

The Breeze

COMMUNITY

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Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services Air Quality Management Division

Enforcement

101

by Whitney Ross, Public Affairs Intern

The Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services - Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) operates locally under the authority of the Ohio and United States EPA to ensure regulations are being followed. The Permits and Enforcement (P&E) section of AQMD is responsible for enforcing air pollution regulations for Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties and getting companies back in compliance when the standards are not met.

P&E's Environmental Compliance Specialists (ECSs) regularly perform inspections of companies in Southwest Ohio. These scheduled inspections are one way violations are discovered.

Inspection frequency is determined by a number of factors such as quantity of permitted emissions, compliance history and complaint history. As of December 14, AQMD staff performed 1,079 inspections in 2005.

Should an ECS determine the company is out of compliance, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued to the company. For less severe cases, a Certified Warning Letter (CWL) is sent. Depending on the case, the NOV recipient has from one week to 30 days to inform the AQMD as to its plans to resolve the issue.

An enforcement case can be handled locally or referred to the state for settlement. When handled locally, the AQMD

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works with the company to negotiate the final settlement. At the state level, the AQMD files an Enforcement Action Referral (EAR) to the Ohio EPA who then works to settle the case. If the case is still not resolved, the Attorney General's Office takes the case and determines the fine and the corrective actions.

As of November, 37 NOVs were issued in 2005. Six new cases were referred to the Ohio EPA and seven existing enforcement cases were settled resulting in \$127,030 in penalties.

For more information regarding the enforcement process or the AQMD, call Kerri Castlen at (513) 946-7738 or visit www.hcdoes.org.

New Year's Resolutions for Cleaner Air

As you work on sticking to your New Year's resolutions, why not add a few clean air resolutions? Here are some suggestions:

- Scrape before you start your car – by scraping ice off your car before you start the engine, you'll save money on gas and reduce air pollution.
- Don't open burn – open burning releases numerous harmful chemicals into the air.
- Lower your thermostat at bedtime – you will save 1% on your heating bill for every 1° you set back your thermostat. For every \$100 we pay for our electricity, we produce about 3,000 pounds of carbon monoxide, 8 pounds of nitrogen oxides, 26 pounds of sulfur dioxide and about 28 milligrams of mercury.
- Ride the bus – go to www.sorta.com to find bus routes that fit your schedule.

Acronym Guide

AQMD:	Air Quality Management Division
P&E:	Permits and Enforcement Section
GDF:	Gas Dispensing Facility
OEEF:	Ohio Environmental Education Fund
NOV:	Notice of Violation

Permits & Enforcements

LANXESS Study Results Released

by Nan McKenna, Public Affairs Specialist

On December 5, 2005, the Ohio EPA released its results from a seven-month study of the air quality surrounding LANXESS Corporation in Addyston, Ohio. The Ohio EPA determined that "an unacceptable health risk is posed by long-term [30 to 70 years] exposure to levels of certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs)" found in the air around LANXESS.

The Ohio EPA received the data from monitoring equipment overseen by the AQMD. In response to a series of three malfunctions at LANXESS in late 2004 and early 2005, the AQMD installed monitoring equipment on the roof of Meredith Hitchens Elementary School to determine the ambient concentration of various air toxics in this area. The monitor is one of four air toxics monitors operated by HCDOES in Hamilton

County. The other monitors are located in Lower Price Hill, Carthage and Winton Place.

LANXESS will install over \$2.5 million in new pollution control technology to reduce emissions leaks. HCDOES will continue to monitor the ambient air around LANXESS and will report those findings to the Ohio EPA and the public.

For more information on the Addyston monitoring, call Susan Aman at the Ohio EPA's Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160 or email Susan at susan.aman@epa.state.oh.us. To view monitoring data collected in Addyston, please visit the AQMD's website at www.hcdoes.org. Further information can also be found by visiting the Ohio EPA's website at www.epa.state.oh.us.

