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CONTACT: ESF 14, Public Information, (850) 921-0384

EPA GRANTS FUEL WAIVER FOR PANHANDLE WITH APPROACH OF HURRICANE DENNIS

TALLAHASSEE -- To maximize fuel distribution and availability with the approach of Hurricane Dennis, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, granted Florida a temporary waiver of certain fuel requirements under federal guidelines.

The EPA is exercising its enforcement discretion to temporarily allow regulated parties to supply motor vehicle diesel fuel exceeding the sulfur content standard for highway use under the Clean Air Act to Florida counties west of the Apalachicola River.

The temporary easing of restrictions will maximize the supply of diesel fuel to emergency vehicles and utility repair vehicles during the response to anticipated impacts from Hurricane Dennis.

In addition, EPA also eased the requirements on certain areas of the state to sell gasoline meeting a strict vapor standard during high-ozone season. Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, which are required to sell gasoline meeting a strict vapor standard during the May to September high ozone season, may sell non-compliant gasoline.

The waivers will be in effect until midnight July 18, 2005. However, retail outlets or wholesale purchase consumers who receive the non-compliant fuels may continue selling it or dispensing it until their supplies are depleted.

For more information, visit www.floridadep.org.

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