

Clean Fuels Ohio Awarded \$11 Million in Federal Recovery Act Funds for Cleaner, Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Fueling Infrastructure Development

Columbus, OH,— On August, 26, 2009, Vice-President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. Department of Energy has awarded \$11.04 million in economic stimulus funding to Clean Fuels Ohio through the U.S. DOE Clean Cities Grant program. Funds will be used to support the deployment of 283 alternative fuel and advanced technology vehicles plus refueling infrastructure for 26 government and private sector partners throughout Ohio. Including matching support from local partners and additional industry supporters, the award embodies an investment of nearly \$30 million in alternative fuel vehicle and infrastructure projects across the state.

In all, the DOE selected 23 projects out of 90 considered for awards of up to \$15 million each. Five projects, including Clean Fuels Ohio's were from Midwestern states. The total awarded was nearly \$300 million. The Ohio project was fully funded at the level requested.

Featured technologies within Clean Fuels Ohio's project include: compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, battery and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (BEVs/PHEVs) and hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs).

- Propane: 112 vehicles and five refueling stations to be deployed by Ace Taxi Service, City of Cincinnati, Columbus Green Cabs, Columbus Regional Airport Authority, Moyer Industries, Pike-Delta-York Local Schools, Sharp Community Resources, and Cleveland Yellow Cab. Ferrell Gas will supply fuel for some of these projects. MedCorp Green will perform some of

Award Announcement continued on pg. 5

You are holding the last paper edition of *The Breeze*!

Beginning with the Winter 2010 edition, *The Breeze* newsletter will only be distributed in an electronic format. This effort will not only save trees and reduce waste, but will also give a larger pool of readers instant online access to the newsletter, helping to spread the word about local air quality!

To help make this conversion to the web as smooth as possible, the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (HCDOES) is developing an email distribution list from the current subscribers of *The Breeze*. If you would like to receive *The Breeze* via

Last Paper Edition continued on pg. 3

Table of Contents

- Permits & Enforcement: Pg. 2
- Staff Updates: Pg. 3
- Monitoring & Analysis: Pg. 4
- Education and Outreach: ... Pg. 6

Acronym Guide

AGO	Attorney General's Office
CASAC	Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
ERAC	Environmental Review Appeals Commission
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
ppm	parts per million

Permits & Enforcement

Middletown Coke Company Public Meeting Update

by Mike Ploetz, ECS III, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

HCDOES participated in a public meeting September 2nd at the Finkelman Auditorium at Miami University in Middletown. This meeting was held to answer questions about a draft Permit To Install issued for the Middletown Coke Company and to accept comments on the application. Approximately 200 members of the public attended. HCDOES was represented by Brad Miller, Paul Tedtman and Mike Ploetz. Mike Hopkins and Alan Lloyd also attended representing Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA's Public Information Center provided Erika Wiggins and Heather Lauer to facilitate the meeting.

The permit application discussed would allow a 100 oven coke battery to be installed by SunCoke Energy on farmland adjacent to AK Steel property in Middletown. The coke battery would process as much as 900,000 tons of coal per year providing fuel for AK Steel's blast

furnace. The project has been much debated pitting those in the community who are eager for the new jobs that would be created and the steel-making jobs that would be secured versus those in the community concerned about negative environmental impacts, a decrease in property values and increased traffic and noise.

The Middletown Coke Company is a 350 million dollar plant which some sources say will provide over 700 construction jobs. Permanent positions at the plant are expected to number about 75. Ohio EPA cannot consider the potential for new jobs when reviewing permit applications or the impact on real estate values or an increase in noise or traffic from a project.

The meeting in September followed a meeting in August of 2008 where a draft permit for the same project was presented. The 2008 version of the application considered that

the Middletown Coke Company was not a major air pollution source because their partner, AK Steel, had previously shut down a large, highly polluting area of their facility. Although Ohio EPA issued a permit allowing construction of the new plant in November of 2008, SunCoke Energy halted construction of the coke ovens and submitted a second application that assumes the Middletown Coke Plant is a major new air pollution source.

Viewed as a Major New Source, the project would be subject to New Source Review and Prevention of Significant Deterioration regulations incurring stricter limitations and considerable additional expense. Ohio EPA is currently reviewing over 250 comments on the permit.

For more information on the Middletown Coke Company contact Mike Ploetz at mike.ploetz@hamilton-co.org or at 513-946-7752.

Odor Training

HCDOES staff participated in odor training given by Webster Environmental on August 19, 2009. Webster Environmental is a consulting environmental engineering firm from Louisville, Kentucky that specializes in odor studies. Buz Rush, a Professional Engineer with Webster, conducted the training class for HCDOES.

Webster has conducted hundreds of odor studies across the United

States, including successful projects at local companies in Cincinnati. The training included an overview on the causes of odors, common elements of odor studies, how to rank odor sources, dispersion modeling, and control options for odors. The presentation also included case studies, discussion, and answering questions from those in attendance. HCDOES participates in training exercises in order to respond to

citizen complaints and air pollution source inspection with additional knowledge about the complexities of odor science.

