WHAT IS A “CLEAN DIESEL” CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENT?
A “clean diesel” construction requirement is simply a requirement in a contract that directs contractors to adhere to certain “clean” pollution control technology, fuel or work practice requirements during completion of a construction project. Additional costs contractors may incur to meet these requirements can be built into the contract bid. Today, numerous cities and public agencies are adopting clean diesel construction requirements as a way to protect public health by reducing diesel pollution from construction projects. Boston’s “BIG DIG”, the 7 World Trade Center Rebuild, the O’Hare Modernization Project, and the Dan Ryan Reconstruction Project are several examples of large scale projects that have used clean diesel construction requirements.

BOSTON’S “BIG DIG”
Central Artery Project (Big Dig) in Boston was the country’s first major retrofit construction program. The project required that all pieces of construction equipment to have a diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) and banned equipment from idling more than five minutes. Over 200 pieces of construction equipment were retrofitted for the project, which resulted in the reduction of 3 tons/year of particulate matter, 36 tons/year of carbon monoxide, and 12 tons/year of hydrocarbons.

7 WORLD TRADE CENTER REBUILD
During the rebuild of 7 World Trade Center, all large diesel engines were required to use ultra-low sulfur fuel and retrofit with pollution control devices. The 7 World Trade Center reconstruction project also included the first retrofit of a large tower crane and was a catalyst for the first city law in the Northeast to require the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel and retrofits on all city-owned or city contracted construction equipment.

O’HARE MODERNIZATION PROJECT
Clean diesel construction requirements were adopted for the Chicago O’Hare Modernization Program. The project required contractors to use ultra-low sulfur diesel for all diesel power vehicles and equipment. The project also required contractors to retrofit all off-road diesel powered vehicles and equipment (with some exceptions) with diesel oxidation catalysts, diesel particulate filters or similar retrofit equipment control technology and banned vehicles and equipment from idling more than 5 minutes.
DAN RYAN EXPRESSWAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The 2003 Dan Ryan Reconstruction Project in Chicago was the first project by the Illinois Department of Transportation to incorporate clean diesel construction requirements. The project required contractors to use ultra-low sulfur fuel or retrofit their equipment with emission control devices. The Illinois Tollway has adopted these construction standards and is mandating the use of either ultra-low sulfur fuel or retrofit heavy construction equipment on the reconstruction and widening projects along the south Tri-State (I-80/294), the Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88) and the I-355 South Extension xv.

STATE AND LOCAL REGULATIONS

New York City’s Local Law 77 was the first city to adopt clean diesel construction requirements. The law, which was signed in December 2003, requires all contractors working on city public work projects to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel and retrofit their non-road vehicles, such as backhoes, bulldozers and excavation machines, with best available pollution technology vi.

STATE DOT REGULATIONS

Massachusetts Highway Department, Connecticut Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Transportation, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority all require retrofits and/or the use of clean diesel fuel on construction projects vii.

For more information about clean diesel construction requirements or the Illinois Campaign to Clean Up Diesel Pollution, please contact Ashley Collins, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, at 312-628-0202 or Andrea Rincon, Citizen Action/Illinois, at 312-427-2114 ext. 5.

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vii This requirement applies unless the vehicle or equipment is either EPA Tier 2 Rule compliant or meets certain horsepower/model year requirements.