements. In addition, the Board directed staff to review ZBus technology and the feasibility of implementing the ZBus purchase provisions of the requirements.

The ZBus purchase requirement implementation date depends on the compliance path selected by transit agencies and is only applicable to larger transit agencies (those with more than 200 buses). For transit agencies on the diesel fuel path, a 15 percent aggregate total of all bus acquisitions from model years 2008 through 2015 must be ZBuses. For transit agencies on the alternative fuel path, the ZBus acquisition requirement starts with model year 2010 and runs through model year 2015. Transit agencies on the diesel path must submit a compliance plan by January 2007, while transit agencies on the alternative fuel path must submit a compliance plan by January 2009.

Transit agencies selected fuel cell powered buses as the technology most likely to cost-effectively meet desired performance characteristics while meeting environmental objectives. Information available as the ZBus regulation was being developed indicated that the application of fuel cells in transit buses would lead light-duty vehicle applications. Buses are better suited to handle the relatively larger size and weight of pre-production fuel cell and fuel storage systems. As it turns out, fuel cell and vehicle

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California Environmental Protection Agency

manufacturers instead have focused their resources on developing light duty fuel cell applications.

Staff has been monitoring the progress of ZBus technology and determined that while promising, the technology has not progressed at the anticipated pace. As a result the Board revised the implementation dates for the required demonstrations during a June 2004 hearing. Staff is continuing to review and monitor the progress of the demonstrations and believes that additional modifications are necessary.

At the April 14, 2006 workshop, staff presented ZBus phase-in strategies, draft regulatory language and solicited input from the industry. Documents from this workshop are located on the Zero Emission Bus Meetings website www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/zeb/meetings/meetings.htm. After reviewing this information, staff is preparing to modify the regulation at the September 2006 Board hearing. The following workshop has been scheduled to provide an overview of proposed changes and to receive additional public comment.

DATE: June 21, 2006
TIME: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
TOPIC: Proposed Modifications to the Zero Emission Bus Regulation
PLACE: South Coast Air Quality Management District
Room CC2
21865 Copley Blvd.
Diamond Bar, California 91765

To accommodate those that are unable to travel, we have arranged for teleconference capabilities. All participants must use a touch-tone phone to participate in an audio conference.

U.S. Call-In Number: (877) 601-4711
International Call In Number: (210) 234-0002
Passcode: 66908
Leader: Ms. Lesley Crowell

The following features are available for you to use on your phone during an active conference:

- Press *0 operator assistance (small fee may apply).
- Press *6 mute/unmute individual line.

Workshop presentations and handouts will be available at the workshop and on the Zero Emission Buses website at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/zeb/zeb.htm> . The

All Interested Parties
May 22, 2006
Page 3

current Transit Bus Regulations are available at:
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/bus/frmlregdocuments.htm> . If you would like to receive notification by email of updates to the Public Transit Agencies or Zero Emission Buses website, please sign up at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/listserv/ms-mailings.htm> .

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, audiocassette or computer disk. Please contact ARB's Disability Coordinator at (916) 323-4916 by voice or through the California Relay Services at 711, to place your request for disability services.

If you are a person with limited English and would like to request interpreter services to be available at the meeting, please contact ARB's Bilingual Manager at (916) 323-7053.

We welcome your participation. If you have information that you wish to present and would like us to post your presentation, please send your presentation to Ms. Lesley Crowell by 8 am, June 19, 2006, at lcrowell@arb.ca.gov. If you cannot attend and would like to provide comments, or if you have questions regarding the workshop, please contact Mr. Gerhard Achtelik, Manager, at (916) 323-8973 or by email at gachteli@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert H. Cross, Chief
Mobile Source Control Division

cc: Ms. Analisa Bevan, Chief
Sustainable Transportation Technologies Branch

Ms. Annette Hebert, Chief
Heavy Duty Diesel In-Use Strategies Branch

Mr. Jack Kitowski, Chief
On Road Controls Branch

Mr. Gerhard Achtelik, Manager
Hydrogen Infrastructure Section