

## ENERGY ALERT

### **PA DEP NOW ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS FROM NATURAL GAS VEHICLE PROGRAM**

As of December 1, 2012, the Department of Environmental Protection will begin accepting applications for its Natural Gas Vehicle Grant program, which will provide up to \$20 million over the next three years to help pay for the incremental purchase and conversion costs of heavy-duty natural gas fleet vehicles.

Under PA Act 13, in the first year, \$10 million in grants will be available, \$5 million of which is slated for local transportation organizations, including non-profit agencies providing public transportation services and public transportation, port and redevelopment authorities. Non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, local transportation organizations, state-owned or state-related universities, Commonwealth or municipal authorities and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission will be eligible to apply for the remaining amount.

An additional \$7.5 million in funding will be available the second year, with \$2.5 million the third year.

Under Act 13, eligible heavy duty vehicles must weigh 14,000 pounds or more and be fueled with compressed natural gas or liquefied natural gas. Bi-fuel vehicles are eligible and are subject to the same 14,000 pound weight restriction according to the DEP even though Act 13 does not specifically require such a weight restriction on bi-fuel vehicles.

Grant awards will be capped at 50 percent of the incremental purchase or retrofit cost per vehicle, with a maximum total of \$25,000 per vehicle. The incremental purchase cost is defined as the difference between a vehicle eligible for these grants and one powered by traditional fuels, such as diesel or gasoline.

For this first year, grant applications are due **February 1, 2013**. Grants will be awarded in late March 2013.

If your company needs assistance in preparing the grant application or wants further advice on natural gas vehicles, please contact the names of attorneys set forth below at Eckert Seamans.

#### **ECKERT SEAMANS' NATURAL GAS VEHICLE PRACTICE GROUP**

Our firm's Natural Gas Vehicle practice group is dedicated to the development of a growing, sustainable and profitable market for vehicles powered by natural gas.. We are focused on assisting and representing companies interested in the promotion and use of natural gas as transportation fuels or energy sources, including: local port authorities, trucking companies and

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transporters, vehicle and equipment manufacturers; fleet operators and service providers; natural gas distributors and producers. We strive to help industry create and develop a profitable, sustainable and growing market for vehicles powered by natural gas and hydrogen.

For more information regarding our Natural Gas Vehicle Practice Group, please contact the following attorneys:

Jeffrey J. Norton at 717.237.7192 or [jnorton@eckertseamans.com](mailto:jnorton@eckertseamans.com)  
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*This Energy Alert is intended to keep readers current on matters affecting energy, and is not intended to be legal advice. If you have any questions, please contact one of the attorneys listed above, or any other attorney with whom you have been working.*

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