

## OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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### **A Message from the Commissioner Regarding NY's Volkswagen Settlement**

Clean air is essential to our health, productivity and economic prosperity. New York has made it a priority to reduce harmful air pollution, especially in light of global climate change.

Through the strong efforts of Governor Andrew Cuomo and our dedicated staff, New York State has made great progress in cutting air pollution, and our air has become much cleaner. We are a national and global leader in reducing emissions that impact people and our environment. Much of this progress comes from strict emissions standards placed on industry, including car makers, that have spurred innovation and the development and use of cleaner technologies.

Unfortunately, companies sometimes try to skirt these strong rules and regulations at the expense of public health and the environment. Volkswagen rigged equipment in specific models of diesel vehicles to make it appear those vehicles met emissions standards, when, in fact, they far exceeded the limits set to protect air quality.

In response to this egregious act, New York joined the federal government in taking action against the company to mitigate the negative air impacts caused by their actions. Under the federal Volkswagen Settlement reached, New York received \$127.7 million which we will use to jumpstart transformation of our transportation system to clean energy by promoting greater use of electric vehicles (EVs) and other important steps to reduce emissions from the transportation sector and improve air quality. As outlined in the following plan, these investments, in total, will reduce NOx emissions - a component of smog - by an estimated 4,500 tons. In addition, carbon dioxide emissions associated with all-electric vehicle replacements will be reduced by an estimated 130,000 tons.

Governor Cuomo is leading the transition of our transportation system from petroleum to cleaner energy sources. Through his bold actions supporting the production of cleaner vehicles and building a statewide recharging infrastructure for EVs, the number of EVs sold in New York has increased 61 percent from 2016 to 2017, and is poised to keep growing.

DEC will continue to work with state, federal and local partners from Long Island to Buffalo to create a cleaner transportation system for all New Yorkers. We are grateful for the public feedback we received thus far, and look forward to more extensive public input on this important plan.

With this settlement funding, we will be poised to generate extensive environmental benefits from these investments in a clean transportation system that will lead to a healthier environment for all.

**Basil Seggos**

Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

