

The Breeze



Greater Cincinnati Area Fails to Meet Clean Air Standards

By: Harry St. Clair, M&A Supervisor

The USEPA recently announced its intention to place 474 counties across the United States in non-attainment of the new 8-hour ozone standard. Nine counties in and around Cincinnati will be affected, including: Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren and Clinton counties in Ohio, and Boone, Kenton, and Campbell counties in Northern Kentucky, and Dearborn county in Indiana.

The agency is now implementing tougher clean air standards for ozone that were established in 1997 but were delayed in

court by lawsuits. The Supreme Court ruled in 2001 that the EPA can now implement the new standards.

The new standard is measured over an 8-hour period rather than the old 1-hour standard, and has a lower concentration level of .080 parts per million rather than .120 parts per million for the 1-hour standard. Health officials believe it will better protect the public, especially the elderly and children. The new 8-hour standard will take effect in June.

Clean Cities Coalition: New Home, New Coordinator

By: Sue Leitner, Clean Cities Coordinator

HCDOES is now home to the Tri-State Clean Fuels Network, one of more than 80 Clean Cities coalitions in the United States. Clean Cities is a voluntary federal program designed to accelerate and expand the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in urban communities. AFVs help reduce pollution and our country's dependence on imported oil.

A wide range of fuels are used in AFVs, including biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, methanol, hydrogen, natural gas (com-



Sue Leitner is the new Clean Cities Coordinator. To learn more, visit www.CleanCitiesCincinnati.org

pressed or liquefied), propane, and solar energy.

Local businesses, municipal governments, regional air quality organizations and others are Clean Cities stakeholders. They are concerned about energy security, the environment and our economic future. The United States Department of Energy sponsors the program, and offers financial support for

projects that result in adoption of clean fuels vehicles or the development of refueling stations.

Cincinnati Clean Cities will be working to

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Particulate Standard Update

In mid-February 2004, states and tribes submitted their recommended PM 2.5 "nonattainment" designations to USEPA. USEPA will review these recommendations and will respond to the states and tribes during the summer of 2004. By December 31, 2004, EPA will finalize the designations for the PM2.5 standards. Once nonattainment designations take effect, the state and local governments have three years to develop implementation plans designed to meet the standards by reducing air pollutant emissions contributing to fine particle concentrations.

For more information, please visit the following sites:
www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/state.htm,
www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/tribal.htm
www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/basicinfo.htm

Acronym Guide

USEPA	Environmental Protection Agency
AQMD	Air Quality Management Division
HCDOES	Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services
Ohio EPA	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Permits & Enforcement

The Facts on Air Quality Compliance Inspections

By: Alberta Mellon, P&E Area Supervisor

Air quality compliance inspections are conducted to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state air quality regulations. The inspection process actually begins at the inspector's desk. It is here that he/she reviews the facility's files to become familiar with its equipment, processes, emissions and compliance history

The inspector will also review rules and regulations and the unique permit conditions that govern its operation. In addition, the inspector confirms that all required reports have been submitted. Once this is completed, it is time for the inspector to gather the proper safety equipment and prepare to visit the inspection site.

Each inspection is unique, but generally follows similar guidelines. As the inspector approaches the inspection site, he/she looks for evidence of excess visible emissions (smoke). He/she also notices whether or not odors are present. Upon entry to the facility, the inspector meets with a facility representative and explains what the inspection process will entail. During this opening conference, the inspector discusses any problems discovered during the file review or any previous or ongoing non-



Environmental Compliance Specialist, Chad Powell, conducts an inspection.

compliance issues. This time is also spent discussing new or changing regulations. The inspector answers any preliminary questions the facility representative has during this time. Once this is completed, the inspector is escorted through the facility. The facility representative may be asked to describe particular processes noting how the equipment is used and maintained.

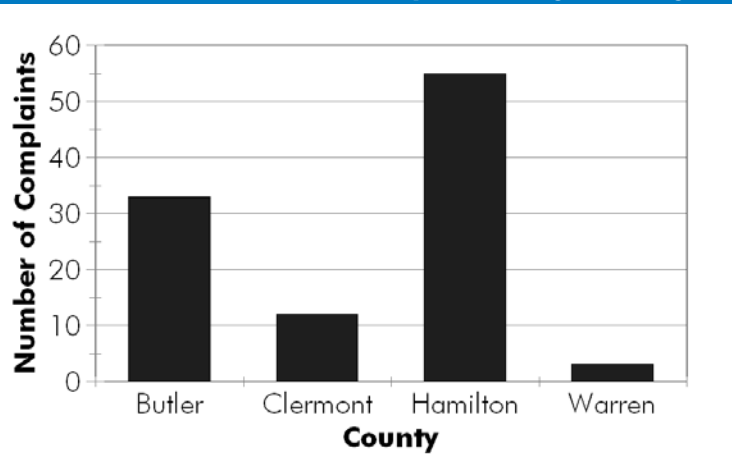
The inspector documents that the emission unit is following all permit terms and conditions. Any problems are documented in detail. Sometimes, the inspector will request copies of production records or other

relevant records. The inspector generally completes the inspection after gathering the needed information to make a compliance determination. Once completed, the inspector leaves the premises and returns to the office to write the inspection report.

