



BUCKEYE PARTNERS, L.P.

9999 Hamilton Blvd.
Five TEK Park
Breinigsville, PA 18031

August 12, 2019

Environmental Quality Board
Rachel Carson State Office Building, 16th Floor
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101-2301

Also submitted via Email to RegComments@pa.gov

RE: Comments to Proposed Rulemaking EQB 25 PA Code CH. 123 Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for No. 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil

Dear Sirs and/or Madams,

Buckeye Partners, L.P. supports the Proposed Revision which would require 15 ppm sulfur for commercial fuel oil in Pennsylvania. As the owner/operator of numerous pipelines and terminals that supply refined products to Pennsylvania, our concern to this proposed rule involves the “effective date” which begins “60 days after publication of the propose rulemaking in its final form”.

60 days is not sufficient time for the entire fuel oil transportation system to successfully transition from 500 ppm to 15 ppm sulfur. This system includes refineries/import terminals, pipeline receipt locations, pipeline breakout tank farms, and petroleum bulk terminals. The fuel oil transportation system may include millions of barrels of fuel oil/heating oil at any given time. It is unlikely that the entire distribution and storage system will be able to dispose of all 500 ppm heating oil within 60 days of an unclear/undetermined target date.

If the effective date is triggered in winter during levels of high inventory, then each refinery, pipeline and terminal tankage facility will need to empty all 500 ppm heating oil tanks before accepting 15 ppm fuel to ensure that the tank has compliant fuel oil. This could impact inventory availability and lead to potential runouts and supply shortages.

If the effective date is triggered during the summer without sufficient notice, the distribution network may not have great outlets to fully dispose of remaining 500 ppm inventories. Since Pennsylvania is the last Northeast state to transition to 15 ppm fuel oil, there is no additional outlet to dispose of any remaining 500 ppm fuel oil. This will cause financial loss to the product owners, and may result in paralysis of the transportation system while owners pursue non-traditional measures to dispose of the 500 ppm fuel oil. In either case, the 60-day notice is not sufficient time for the systems to transition.

Buckeye believes it is in the best interest of the fuel oil supply chain that the Pennsylvania final rule provide a fixed and known effective date, preferably with at least a six month notice and occurring at a time when inventories/usage is minimal so the impact to the supply chain can be strategically minimized (i.e. July 1, 2020, or September 1, 2020, etc). This allows for fuel oil providers to have ample time to dispose of inventories in front of a known deadline with reduced impact to supply or customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking. Please contact me directly if any follow-up is requested at 610-904-4491 or jmengel@buckeye.com.

Sincerely,



Jason Mengel

Manager, Measurement and Quality Control (M&QC)

Buckeye Partners , L.P.

(C/o Buckeye Pipe Line Company, L.P., Laurel Pipe Line Company, L.P., and Buckeye Terminals, LLC)

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