



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# Aftermarket Catalytic Converter Regulation



MWAQC-TAC Meeting – Karl Munder, MDE – September 8, 2020



# DC-MD-VA Ozone Status

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- Currently, the DC-MD-VA nonattainment area is very close to attaining the 70 ppb ozone standard
  - 2020 ozone season is still ongoing ... but it looks like the 2018-2020 design value may be 71 ppb - 1 ppb off of being attainment
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> highest daily maximum 8-hour average for 2020 is 65 ppb
  - This may allow the region to request an extension of its attainment date and not be “Bumped Up” to a Marginal nonattainment area
- An extension is good - but additional NO<sub>x</sub> reductions will be needed if the region is going to attain and maintain the 2015 standard
- Regional adoption of AMCC seems logical for the DC area
  - Provides meaningful NO<sub>x</sub> reductions
  - Is supported by the manufacturers so it’s relatively easy to adopt
  - Is part of a broader regional strategy for the Ozone Transport Region ... so other states are working on this issue at the same time



# AMCC Provides Needed NO<sub>x</sub> Benefits

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- Research and modeling shows that regional and local NO<sub>x</sub> reduction strategies are the single most important thing we can do to continue to lower ozone levels
- Vehicles are the most significant local source of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions
- MWAQC adoption of OTC AMCC would provide significant local benefits
- Estimated NO<sub>x</sub> reductions
  - MD –2 tons/day
  - DC/NoVA – 3-3.5 tons/day
  - MD/VA/DC Nonattainment Area - About 4.5 tons/day
  - OTC Region as a whole - 24 tons/day



# AMCC Adoption Status & Support

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- NY and ME have already adopted AMCC regulations -- NJ CT and MA working on it -- CO's regulation (another area that needs local NOx reductions) is effective 1/21
- MD starting regulation adoption process this fall -- anticipated date of adoption October 2021
- Manufacturers have been a strong partner with MD throughout our regulation development and adoption process
- Supported by the Manufacturers of Emission Controls Association (MECA) and Autocare
  - MECA is on today's call
- Provides cost-effective reductions and provides consumer protections through enhanced warranty coverage



# Conclusions .. Action

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- Maryland would like to see the AMCC program adopted throughout the MD/VA/DC nonattainment area
  - We believe many MWAQC members will support this effort
  - We understand that this would take legislation in VA, but this initiative may be an easy lift
- Has multiple positive drivers
  - MD/VA/DC area is so close to attainment
  - Significant NOx reductions
  - Cost effective emission reduction strategy with added consumer protections
  - Has vocal support from manufacturers
  - Also being considered or adopted in many other OTC states
- We would urge MWAQC TAC to move this forward for action at an MWAQC meeting ...
  - We believe MWAQC will recommend that the region pursue this critical emission reduction program and ask the states and the District to move forward with appropriate actions to provide for implementation