

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
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Subject: DOT moves forward with next phase of CAFE standards

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The Transportation Department is preparing to issue the next slate of fuel economy standards for model year 2022-2025 cars.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will take public comment on what information it should consider when preparing an environmental impact statement for the next phase of CAFE standards, according to a [notice](#) to be published in Wednesday's Federal Register.

Once NHTSA finishes the environmental review, it will propose and finalize new standards for those model years.

The CAFE standards are on a different review schedule than a companion rule on vehicle greenhouse emissions from EPA, which set requirements through model year 2025. NHTSA by law can only set fuel economy standards in blocks of up to five years at a time, meaning the agency was always going to have to write new CAFE rules starting with model year 2022.

The Obama administration said in January, more than 14 months ahead of schedule, that EPA would leave its greenhouse gas standards for 2022-2025 vehicles in place, but after requests from automakers the Trump administration has reopened that review, which is due April 2018. If EPA decides to weaken the standards, the decision will be open to a court challenge.

NHTSA says it plans to consider eight possible CAFE standards, including one that would simply continue the 2021 standard "indefinitely."

The Sierra Club has already blasted that possibility, saying the standards must continue to tighten to protect the environment.

WHAT'S NEXT: NHTSA will accept comment for 30 days on the scope of its environmental rule for the next round of CAFE standards.

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