

PART ONE

Summary of Public Comments and the Response to Comments

for the

DRAFT
2006 Air Quality Conformity Determination
for the
TIP and the 2030 Plan

Summary for the Air Quality Conformity Determination

Summary of Public Testimony and the Response to Comments

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION	How can our system be in conformity?	Allegheny County	<p data-bbox="1207 332 1995 373"><i>Marilyn Skolnick, PPP & Sierra Club</i></p> <p data-bbox="1207 373 1995 584">From all the reports, peer reviewed, it appears that at the very least 41% and at the most 61% of pollutions comes from mobile sources. Our system has also been rated nationally as the 9th highest in congestion. Even if these reports are partially correct, how can our system be in conformity? It just doesn't add up.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	<p data-bbox="367 617 1995 760">The conformity assessment was conducted in accord with criteria and procedures specified in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule. The conformity criteria and procedures are described in SPC's conformity report. The report also documents the analysis, methods, assumptions, interagency coordination, and results for the conformity assessment. The results from the analysis demonstrate that the conformity criteria have been satisfied.</p>		

Project	Project Description	Location	Comment Summary
Air Quality Conformity Determination is Suspect	<p>The Allegheny County Health Department (“ACHD”), in its 2004 Point Source Emission Inventory Report¹, indicates that the PM_{2.5} emissions from Allegheny County point sources increased in the 2001 to 2004 time frame. Furthermore, the ACHD’s 2005 Air Quality Annual Report showed increases in PM_{2.5} 3-year average [1 See http://www.achd.net/ air/ pubs/ pdf/ aqemission rpt2004.pdf, page 3.] ambient concentrations for much of Allegheny County [2. These facts bring serious doubt to the SPC’s prediction that PM_{2.5} emissions will consistently decrease in Allegheny County over the same time frame and beyond. That doubt can be extrapolated to the entire region.</p>	Allegheny County	<p><i>Michael Parker, Esq., Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc., Policy and Outreach Coordinator</i></p> <p>GASP urges the SPC to revisit their emission predictions, revise the Air Quality Conformity Determination, and reopen the public comment period.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	<p>The conformity assessment was conducted in accord with criteria and procedures specified in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule. The conformity criteria and procedures are described in SPC's conformity report. The report also documents the analysis, methods, assumptions, interagency coordination, and results for the conformity assessment. The results from the analysis demonstrate that the conformity criteria have been satisfied. The Conformity Rule specifies that the current version of EPA's emissions model (MOBILE6.2) be used for the emissions estimates. SPC used EPA's model in the analysis.</p>		

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Air Quality Conformity Determination is Suspect	<p>GASP has strong reservations about the predicted emission decreases for PM 2.5 and the ozone precursors, volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen. The documents are unclear as to whether or not SPC considered recently permitted major stationary sources – such as, but not limited to, the Beech Hollow Power Plant in Washington County and the Greene Energy Resource Recovery Project in Greene County – for fine particulates and ozone precursors. These new sources and other major sources in the area combined with the predicted increase in vehicle miles traveled make SPC’s conformity determination difficult to comprehend.</p>	Allegheny County	<p><i>Michael Parker, Esq., Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc., Policy and Outreach Coordinator</i></p> <p>If it newly permitted major stationary sources have not been considered in the Air Quality Conformity Determination, SPC should do so and reissue the draft after completing the analysis.</p>
<i>Response:</i>	<p>The conformity assessment was conducted in accord with criteria and procedures specified in EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule. The conformity criteria and procedures are described in SPC's conformity report. The report also documents the analysis, methods, assumptions, interagency coordination, and results for the conformity assessment. The results from the analysis demonstrate that the conformity criteria have been satisfied. The Conformity Rule specifies the types of mobile source emissions to be included in the transportation conformity analysis. Emissions from stationary sources are not to be included in that analysis.</p>		

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CAA Statutory Conformity Tests	References legal argument that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) must address the statutory conformity tests in Clean Air Act Sections 176 (c)(1)(A) and (B).	Allegheny County	<p><i>Michael Parker, Esq., Group Against Smog and Pollution, Inc., Policy and Outreach Coordinator</i></p> <p>GASP wishes to include an attached Brief currently before the Federal Court of Appeals Brief for the District of Columbia, and the arguments outlined therein, in the administrative record for the Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination currently out for public comment. GASP also wishes to point out that if Petitioners' arguments are accepted by the D.C. Appeals Court, then the SPC's draft conformity determination will be invalid for failing to consider the TIP's and the LRP's impacts on National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).</p>
<i>Response:</i>	Comment noted.		