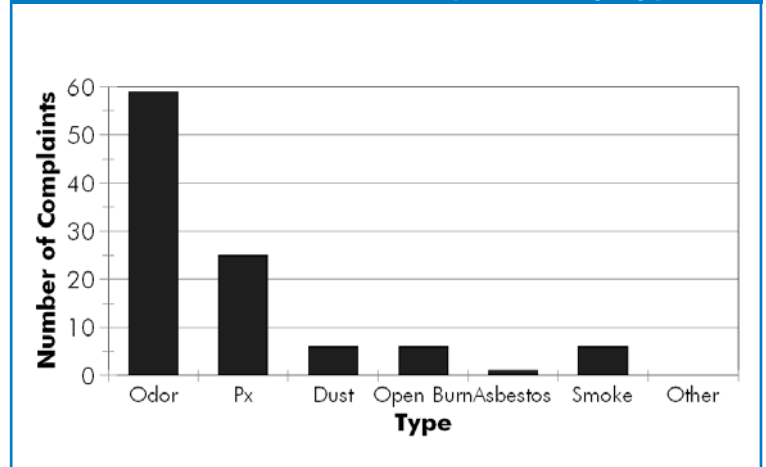
Should a facility inspection uncover violations of applicable regulations, the inspector begins the enforcement process by sending the facility a Notice of Violation (NOV).

For more information about local inspections or the inspection process, please call (513) 946-7777 or visit www.hcdoes.org.

Jan. - Mar. 2004 / Complaints by County



Jan. - Mar. 2004 / Complaints by Type



Spotlight on AQMD Staff Member Paul Tedtman

By: Gerald Fortson, Environmental Compliance Specialist

The name and face of Paul Tedtman, P&E Area Supervisor may seem familiar to some veteran employees of HCDOES. Paul worked for the agency more than two decades ago as an environmental scientist. "Back then, the agency was known as the Southwestern Ohio Air Pollution Control Agency, and performed solely air quality related duties," reflected Tedtman.

Today, he is part of the management team for HCDOES. As an area supervisor for Butler County, his position involves the oversight of a group of environmental compliance specialists who perform industrial inspections, review and process air permit applications, and respond to citizen inquiries. Reviewing all new permit to install applications for new and modified air pollution sources is his primary job responsibility.



Paul Tedtman, P&E Area Supervisor

Prior to an extensive career in air quality, Paul served in the United States Army. "While in the Army, I became interested in meteorology and decided to attend Penn State after my tour of duty," says Tedtman. Paul completed a Bachelor's Degree at Penn State, and went on to complete a Masters Degree in Environmental Science at the University of Cincinnati. Paul is a native of Cincinnati and attended Western Hills High School.

Is Pollen Problematic?

By: Lynn White, Public Affairs Specialist

Pollen from plants with bright flowers, such as daffodils, usually do not cause allergic problems. These flowers have large and waxy pollens that are carried from plant to plant by insects. For a plant's pollen to be an allergen, the pollen must be carried by wind, be light or buoyant enough to be carried long distances, and be produced in vast quantities. The pollen must also contain specific parts, called antigens, that cause allergic reactions. In addition, the plant must be widely and abundantly distributed. Many trees, most grasses, and certain low-growing weeds fit this description.

Each plant has a period of pollination, which does not vary from year to year, though weather conditions can affect the amount of pollen in the air at any one time. Trees, such as oak, walnut, and ash pollinate earliest, from February or March to April or May. Grasses follow next in the cycle, with pollination in May and continuing until mid-July. Weeds usually pollinate in late summer and early fall. Ragweed is considered to be the pollen most responsible for late summer and early fall hayfever in North America, but other weeds can cause pollen allergies, including sagebrush and pigweed.

The time of day can also affect allergy sufferers, as pollen is most prevalent between 5 a.m. - 10 a.m. To reduce symptoms, remain indoors during this time and close windows at night. Other tips include keeping car windows closed, avoid mowing grass, and avoid irritations, such as perfumes and tobacco smoke.

For today's pollen and mold count, visit www.hcdoes.org or call (513) 946-7753, or call (513) 946-7754 to receive a copy of the AQMD's *Living With Allergies* brochure.

Summertime Clean Air Tips



Grill Outdoors! Grilling with gas causes less air pollution, on average, than charcoal grills.