To report an odor, smoke, dust or other air quality complaint call 513-946-7777 or visit www.hcdoes.org to fill out an on-line complaint form.



Design Values: A design value is a statistic that describes the air quality status of a given area relative to the level of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Design values are especially helpful when the standard is exceedance-based because they are expressed as a concentration instead of an exceedance count, thereby allowing a direct comparison to the level of the standard. Design values are typically used to classify nonattainment areas, assess progress towards meeting the NAAQS, and develop control strategies.

Industry Insights

Have an OhioEPA Air Permit Under Appeal? House Bill 1 Attempts to Move Things Along.

by Bonnie Pray, ECS III, Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services

In July of 2009 Ohio's Budget Bill was passed, known as amended House Bill 1. Within this massive bill which resulted in many budget cuts across state agencies, there was a small but significant provision amending Ohio Revised Code 3745.05(F) to include strict time limits on the resolution of appeals submitted to the Ohio Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). The amended provisions include a timeline that requires ERAC to resolve appeals per the following schedule: 1) appeals submitted prior to April 15, 2008, must be resolved by December 15, 2009; 2) appeals submitted between April 15, 2008, and October 15, 2009, must be resolved by July 15, 2010; and 3) any appeals submitted after October 15, 2009, must be resolved within 12 months of submission.

There are hundreds of appeal cases in the system that pre-date April of 2008 which must be resolved by the end of 2009. If you have an old outstanding permit appeal issue which has not yet been resolved, expect that you will soon hear from your company's counsel, OhioEPA, and/or the Ohio Attorney General's Office (AGO) in an attempt to resolve your appeal. Our agency is working with OhioEPA to provide historical appeal information and permit documents needed for the case reviews in our four-county region. Appeal hearings are already underway at the State for the older cases. ERAC has issued orders limiting hearings to one hour total in an attempt to ensure they can complete the outstanding caseload by the end of the year. Parties must file brief case summaries prior to their hearings. Be prepared for short notice as ERAC attempts to move all these cases along.

To learn more about ERAC and to link to their current hearing docket, please see this website:

http://www.wapp.epa.ohio.gov/legal/erac_cover.html.

Last Paper Edition *continued from pg. 1*

email, please send your email address to kristy.kim@hamilton-co.org, "ATTN: The Breeze" as the subject line. *The Breeze* will also be available for viewing on the HCDOES website at www.hcdoes.org.

HCDOES looks forward to continuing to provide *The Breeze* to residents and businesses. Thank you for your cooperation during this important transition!

If you have any questions about this change or are unable to access *The Breeze* electronically and would like to receive a paper copy of future editions, please contact Kristy Kim, Public Relations Specialist, at 513-946-7754.

Staff Updates

NEWLY HIRED:

HCDOES is proud to welcome Glenn Laws, Permits and Enforcement intern. Glenn started with P&E on August 20th.

LONGEVITY AWARDS:

August also marked a milestone date for Administrative Secretary Sharon Lewis. Sharon celebrated her 20th year with HCDOES on August 9th.

Congratulations, Glenn and Sharon!

Programs & Resources Available

The AQMD has free air quality programs and resources available for all ages and groups. Be sure to remind your community groups, schools and libraries that they can request free resources or schedule presentations by calling 513-946-7754. More information is always available on our website! Visit www.hcdoes.org for resources available online.

Follow us on **twitter** at www.twitter.com/HCDOES

Become a fan on **facebook** at www.facebook.com/pages/Cincinnati-OH/Hamilton-County-Department-of-Environmental-Services-HCDOES/129972691602

Monitoring & Analysis

Attainment and Potential Redesignation of Ozone Pollution Standards

The Greater Cincinnati area is showing attainment for the 0.08 parts per million (ppm) 8-hour ozone standard. This is based on the current ambient monitoring data through September 14, 2009 for the three year period of 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Below are the current design values for all four counties:

Butler	0.082 ppm
Clermont	0.075 ppm
Hamilton	0.082 ppm
Warren	0.082 ppm

The design value is defined by U.S. EPA as the 3 year average of the annual 4th highest daily maximum 8-hour ozone average. While it is great news that the Cincinnati area has met standards for attainment, on September 16, 2009, the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would reconsider the 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. The ozone standards set in 2008 were not as stringent as recommended by EPA's panel of science advisors, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The Agency will propose any needed revisions to the ozone standards by December 2009 and issue a final decision by August 2010.

The reassessment affects both the "primary" ozone standard, designed to safeguard public health, and the "secondary" standard, intended to protect the environment. EPA issued the ozone standards on March 12, 2008, and set both standards at a level of 0.075 parts per million. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said in

a statement. "Reconsidering these standards and ensuring acceptable levels of ground-level ozone could cut health care costs and make our cities healthier, safer places to live, work and play." Ground-level ozone is the primary component of smog and associated health effects from exposure include decreased lung function and aggravated asthma as well as increased emergency department visits, hospital admissions and premature death. The environmental effects linked with seasonal exposure to ground-level ozone include adverse effects on sensitive vegetation, forests and ecosystems.

