

Important News Regarding Opportunity to Submit NONROAD Corrections (related to NIF export tool error) and MOBILE and NONROAD Input Data for the 2002 NEI:

On August 8, 2004, the Emission Factor & Inventory Group sent out a NEI listserv announcement entitled "Cautionary Note regarding NIF Output from Draft NONROAD2004" that warned about errors generated by the NIF export function included with the NONROAD model. In particular, the listserv said, "For some as yet undetermined reason the NIF export function sometimes multiplies the HC output by 100 for one or a few equipment types (SCCs). The SCCs affected are not consistent. Thus we recommend at least spot checking the NIF HC outputs by comparing the NIF HC totals to the HC totals from the main reporting utility reports or to the raw model outputs contained in the *.OUT files generated by the core model."

Since that time, EFIG has been working with the Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) to determine the source of and remedy for the error. We have collected relatively few output files from state/local agencies for comparison to resultant emission files generated using the NIF export function. We have had limited success in evaluating the resultant errors. We have made the following conclusions:

- The error is limited to HC (and resultant VOC) output only: no other pollutants are affected.
- The error can occur using NONROAD2002a, as well as NONROAD2004.
- Emissions calculated via the NMIM model (including the EPA preliminary 2002 NEI) are not effected by the error.

OTAQ is working to revise the NIF tool to correct the error described above, as well as to include other updates (e.g., emissions in scientific notation and tons). We will send another listserv announcement when the revised NIF tool is available.

In order to address any corrections needed because of the NIF export tool error, and as a general practice to improve EPA's ability to estimate mobile source emissions with the best possible information, EFIG will accept the following submittals from state/local/tribal agencies:

1. Until October 15, 2004, agencies may submit nonroad emissions data corrections in cases where the NIF export tool has caused errors.

Any emissions corrections, related to the NIF export error only, received by that date will appear in the February 2005 draft of the 2002 NEI. We request that only the corrected records be submitted and that they be in the NIF3.0 nonroad format. We have summarized the NONROAD model emissions submittals by state to indicate, where known, the version of NONROAD used and whether the NIF export function was used to prepare the NIF3.0 nonroad submittal. The results of any EPA comparisons are also provided. This table is available at the following web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html#nonroad>

Also, to help agencies determine if their NIF outputs are affected by this error, EPA is making available a MS Access database tool (postprocessor) that aggregates records of raw NONROAD output (.OUT) files into county/SCC totals for comparison to the corresponding NIF inventory values. This tool and instructions on its use are available from the NONROAD model web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/nonrdmdl.htm>.

2. Until May 1, 2005, agencies may submit input data to be used in NMIM.

By submitting input data rather than emissions, agencies can best insure local input parameters will be reflected in the NEI emissions estimates and that the estimates will be the product of the most current NMIM version available. Any input data submitted between now and the end of the next review period (May 1, 2005) will be used in NMIM runs performed after May 1, and will not be reflected in the February 2005 release of the 2002 NEI. Input data may be submitted for MOBILE and/or NONROAD, but must be submitted in the format outlined for NMIM database submittals (see <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/2002inventory.html#nmim>, "Instructions to State and Local Agencies for Updating the County Level Database from EPA's National Mobile Inventory Model: Technical Memorandum"). We plan to provide updates to these instructions as well as the most recent version of the NMIM county level database in October. Another listserv announcement will inform you of their availability. We ask that submitters include only input data that improves EPA defaults and no data that duplicates EPA defaults. We also ask that submitters include word processor, text, or .pdf files that explain what inputs are provided and references the input data source(s).

All submittals must come through CDX (see details at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nif/cdx.html>). For any agency that has not already or does not submit (1) emissions estimates or (2) model input data, we will use NMIM emission results that EPA generates based on EPA default input data. The next version of the 2002 NEI ("the draft 2002 NEI") is scheduled for release February 1, 2005. During the review period that follows that release (through May 1, 2005), we plan to accept only NMIM data base inputs for MOBILE and NONROAD source revisions. For all other source sectors, NIF emission revision files may be submitted.

If you have questions or concerns about the content of this announcement or the mobile source sector of the NEI in general, contact Laurel Driver at 919.541.2859 or driver.laurel@epa.gov.