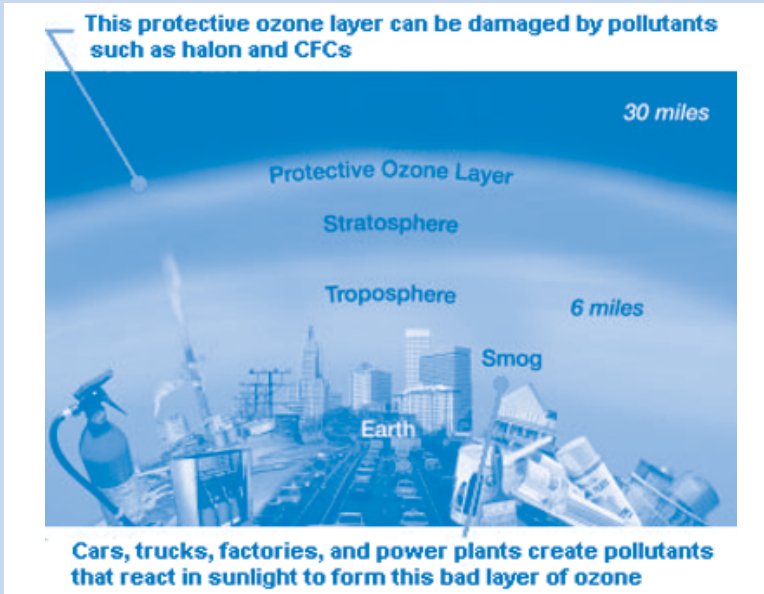
Pesticide Free Gardening! Try non-toxic alternatives such as organic fertilization, aeration or overseeding.

Change Your Schedule! Use gasoline-powered lawnmowers, blowers, edgers, chainsaws, and other motorized equipment in cooler evening hours to reduce smog-producing emissions.

Tune Up! Keep engines tuned up. Keep mower blades sharp and under-sides clean. Winterize equipment each fall.

Monitoring and Analysis

Ozone: Good Up high, Bad Nearby



By: Dawn Mays, Environmental Technician II

Hamilton County entered another ozone season (keep an eye out for the smog alerts when you are watching TV) on April 1. When you hear about ozone it may be confusing: what is good ozone and what is bad ozone? We are told about the danger of holes in the ozone layer. You may then hear about a possible ozone exceedence at one of the monitoring stations in the Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, or Warren county areas (meaning that our level of ozone exceeded the allowable healthy range established by the Clean Air Act of 1990). Is ozone a villain or hero?

Smog, or ground level ozone, is the problematic ozone. When oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) combine in the presence of sunlight, ground level ozone or "smog" is formed. VOCs are found in automobile emissions, paint fumes and the exhaust from gasoline-powered lawn equipment, as well as,

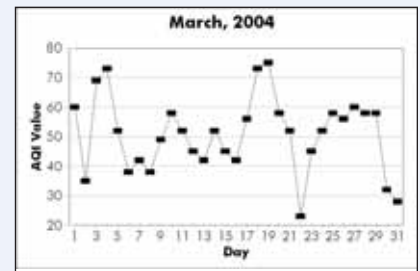
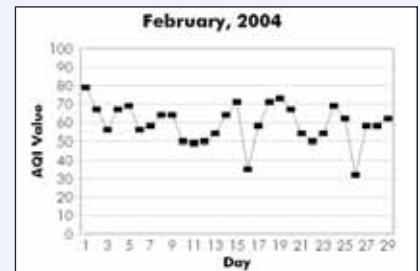
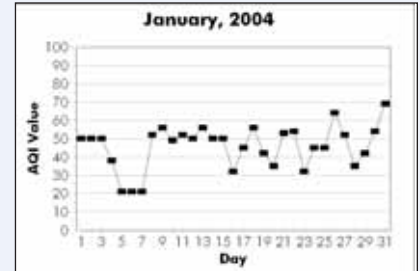
from other sources. Some sources of NOx emissions are automobiles and power plants. Smog is the villain because ground level ozone is an irritant to the mucous membranes and can cause or aggravate respiratory health problems.

Stratospheric ozone is the good version of ozone. When you hear references to the ozone layer, it means the stratospheric ozone that forms a protective layer high in the atmosphere between the ultraviolet (UV) rays of the sun and the earth's surface.

Chemically, both smog and stratospheric ozone are identical: O₃. It is a colorless gas with no odor unless it is near a high-energy source. This highly active form of oxygen reacts easily with living tissues (both plant and animals) and with many inanimate substances as well. The difference between smog and stratospheric ozone are their location. Just remember, good up high, bad nearby!

