

March 5, 2012

EMA Statement on NCI/NIOSH Diesel Exhaust in Miners (DEMS) Paper

EMA and its member companies welcome and support research that adds to our knowledge about our products and the effect of emissions on air quality and human health.

EMA has not had the opportunity to thoroughly review the most recent NCI/NIOSH papers and cannot comment on their specific results or conclusions. However, we are concerned that the results of the papers released March 2, 2012, will be reported without a critical eye on the methods, science, and unique circumstances of this study or the full body of scientific literature. The recently released DEMS papers provide but one more research result to the very extensive set of literature on diesel health effects amassed over the last 30 years.

EMA previously identified a number of issues surrounding development of the exposure analysis that raise questions about the historical exposure data that serve as the basis for the study. The merits and relevance of DEMS must ultimately be determined by the greater scientific community, and EMA believes that an independent, unbiased scientific peer review of the study and its results is warranted.

It also is important to consider the DEMS results in context. The key exposure period for the study was 30-50 years ago and probably included engines older than that. Since that time, the US EPA has implemented increasingly tighter emissions standards that today are the most stringent in the world. The needed independent review of the DEMS results should look closely at whether its conclusions can be generalized to present levels of diesel exhaust in the environment (since the levels under study in the mines were orders of magnitude greater than any levels of diesel exhaust under ambient conditions). The data from DEMS also requires re-analysis based on the remarkable differences between the methodologies and conclusions in that study and those from the multitude of previous peer reviewed studies.

EMA has a long history of working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) to support solid scientific work in this area and to implement stringent diesel engine emission standards. EMA has sponsored the Advanced Collaborative Emissions Study (ACES) to comprehensively study current technology diesels. That study includes the full participation and input of the EPA, U.S. Department of Energy, CARB and other stakeholders on the study design, methods, and analysis as well as independent management and oversight review by the Health Effects Institute. We believe that the NCI/NIOSH study should undergo a similar review process to assure the validity of the study's conclusions.

EMA urges care in reaching any conclusions or applying the results of the DEMS study before a full and open scientific review of the study is completed.