Queen City Barrel Update

The Queen City Barrel (QCB) fire, which took place over a year ago, is in the final stages of clean-up, according to the U.S. EPA. As of April 8, 2005, QCB had completed the removal and disposal of 28,436 empty drums. Steve Reninger, the U.S. EPA's On-Scene Coordinator for the fire, writes, "A total of 12,971 drums containing liquid and solid wastes were staged, sampled and hazard categorized for off-site disposal." For more information, please visit the U.S. EPA's on-scene coordinator website at www.epaosc.net.

HCDOES Hosts E-Check Public Hearing

by Nan McKenna, Public Affairs Specialist

On December 7, 2005, at the HCDOES offices, four citizens gave comments during the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) public hearing regarding its proposal to end E-Check inspections. As required by public hearing procedures, Ohio EPA staff documented the citizens' comments and will publish a response to the remarks.

Three Ohio EPA staff members were on-hand to oversee the hearing and answer questions following the hearing's official conclusion. The hearing took

place from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., and written comments were accepted until the close of business on December 7.

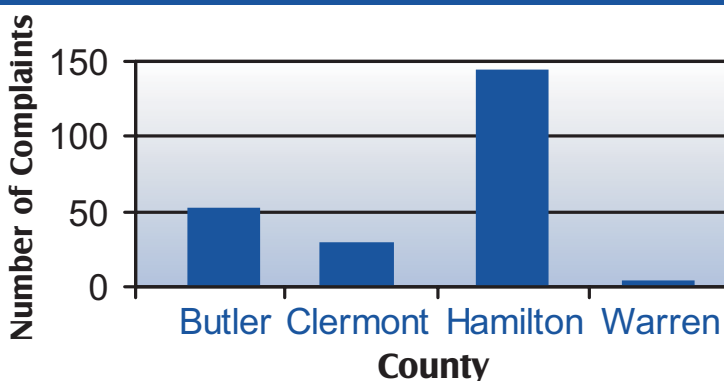
The Ohio EPA proposed ending E-Check and using alternative emission reduction programs to improve air quality in Southwest Ohio. Some of these alternative programs could require gas stations to sell cleaner burning gasoline from June to August, auto body shops to acquire new spray-paint equipment that releases fewer emissions and

manufacturers to use lower-evaporating solvents.

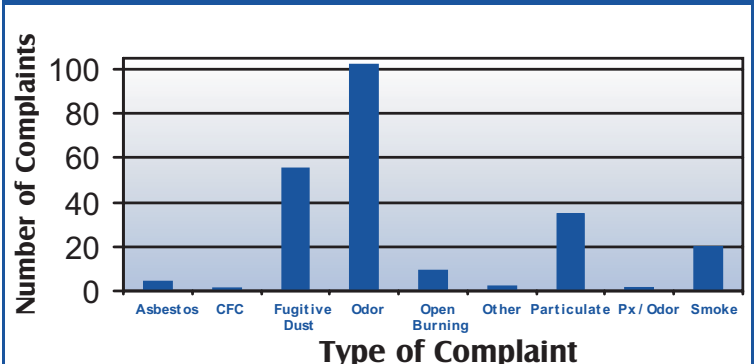
The U.S. EPA has not yet approved these new programs. All emission reduction plans created to replace E-Check must be in place by May 21, 2006.

For more information on the Ohio EPA's proposed alternative emission reduction programs, please visit the Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control's website at www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc.

July - September 2005



July - September 2005





Three HCDOES employees participated in marathons in 2005. Mike Ploetz (center), ECS II, ran in the Xenia Marathon in April and the Flying Pig Marathon in May. These races bring Mike's marathon total to three. Helen Gaynor (left), Systems Administrator, ran in her first full marathon in Chicago in October. Helen has run in three half-marathons. Chad McEvoy (right), Environmental Technician, ran the Indianapolis Marathon in October. Chad has participated in a marathon every year since 2003. Congratulations to Mike, Helen and Chad for seeing all their hard work culminate in the completion of these marathons!

