



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.  
Washington, DC 20590

October 10, 2008

TO THE PARTY ADDRESSED:

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards required by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. NHTSA recently proposed standards for model year (MY) 2011-2015 passenger cars and light trucks (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; *73 Federal Register* 24,352, May 2, 2008).

The FEIS compares the environmental impacts of the agency's Preferred Alternative and reasonable alternatives, including a "No Action" Alternative, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, and implementing regulations issued by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The FEIS considers direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and describes these impacts to inform decisionmakers and the public of the environmental impacts of the various alternatives.

Among other potential impacts, NHTSA analyzed the direct and indirect impacts related to fuel and energy use, emissions, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and its effects on temperature and climate change, air quality, natural resources, and the human environment. NHTSA also considered the cumulative impacts of the proposed standards for MY 2011-2015 passenger cars and light trucks, together with estimated impacts of NHTSA's implementation of the CAFE program through MY 2010 and NHTSA's future CAFE rulemaking for MY 2016-2020, as prescribed by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

In developing the proposed fuel economy standards and reasonable alternatives, NHTSA considered the four EPCA factors underlying the statutory requirement for "maximum feasible" standards (technological feasibility, economic practicability, the effect of other Government standards on fuel economy, and the need of the Nation to conserve energy) and relevant environmental and safety considerations. NHTSA used a computer model that, for any given model year, applies technologies to a manufacturer's fleet until the manufacturer achieves compliance with the standard under consideration. In light of the EPCA factors, NHTSA assigned monetary values to relevant externalities (both energy security and environmental externalities, including the benefits of reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions).



NHTSA is mailing this EIS to approximately 300 interested parties, including Federal, State, and local agencies, elected officials, environmental and public interest groups, Native American tribes, and other interested individuals.

Chapter 1 of the enclosed FEIS describes the public comment process. Comments on the DEIS and NHTSA's responses to those comments are provided in Chapter 10 of this FEIS. Written comments and the public hearing transcript can be viewed in their entirety in Appendix D of this FEIS. The transcript from the public hearing and written comments submitted to the agency are also a part of the administrative record, and are available on the Federal Docket, which can be found on the web at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Reference Docket No.: NHTSA-2008-0060.

No sooner than 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the *Federal Register*, NHTSA will publish a final CAFE rule and Record of Decision.

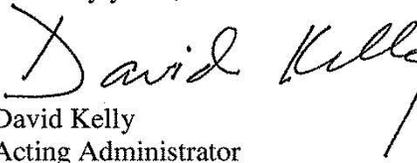
The FEIS has been placed in NHTSA's public files and is available for distribution and public inspection at:

DOT Library, W12-300  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building  
Washington, DC 20590

A limited number of hard copies and CD-ROMs of the DEIS and this FEIS are available from the DOT Library. The DEIS and this FEIS are also available for public viewing on the CAFE Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>. NHTSA is mailing copies of the FEIS to parties on its CAFE NEPA mailing list, including Federal, State, and local agencies; representatives of Native American tribes, industry, and public-interest groups; and individuals who requested a copy of the DEIS or provided comments during the EIS scoping period or the DEIS public comment period.

Additional information about the project is available from NHTSA's Fuel Economy Division, Office of International Policy, Fuel Economy and Consumer Programs, at 1-202-366-5206 or on the NHTSA CAFE Web site identified above. For assistance, please contact NHTSA through the following Website: <https://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/email.cfm> or toll free at 1-888-327-4236 (for TTY, contact 1-800-424-9153). The NHTSA CAFE Web site also provides access to the texts of formal NHTSA documents, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

Sincerely yours,

  
David Kelly  
Acting Administrator

Enclosure