What is EPA’s Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine Standards Docket, also known as the Cleaner Trucks Initiative (CTI)?

This ANPR is the next step in EPA’s process of proposing updates to the nitrous oxides (NOx) emissions standards for heavy-duty trucks. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) will follow after review of comments to this ANPR. Currently, EPA is working closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), as CARB has identified technologies that can reduce NOx emissions by 90% beginning in 2027.

What does this mean for Tribes and Air Quality/Air Management?

NOx emissions are harmful to both people and the environment. NOx emissions cause harm both at ground level when they are emitted (primarily in the form of smog, which impacts respiratory health), and once they are distributed in the atmosphere (primarily through deposition such as acid rain and through contributions to global warming). Trucks that travel on Tribal lands emit NOx in close proximity to humans, and trucks travelling even hundreds of miles upwind can contribute to impacts on Tribal lands through atmospheric transport.

Developing a nationwide standard is an important streamlining process so that individual states or Tribes are not trying to navigate conflicting standards. A nationwide standard will also help bring down costs of compliance. National standards are also important because trucks not only travel between jurisdictions but are sold as used vehicles between jurisdictions, meaning that uniformly clean trucks are necessary to avoid negating emissions reduction efforts made by Tribes. CARB’s intended standards reflect in-depth research into what is not only possible for emissions controls, but also what is reasonable for both the health and environmental costs balanced with the costs to industry.

How Can I Find More Information and Submit Comments?

For additional information, visit EPA’s CTI webpage: https://www.epa.gov/regulations-emissions-vehicles-and-engines/cleaner-trucks-initiative, CARB’s Advanced Clean Trucks webpage: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/advanced-clean-trucks, or CARB’s Heavy Duty Low NOx webpage: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/heavy-duty-low-nox.

*The comment deadline is February 20, 2020.* Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0055, at http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for
submitting comments. The NTAA is preparing a Tribal Template Letter to go with this Policy Resource Kit for Tribes to use in submitting comments that will be posted on NTAA’s website here: https://www.ntaatribalair.org/policy-resource-kits/. If you have further questions, please contact NTAA’s Project Director Andy Bessler at 928-523-0526 or at Andy.Bessler@nau.edu.