Education and Outreach News

Education:

Teachers and school administrators are encouraged to contact Michelle White of Crystal Clear Science to schedule air quality presentations. This program is free to schools in Southwest Ohio thanks to a collaborative effort between HCDOES and the Regional Ozone Coalition (ROC). Presentations can be modified for grade level. Contact Michelle by phone at (513) 553-2252 or by email at crystalclearscience@direcway.com.

The School Breeze, AQMD's bi-annual newsletter for teachers, may go electronic. Educators, please send your comments about an electronic version of *The School Breeze* to nan.mckenna@hamilton-co.org.

Outreach:

HCDOES would like to visit your city council, club or library meetings and inform you about the AQMD and air quality issues in your area. Please contact Nan McKenna at (513) 946-7754 or at nan.mckenna@hamilton-co.org to schedule a presentation. Topics can range from a general explanation of the AQMD to clean fuels available in the area – just let Nan know what subjects you'd like addressed.



Correction: E85 fuel is a blend of 85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gas.

Open Burning: Any outdoor fire.

Top off: To continue to dispense gasoline into a car or truck's gas tank after the nozzle automatically clicks off.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): A variety of compounds, composed primarily of carbon and hydrogen, that evaporate easily into the atmosphere. VOCs are a component in the formation of ozone.

Air Quality Events & Meetings

Public Meetings

Please visit our calendar at www.hcdoes.org or call (513) 946-7777 for more information about public meetings.

Meetings

HAMILTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMISSION (HCEAC)

Date: Thursday, January 5, 2006
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: HCDOES Conference Rooms

For directions, call (513) 946-7777 or refer to www.hcdoes.org.

AIR QUALITY POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AQPAC)

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2006
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: HCDOES Conference Rooms

For directions, call (513) 946-7777 or refer to www.hcdoes.org.

METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT - PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSD-PAC)

Date: Friday, March 17, 2006
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Department of Industrial Waste Building
 Metropolitan Sewer District
 1600 Gest Street
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45204

For directions, contact Brandi Liermann at (513) 557-7001 or Linda Smith at (513) 557-7002.

Web Updates

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

Monitoring & Analysis

Testing Gasoline Dispensing Facilities

by Bart Wojas, Environmental Technician

Like factories, cars and dry cleaners, gas stations must also undergo inspections of their emissions reduction equipment. A Gasoline Dispensing Facility (GDF) is a retail service station where gasoline is dispensed into vehicle fuel tanks. According to the Ohio EPA's regulations, each GDF should have emission control equipment to prevent vapor releases into the atmosphere. The two types of equipment are:

- Stage I systems that control emissions during the storage and transportation of gasoline.
- Stage II systems that control emissions during vehicle refueling.

Gasoline vapor emissions occur when fuel is dispensed into the vehicles. Vapors in the fuel tank travel back through the vehicle fillneck and are emitted into the atmosphere. Stage II vapor recovery systems capture the vapors replaced during refueling and route them back to the underground tank. This technology allows for minimal pollutant releases, which makes it important to periodically test the equipment to assure its proper operation.

HCDOES keeps track of 685 GDFs located throughout Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties. Most service stations have Stage II systems in place and are subject to annual compliance inspections.

Gasoline continued on pg. 6

Where Mold Hides When It's Cold Outside

by Steve Damaska, Laboratory Analyst

Mold can be found almost anywhere. It can grow on any surface where moisture is present. Outdoors, mold living in the soil is important in the breakdown of leaves, wood and other plant debris. Mold produces tiny spores to reproduce. These spores waft through the indoor and outdoor air continually, and can cause allergic reactions in some people.

HCDOES' website (www.hcdoes.org) includes an outdoor mold count from February through late November. During the winter months of December and January, there is essentially no mold in the ambient air.

Although HCDOES monitors only outdoor air quality, indoor mold can cause problems for people during the winter. One third to one half of all buildings have damp conditions that encourage the growth of mold. People sensitive to mold should be aware of moldy smells and discoloration on the ceiling, walls, floors and window sills – signs of an indoor mold problem.