Air Quality Index

The AQI uses numbers from 0 to 500. A higher AQI number corresponds with more air pollution in the air. 0-50 is good, 51-100 is moderate and a number of 101-150 is classed as unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children or the elderly, see www.hcdoes for more details.



Stack Test Data

January:	8
February:	6
March:	11
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Total for 2004:	25

The Breeze has been presented with an Excellence Award from the National Association of County Information Officers. Congratulations to all the contributing AQMD staff!

Coordinator (cont'd from front)

build a coalition of interested stakeholders to identify existing and potential AFV fleets and refueling stations, and to ensure stakeholder commitments to the program.

To find out more about Clean Cities in Cincinnati, please visit

www.CleanCitiesCincinnati.org or contact Sue Leitner at (513) 946-7772 or by email at sue.leitner@hamilton-co.org. For more information about the national program, visit www.ccities.doe.gov.

Education and Outreach Update

The spring has been a busy season with several events including the Family Safety Round Up in Butler County, Earth Day at Sawyer Point, and several earth events at area colleges and schools.

Spring Workshops a Success!

The teacher's workshop held in conjunction with the Regional Ozone Coalition was a huge success, with 25 teachers returning to their schools with many new lessons and resources. Attending teachers learned about various health issues from the American Lung Association of Northern Kentucky, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments and the AQMD.

In April, Bonnie Pray, an environmental technician with the AQMD, held three seminars on permitting that were well attended and well received.

New AQ Resources

We have several new resources available, including our new brochure: *Air Pollution and Your Child*.

Upcoming Outreach

The summer is looking to be another busy season with numerous retirement communities, senior centers and local organizations calling to schedule our new air quality presentation. We are also scheduled at several area libraries, summer camps and community centers to provide various fun air quality programs. There are still dates available if you are interested in scheduling a speaker, so please feel free to call for information or to schedule a program.

Have a suggestion for The Breeze? Contact Lynn White at 513-946-7754 or visit www.hcdoes.org.



Acid Rain: Rain with a pH less than 5.6 is made when moisture in the air mixes with air pollutants (sulfur and nitrogen oxides) which are produced from the burning of fossil fuels and may cause damage to buildings, car finishes, crops, forests, and aquatic life. Acid rain is one form of acid deposition, other forms include dry acid deposition, acid snow, sleet, and fog.

Sulfur Dioxide: One of the six criteria air pollutants established by the USEPA, it is a gaseous pollutant and is formed primarily from burning fossil fuels, and is a precursor to the formation of acid rain.

Air Quality

Events & Meetings

Public Meetings

Visit www.hcdoes.org or our web calendar for a complete listing or call (513) 946-7777.

Meetings

Regional Ozone Coalition (ROC)

August 11th, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Location to be announced, contact Sarah Woller at (513) 621-6300

Air Quality Policy Advisory Committee (AQPAC)

August 18th, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

HCDOES Conference Rooms

Hamilton County Environmental Action Commission

1st Thursday of every month 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

HCDOES Conference Rooms

Events

Registration required for each of these events. Call (513) 946-7777 or visit www.hcdoes.org.

Computer Recycling Event

August 26-28, 2004

Register at www.hcdoes.org or call (513) 946-7732.

Great Outdoors Weekend

Visit our Alternative Fueled Vehicles display.

September 26, 2004, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. Mt. Airy Forest

Web Updates

Please visit our website at www.hcdoes.org or call (513) 946-7777 for updates!

M&A Coordinator Branches Out in New Air Quality Role



Anna Kelley, M & A Coordinator

By: Lynn White, Public Affairs Specialist

The M&A Quality Assurance and Monitoring Coordinator, Anna Kelley, has temporarily left the AQMD. Kelley will be working for the EPA for a year on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) leave, or as she describes it "an internship." Kelley will be working with the EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards in North Carolina on several projects, including assisting with updating the Quality Assurance

Handbook for Air Pollution Measurement Systems.

Through this position, Kelley will be able to lend insight to EPA into the day to day operations and the difficulties faced by air agencies when implementing the regulations and monitoring systems. We wish her the best of luck, and look forward to her return.

AQ Contest Wants to Make Air Visible

The AQMD's amateur photography contest is underway, have you sent in your entry yet? Winners will be selected from both a junior (under 18 years) and an adult competition for each of the three categories below:



- Air Pollution - show us why we need clean air.
- Clean Air - capture a beautiful clean day or actions that help to clean the air.
- Making Air Visible - use your imagination and make air visible to us all.

To learn more about this contest and to receive an entry form, please visit www.hcdoes.org or call (513) 946-7747. The Deadline is July 30, 2004.

HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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The Breeze is published quarterly. Subscriptions are available at no charge. Please forward name and address to Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services Contact lynn.white@hamilton-co.org for more information or call: (513) 946-7754, fax (513) 946-7779.