

SEP 07 2017



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17101-1900

OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Wayne Langerholc, Jr.  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
Room 185 Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3035

Dear Senator Langerholc:

This is in response to your letter dated August 17, 2017, regarding your request to pause the implementation of the On-Board-Diagnostic (OBD) equipment update mandates for authorized emissions inspection stations in Cambria county.

The Department, with its contracted Emissions Program Manager, recently reviewed the existing On-Board Diagnostic (OBD) emissions analyzer software requirements. This is the equipment used by authorized Emissions Inspection Stations under the Commonwealth's emission program. The current software specifications have been in place since December 2003. An upgrade of equipment is necessary to ensure the data integrity and the maintenance of the emissions program. Based on that review, PennDOT updated its software requirements and supplied the new specifications to the equipment manufacturers and Emissions Program Manager. While the emissions equipment manufacturers update their software based on the Commonwealth specifications, the Emissions Program Manager will be making the necessary changes to the Vehicle Inspection Information Database (VIID) which interfaces with over 8,000 emission inspection stations across the Commonwealth.

While the State Implementation Plan (SIP) does include counties in the Northern Region which currently are not required to perform an OBD Check as part of their emissions inspection, the equipment is still necessary to electronically transfer the gas cap results and visual anti-tampering checks that are still a requirement. The analyzer system provides prompts to the inspector specific to the make/model year of the vehicle being tested. The changes are necessary to modernize equipment and ensure that software and hardware is compatible with current technologies, including additional security features.

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PennDOT expects to have up to five approved vendors allowing emission stations to choose based on price, services, and features of the individual vendors. We reasonably estimate the cost per station to be between \$5K and \$10K; however, we expect stations will experience the cost to be around \$6K.

Participation by a station in the emission program is purely voluntary. We do intend to keep the stations updated with all relevant information. I appreciate your concern in removing Cambria county from the emissions testing program. However, PennDOT fully intends to move forward to continue to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act and ensure compliance with the approved SIP. PennDOT does not have the authority to cease participation for any county.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kurt Myers, Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services, at 717.705.1000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leslie S. Richards".

Leslie S. Richards  
Secretary of Transportation