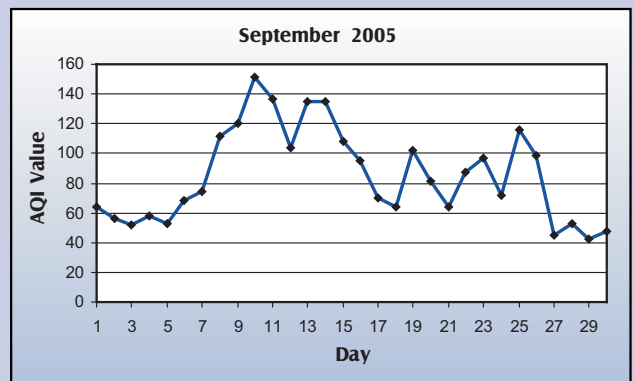
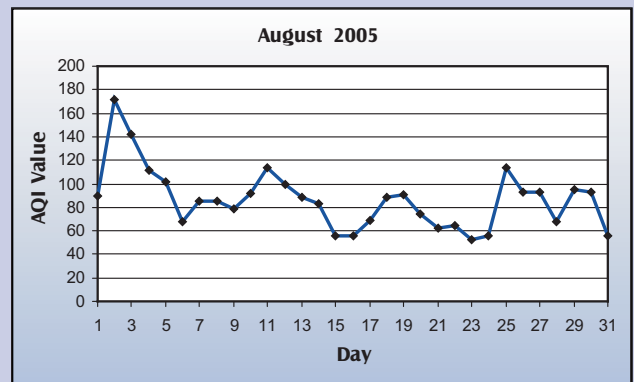
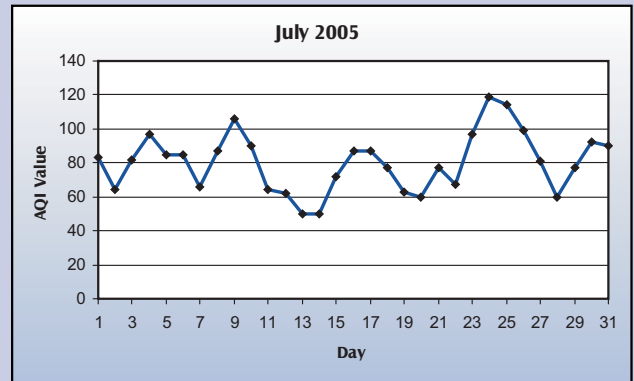
It is difficult, if not impossible, to eliminate all mold and mold spores in the indoor environment. For tips on dealing with indoor mold, please visit the U.S. EPA's mold website at www.epa.gov/mold/moldresources.html.

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.

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 classified as unhealthy for sensitive groups such as children or the elderly. See www.hcdoes.org for more details.



Stack Test Data

July	8
August	5
September	15
Current Total for 2005:	81

Clean Cities' Fall Review

by Kim Lahman, Clean Cities Coordinator

"Beyond a Billion" Event: On October 14, 2005, the Tri-State Clean Fuels Network (TSCFN) hosted the "Beyond a Billion" celebration at Ault Park. In conjunction with over eighty Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide, this milestone commemorated the displacement of one billion gallons of imported petroleum through the Coalitions' efforts. Willie F. Carden, Jr., Director of Cincinnati Parks, and Rep. Jean Schmidt pumped the symbolic one billionth gallon of clean fuel into a Parks lawn mower. Beginning in spring of 2006, Cincinnati Parks will fuel its lawn equipment with biodiesel.

"Life Cycle of Biofuels - Ride-n-Drive"

Event: TSCFN partnered with the Ohio State Extension of Clermont County to host the "Life Cycle of Biofuels - Ride-n-Drive" event at the Clermont County Fairgrounds in November. Over seventy farmers, fleet managers and transportation directors attended the event sponsored by GM, Ohio Corn Marketing Program, Ohio Soybean Council and Clermont County Farm Bureau. The dreary weather didn't deter any of the attendees from test-driving GM trucks and SUVs.

