

MEMORANDUM

To: MOVES Task Force
From: Jinchul (JC) Park
Date: October 14, 2010
Re: Follow-up on Start Emissions Analysis (draft)

This memo is to present the response from EPA to our question about the MOVES default start rates. We sent an email inquiry on August 13, 2010 to Gary Dolce, EPA requesting guidance as to how to go about overriding the MOVES default vehicle start rates since the default start rate per vehicle is twice as much as the local Fairfax County start rate per vehicle. Using the default start rate would result in over-estimating vehicle start emissions. MOVES assumes about six starts per passenger vehicle during weekday while an average of three starts per vehicle were reported in Fairfax County based on the 2007/2008 Household Travel Survey. We tried to override the default start rates but so far have been unsuccessful. We presented the status of the start emission analysis at the September MOVES Task Force meeting.

In response to our email for assistance and guidance, David Brzezinski, EPA, sent an email on September 27, 2010 and his email states,

“...Actually changing the MOVES defaults for starts per day is complicated. We have not yet developed guidance or instruction on how to do this. Because of the interaction between the various tables, it is not possible to simply enter a replacement estimate for the trips per day per vehicle. To date, we haven't been aware of areas with reliable local trip information that differs significantly from the MOVES defaults-- but if this is the case for MWCOG, please let us know and we can make developing these instructions a higher priority.”

In our reply to the EPA we requested that EPA provide a method to override the MOVES default rates or include a feature in County Data Manager (CDM), so that we may import local start rates. MOVES2010a, the latest version of the model EPA recently rolled out has a feature in CDM that allows a MOVES modeler to import local start rates. However, more thorough tests should be executed before moving to MOVES2010a based on the debugging experience we had when moving to MOVES2010 from MOVES2009. DTP staff suggest that we wait for the formal guidance form EPA about the application of local start rates.