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/> for more information on ozone standards.

8-Hour Ozone Exceedances - Southwest Ohio

Summer 2009
DATA NOT QUALITY ASSURED.

Date	Sycamore	Colerain	Batavia	Lebanon	Middletown	Hamilton	Taft	TOTAL
05/21	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
05/22	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
05/24	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
06/01	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
06/06	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	4
06/07	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
06/24	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
06/27	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	2	0	0	5	4	2	2	15

An exceedance of the 8-hour ozone standard is a reading of 75 ppb (or a 101 on the AQI) or higher.

Award Announcement *continued from pg. 1*

the conversions of gasoline vehicles to propane.

- **Compressed Natural Gas (CNG):** 91 vehicles plus eight refueling stations to be deployed by Ansonia City Schools, City of Columbus, City of Dublin, Friends Business Source, Industrial Fluid Management, Kramer Enterprises, Kirk Energy Group, the Mid-Ohio Foodbank, Rumpke, and Streakers Tractor Sales. Some of the natural gas will likely be biogas methane supplied from the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) Green Energy Center or through IGS Energy, a natural gas marketer.
- **Battery Electric Vehicles and PHEVs plus charging stations:** Thirty-eight battery electric vehicles and two PHEVs deployed by City of Hamilton, Columbus Regional Airport Authority, Frito Lay, Staples,

and Toledo Convention Center. Most of the battery electric vehicles are slated to be all-electric box trucks. AeroVironment, an Electric Vehicle charging system maker, is positioned to provide some of the charging systems.

- **Hybrid Electric Vehicles:** Forty vehicles to be deployed by City of Columbus, Energy Optimizers, Franklin County, Hamilton County, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The deployment of these 283 vehicles will displace an average of 875,927 gallons of petroleum fuel per year, with most fleets expecting vehicles to perform a minimum of 10 years service. This reduction in petroleum fuel directly relates to major reductions in harmful transportation emissions such as carbon dioxide, volatile organic carbons, nitrous oxide, particulate

matter, and others. The project is designed to stimulate broader, ongoing activity in all of these advanced transportation fuel and vehicle technologies.

Clean Fuels Ohio is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the use of cleaner, domestic fuels and efficient vehicles to the transportation industry, government officials and the general public. Clean Fuels Ohio provides technical support to transportation professionals, advocates for sustainable transportation energy policies and serves as a resource clearinghouse for fleets, policy makers and the public. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Clean Fuels Ohio works extensively around the state in collaboration with local partners. For more information about Clean Fuels Ohio, contact Sam Spofforth at (614) 884-7336 or visit www.cleanfuelsohio.org.

Smog Season History

The following is a breakdown of the smog-related activities for Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties in Ohio.
2009 DATA NOT QUALITY ASSURED.

Date	Number of Smog Alerts Issued	Number of Day Smog Alert in Effect	Number of 1-Hour Ozone Exceedances in OH Counties	Number of 8-Hour Ozone Exceedances in OH Counties	Number of PM2.5 Readings Over 35 ug/m ³ in OH Counties (24-Hour Average)
1995	9	19	9	76	-
1996	7	12	3	52	-
1997	5	10	3	40	-
1998	9	25	4	77	-
1999	7	27	3	83	-
2000	1	2	0	25	-
2001	4	9	1	24	-
2002	6	18	5	109	17
2003	1	2	2	36	22
2004	0	0	0	5	13
2005	3	8	1	40	38
2006	0	0	0	10	35
2007	6	24	0	38	32
2008	5	10	0	46	0
2009	2	3	0	15	2

Education and Outreach News

HCDOES Youth Council

The HCDOES Youth Council will hold its first meeting in October to kick off another year of environmental activities and idea exchange. High school students from a range of schools in the four-county region are participating and will have the opportunity to discover more about service learning projects that they can implement in their schools and communities. There are still openings for teacher or parent advisers for the Youth Council. For more information on the 2009-2010 Youth Council, visit www.hcdoes.org.



“Idle Free Zone” Campaign

HCDOES is pleased to announce a new campaign that will promote anti-idling and provide FREE permanent “Idle Free Zone” signs to schools and businesses. These standard-sized signs will be provided at no cost and can be posted in student pick up and drop off areas, loading zones or at any location where vehicles may be idling. HCDOES will provide participating schools and businesses with supporting materials and information regarding idling that can be shared with the community.

FREE Presentations and Materials Available

Looking for a speaker or exhibitor for your next meeting or event? Would you like free materials to distribute to your co-workers, staff or committee members? Contact Kristy Kim at (513) 946-7754 or kristy.kim@hamilton-co.org to request a free air quality presentation or to request copies of our publications. Presentations can be tailored to meet your time and content interests. For a list of available publications, please visit www.hcdoes.org.

The Community Breeze is published quarterly. Subscriptions are available at no charge. For more information or to subscribe, please forward name and e-mail address to kristy.kim@hamilton-co.org or call 513-946-7754.

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