"Burst of Energy Day" at Paul Brown Stadium

The Ohio Soybean Council and the Ohio Corn Marketing Program, with support from TSCFN, joined forces with the Cincinnati Bengals and Greater Cincinnati Chevrolet dealerships to support the "Burst of Energy Day" at Paul Brown Stadium on November 20, 2005. With the aid of an E85-fueled Tahoe and a pick-up truck powered by soy biodiesel displayed in the Jungle Zone, fans had

the opportunity to learn about the advantages of these clean biofuels and what they can do to help lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

"Just the Facts" Series: On January 19, 2006, Tom Bach, Director of Transportation of Kenton County Schools, presented the facts and figures from his own experience related to the use of biodiesel in his fleet. The event took place at the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce in Ft. Mitchell, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Visit the newly redesigned Clean Cities website at www.cleancitiescincinnati.org. The website now contains information about industry trends, TSCFN membership, upcoming events and directories of clean fuels and vehicles.

AQMD Staff Changes

Bart Wojas is the new Environmental Technician in the Monitoring and Analysis (M&A) section of AQMD, where he previously worked as the M&A intern. Bart recently received his master's degree in paper science and engineering from Miami University.

Whitney Ross has joined the HCDOES staff as the new Public Affairs Intern. Whitney is in her junior year at Northern Kentucky University where she double-majors in public relations and journalism.

New Ohio EPA Grant Reduces School Bus Emissions in 2006

by Ken Edgell, Environmental Administrative Coordinator

The Ohio EPA has created the Clean Diesel School Bus Fund (CDSBF) which will begin distributing grants in 2006. The purpose of the CDSBF is three-fold:

1. To add pollution control equipment to school buses.
2. To maintain the installed equipment.
3. To pay the additional cost of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel if it is not available in the grant recipient's area.

These retrofitted buses will emit 40% - 90% less exhaust emissions than buses without the devices.

The funds will be distributed March 1st and September 1st of each year following a solicitation for grant applications. Priority will be given to school districts in nonattainment areas and districts that have operational anti-idling programs. Eligible school buses must be manufactured after 1994, be diesel-

Emissions continued on pg. 6



Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District Receives Iron Eyes Cody Award

by Whitney Ross, Public Affairs Intern

The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District won this year's Iron Eyes Cody Award which is presented by Keep Cincinnati Beautiful to organizations for their hard work in litter prevention, recycling and beautification of the city. In past years, this award has been presented to companies such as Proctor & Gamble, WKRC Channel 12 and Rumpke Recycling. Congratulations team, for a job well done and well deserved recognition!

Gasoline *continued from pg. 4*

A licensed testing company performs each Stage II vapor recovery test as an HCDOES inspector observes. The test usually lasts three hours, during which time the station closes to consumers. The test is composed of three parts:

1. Dynamic Backpressure Test
2. Pressure Decay Test
3. Air to Liquid Ratio Test

All three tests are designed to find faults and leaks in the vapor recovery system. If a leak is found and cannot be repaired immediately, the test is considered as failed.

Should a GDF fail any part of the test, the facility is sent a Notice of Violation (NOV) and is expected to make the necessary repairs within thirty days. A re-test will be performed at which time the GDF is expected to show compliance. Further violations may result

in enforcement action and penalties issued by the Ohio EPA.

One important aspect in the effectiveness of the vapor recovery systems involves the public's awareness about "topping off." Such action, which involves continued fueling after the automatic shut off, creates backpressure and causes the vapor recovery system to lose its effectiveness. Topping off can result in part of the pumped gasoline actually going back to the station's storage tanks – causing the customer to pay for gas that he or she does not actually get. During summer months, topping off contributes significantly to the formation of smog.

For more information on Stage I/II recovery systems, please visit the Ohio EPA's website at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/engineer/stgtc.html>.

Emissions *continued from pg. 5*

powered and must be driven no fewer than 5,000 miles per year.

The CDSBF is supported by 20% of all enforcement settlement fines from Ohio EPA's air, water and hazardous waste programs. The CDSBF will be administered through the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF). For additional information about the grant program, please contact Carolyn Watkins, OEEF Office Chief, at carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us, or at (614) 466-3768.

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