

Public Notice
Mississippi Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39225
Telephone No. (601) 961-5171

Public Notice Start Date: February 15, 2019
Deadline for Comment: March 26, 2019

MDEQ Contact: Elliott Bickerstaff

Please take note that the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (“MDEQ”) is providing for comment the State of Mississippi’s proposed Volkswagen Beneficiary Mitigation Plan describing Mississippi’s goals and strategies in spending its portion of funds from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust. VW established the Mitigation Trust Fund, in part, to settle claims under the Clean Air Act that it sold vehicles with “defeat devices” designed to cheat emissions tests for its diesel vehicles. Gov. Phil Bryant has designated MDEQ as the agency to administer the state’s portion of the funds (\$9,874,414 out of the \$2.9 billion Environmental Mitigation Trust) to implement air emissions reduction projects. The funds from the trust will be used to fund mitigation projects to replace older diesel emission sources with cleaner technology to reduce excess nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and improve air quality in Mississippi. Mississippi intends to distribute funds through a project application and selection process, open to all eligible mitigation action categories.

The proposed plan may be reviewed from February 15, 2019, through March 26, 2019 in the offices of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, 515 E. Amite St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201 by contacting Mr. Lorenzo Boddie, Public Records Administrator at the address and telephone number listed above. The draft report may also be found on the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality’s website at <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/vw-mitigation-trust>.

Persons wishing to comment on the plan are invited to submit comments in writing to Elliott Bickerstaff at the address shown above, no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 26, 2019. All comments received by this date will be considered in preparation of the final submission of the plan to Wilmington Trust. Three regional public hearings will be held as additional opportunities for comment. For the central Mississippi region, a public hearing will take place in the Commission Hearing Room at MDEQ, 515 E. Amite St., Jackson, Mississippi 39201 on Monday, March 18, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. For the north Mississippi region, a public hearing will take place at the Batesville Public Library, 206 Highway 51 North, Batesville, MS 38606 on Thursday, March 26, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. For the south Mississippi region, a public hearing will take place in the Public Meeting Room of the Bolton State Office Building, 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530 on Tuesday, March 21, 2019, at 1:30 p.m.

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you know will be interested.