

BOARD OF HEALTH



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August 12, 2009

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Prevention
One Winter Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108
Attn: Aimee Powelka

COPY

Re: Proposed Amendments to 310 CMR 6.00 and 7.00 concerning state ambient air quality standards for fine particles (PM_{2.5}).

Dear Department of Environmental Protection:

The Brockton Board of Health is requesting that the Department of Environmental Protection adopt more stringent State ambient air quality standards than those of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Specifically we are requesting that your proposed amendments to 310CMR 6.00 and 7.00 adopt the following:

An annual PM 2.5 standard of 12 micrograms per cubic meter, and a 24-hour standard of 30 micrograms per cubic meter (preferably based on the 99th percentile 24-hour concentration).

It is this Board's strong opinion that the less stringent Federal (EPA) standards do not adequately protect the public health.

According to our own State, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Advocacy Partnership, the City of Brockton has been highlighted as one of the six urban areas in the State with higher than State averages of pediatric asthma and asthma related hospitalization.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts should be looking for cleaner sources of renewable energy, which eventually could be accomplished by adopting more stringent PM 2.5 standards.

Because of the increases in scientific knowledge, this country has been able to produce technology that harvests natural energy from the earth and use it to power homes, cars, businesses and farms. These forms of energy are called clean or renewable because they use the sun, wind, water and earth to generate heat and electricity.

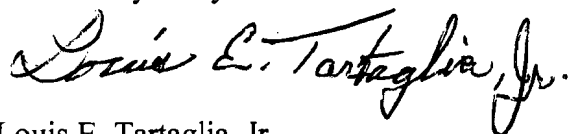
These new forms of energy have become the wave of the future since this technology has significantly reduced impact on the environment and ozone when compared to current energy sources.

Clean or renewable energy is exactly what it seems; it is a natural resource that is renewable from light waves, water tides and geothermal heat in the earth's core or air movements. When these resources are used, by products such as green house gases are eliminated and scientists believe that these resources can contribute to solving the problems of global warming and climate change.

The United States government is pressing for it to be more widely used over the coming decade. The United States House of Representatives approved a landmark overhaul of U.S. environmental policy. Details of this bill, in an effort to curb global warming, call for reducing greenhouse gases by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and 83 percent by 2050; limiting emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and limiting six other green house gases.

In conclusion, we are at this time requesting that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection take the lead in protecting the health and well being of its residents by adopting amendments which will truly reflect this protection.

Yours Very Truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louis E. Tartaglia, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Louis E. Tartaglia, Jr.
Executive Health Officer
Brockton Board of Health

cc James E. Harrington, Mayor
