

Frequently Asked Questions: Air Quality

Q What is the method for determining the effects on air quality due to the B&P Tunnel Project?

- A**
- To determine the effects on air quality due to the Project, the Project Team is comparing emissions from diesel train traffic through the study area with and without the new tunnel.
 - Because electric locomotives have no local emissions, only the increase in diesel locomotives affects air quality.

Q How many more diesel trains would travel through the new tunnel?

- A**
- In 2014 there are 145 trains each day of which approximately 35 are diesel.
 - In 2040, with no new tunnel there would be approximately 194 trains each day, of which 84 would be diesel. With a new tunnel, there would be approximately 388 trains each day, of which 166 would be diesel.

Q Will the additional diesel trains result in a significant change in the amount of air emissions?

- A**
- Four types of air pollutants are emitted by diesel locomotives: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, volatile organic compounds (a precursor to ozone), and particulate matter.
 - With additional trains made possible by a new tunnel, the net change in the emissions of these four key air pollutants will occur, but will be within allowable federal thresholds.

Q What are the effects on air quality in the vicinity of the vent plants?

- A** Technical analysis of this issue is on-going, and the analysis is not complete. Results will be shared with the public once the analysis is complete.

Q Would the additional air emissions create a public health impact?

- A** Technical analysis of this issue is on-going, and the analysis is not complete. Results will be shared with the public once the analysis is complete.