MARC Northeast Maintenance Facility: Air Pollution FAQ

AIR POLLUTION

Who develops air quality plans for Perryville, MD?

The Wilmington Metropolitan Area Planning Coordinating Council (WILMAPCO) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Perryville, Cecil County, Maryland. WILMAPCO develops air quality plans for nonattainment and attainment pollutants and precursors, and helps implement those plans region-wide. WILMAPCO is also responsible for modeling transportation improvements for air quality impacts, in accordance with conformity regulations. In addition to WILMAPCO, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) also provide input and assistance in preparation of air quality plans. In summary, WILMAPCO is responsible for air quality conformity and works cooperatively with MDOT and MDE in conducting other transportation-related air quality activities for the region

How often are air conformity determinations made?

Transportation conformity determinations are made at least every three years or when Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTPs) and Regional Transportation Improvement Plans (RTIPs) are updated. WILMAPCO's latest LRTP is the *2040 Regional Transportation Plan Update* (WILMAPCO 2011), which was adopted in January 2011 and received FWHA and FTA approval in March 2011. WILMAPCO's latest RTIP is the *Fiscal Year 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program* (WILMAPCO 2014), which was approved in March 2014, and included the MARC Facility.

What will be done to minimize emissions?

MTA will meet the EPA's stringent emissions standards which will include the purchase of Tier 4 locomotives.. Wayside electric power would also be installed in the yard to eliminate the need for locomotives to idle when not being placed in service.

What is the Tier 4 emission standard?

The Tier 4 emission standards, which take effect in 2015 and call for the single largest emission reduction in the tiered program's timeline, require locomotives to use exhaust gas aftertreatment technologies, such as particulate filters for particulate material control, and urea-SCR for NO_x emission control. Tier 4 locomotive will lower diesel engines' particulate emissions by 70 percent and NOx by 76 percent, compared to engines first introduced in 2005.

What are the emission sources associated with the facility operation?

- Vehicles
- Onsite diesel locomotives
- Diesel fuel storage tanks
- Landscaping equipment
- Testing of emergency generators
- Indirect emissions including electricity and natural gas demands by the building

How would the facility affect air quality for the surrounding community?

The proposed facility's emissions impact on air quality has been determined by the regional MPO (WILMAPCO) to conform with air quality regulations. This covers emissions of ozone precursors as well as carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

Would the diesel locomotives be left to idle?

When the trains first pull into the facility and are set up for servicing, they would be on ground stand-by power. Then, as the trains get ready to depart, the locomotives would be started approximately one hour before departure, which means they would be idling for that hour.