

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: August 18, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Myers, Nonna, Oros

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane; GUESTS: A. Neuman (CEO); Comm'r. R. Butler (WCDPW); Comm'r. L. Salley, H. Stanton (WCDOT); E. Pepper, M. Wallach (CCE); C. Manfredi (FCWC)

Environment & Energy Committee meeting called to order at 3:50 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Air Quality Initiatives – Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel, Engine Retrofits, Heating Oil**

Chair Abinanti introduced the meeting topic by noting the Healthy Air Task Force (HATF) findings in identifying local sources of pollution and making recommendations. Commissioner Salley stated that WCDOT is in full compliance with the County's requirements for use of ultra-low sulfur diesel (ULSD) and on emissions control technologies retrofits. Dep. Commissioner Stanton stated that the technology retrofits can impact bus fuel consumption and can even cause certain pollutant emissions to increase, depending on the bus. Also, Westchester County's topography is unusually hilly, which also impacts fuel consumption.

Commissioner Butler described the retrofit of County vehicle fleet (non-buses). Commissioner Butler will submit a report to the Committee describing the status of retrofits for the County fleet. Comm'r. Butler described the biodiesel blends that the County is utilizing (e.g., B5). Chair Abinanti stated his interest in proposed legislation to require ultra low-sulfur content in residential (home) heating oil. Chair Abinanti inquired whether County contractors are complying with the ULSD and retrofit requirements. Comm'r. Butler replied that the contracts expressly require contractor compliance with these provisions (e.g., affidavits). Chair Abinanti asked whether DPW checks contractors' compliance at job sites. Comm'r. Butler stated that the County Health Department staff would have expertise in checking emission retrofit technologies, but he does not know if WCDOH is performing these tasks. Mr. Crane noted that his recent

conversation with WCDOH staff indicates that WCDOH is familiar with the County requirements. Chair Abinanti suggested a future Committee meeting with WCDOH to review inspections at job sites.

The Committee also discussed possible initiatives or legislation to convert buildings from No. 6 heating oil to No. 2 heating oil. Mr. Neuman said that initiatives with economic/financial incentives will prove more successful.

Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Nonna, the Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). The meeting concluded at approximately 5:25 pm.

[An audio recording of this meeting is on file]