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Health Assessment Document for Diesel Emissions

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National Center for Environmental Assessment-Washington Office
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC

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PREFACE

This draft health assessment was prepared by the National Center for Environmental Assessment-Washington Office, which is a risk assessing program in the EPA's Office of Research and Development. This assessment has been prepared for EPA's Office of Mobile Sources which has mandates to consider the health hazards associated with diesel engine use in vehicular transportation. As diesel exhaust emissions also affect air toxics and ambient particulate matter, other EPA air programs also have an interest in this assessment. An earlier draft of this assessment was released for public comment in December 1994, and the Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) met in public session in May 1995 to review the draft. This February 1998 draft builds on the 1994-1995 history.

The scientific literature search for this assessment is generally current through December 1997 for the health chapters and is generally current through early 1995 for the background chapters dealing with emission characterization. The health assessment document series is not intended to be encyclopedic, rather the focus is on key studies and thus, the health assessment series is less comprehensive than some other types of assessments prepared by EPA.

This February 1998 version of the assessment will be reviewed a second time by CASAC and then EPA will finalize the document.

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