

Air Compliance News™

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From the Desk of...

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and Part-Time Trapper*

Don't Get Caught in a Trap

It's always interesting to get up on a crisp winter morning and run my small trap line. It's a humbling experience as well, since I usually come back with more stories about "just missing one" than I do furs.

My main targets are the local coyotes that local livestock and pose a threat to pets and other small animals. The intelligence of the coyote continually impresses me. I have learned a lot from these animals, and have applied all their *good* qualities to Air Compliance Testing:

- **Adaptability.** In addition to being able to adapt to (and thrive in) almost any environment, coyotes can also tolerate tremendous change. For most of us, change brings on stress, especially when it's not expected. Air Compliance Testing is always prepared for changes – even at the last minute. And there is no doubt that we are capable of thriving in any environment - high, hot, windy, dusty – we work in them all. Even yours.
- **Danger Avoidance.** Coyotes use all of their senses, plus a little instinct, to keep them from stepping in a dangerous place. We do that too, calling on our experience, technical ability, and research to keep us – and you – out of danger.
- **Nice fur.** Coyote fur in the middle of winter is thick and beautiful – a prized commodity. We like to think that Air Compliance Testing is like that too. We always put our best fur forward so the end result is a valid test.

So don't get caught in the trap of using a tester who won't respond to your requests, get you in trouble, and leave you with an inferior report. Select the adaptable, high quality testing company – Air Compliance Testing.



STARShip Redesign Planned

The Ohio EPA Division of Air Pollution Control has contracted with professional IT consultants to design a new Web-based permitting and reporting system that will replace the existing STARShip. The new system will incorporate the permit-to-install (PTI) process into a Web-based system.

EPA estimates that the entire process of re-writing and launching will take two years. You can read about it and get an update on other DAPC information by checking out the STARShip Newsletter at:
www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/starship/Winter2006.pdf

Not A 'Mickey Mouse' Study

Researchers showed that air pollution can be particularly damaging when coupled with a high-fat diet, according to an article in the Dec. 21, 2005 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In a study where mice breathed air as polluted as the air in New York City, the researchers "established a causal link between air pollution and atherosclerosis," said Lung Chi Chen, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental medicine at NYU School of Medicine.

The study looked at the effects of airborne particulate matter measuring less than 2.5 microns, the size linked most strongly with cardiovascular disease. The emissions arise primarily from power plants and vehicle exhaust.

The researchers then conducted an array of tests to measure whether the PM2.5 exposure had any impact on the mice's cardiovascular health. Overall, mice who breathed polluted air fared worse than those inhaling filtered air did. But when coupled with a high-fat diet, the impact of PM2.5 exposure was even more dramatic. The results added up to a clear cause and effect relationship between PM2.5 exposure and atherosclerosis, according to the study.

Read the rest of the story at:
www.med.nyu.edu/communications/news/pr_143.html

EPA To Improve Air Emissions Data Reporting

In an effort to improve EPA's ability to compile a national inventory of air pollutant emissions, EPA is proposing a rule that would give states additional flexibility in the way they collect and report emissions data.

Rather than entering their emissions data directly, state and local agencies may choose the option of reporting the inputs to certain emissions models, e.g., MOBILE. EPA would use the model inputs to calculate states emissions and would enter the data in to the National Emissions Inventory (NEI).

The proposed rule would accelerate air emissions data reporting by state and local agencies. This will allow EPA to make the data available to the public and policymakers sooner. In addition, the proposed rule would unify reporting dates for various categories of inventories and consolidate the emission inventory reporting requirements found in various parts of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The proposed rule is available online at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/aerr/index.html>

NSR Public Comment Period Extended

EPA is extending the public comment period on proposed changes to the New Source Review (NSR) permitting program until Feb. 17, 2006, to provide nationwide consistency in how states implement the program for electric generating units.

The changes, proposed Oct. 13, 2005, would standardize the emissions tests used in NSR to determine if a physical or operational change at a power plant would cause emission increases that would require the plant to install additional pollution controls. The proposed rule would adopt the test used under the Clean Air Act's New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). A uniform nation-wide emissions test for the NSR program provides regulatory clarity and certainty needed to aid the smooth and effective implementation of these programs.

For information on the proposed rule, the public hearing and submitting comments in writing, visit: www.epa.gov/nsr

EPA is 35

The Environmental Protection Agency commemorated its 35th anniversary on January 18, 2006 with a roundtable discussion featuring Administrator Stephen L. Johnson and all living EPA former Administrators, and a commemorative address. The list of Administrators included:

- EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson
- Secretary Mike Leavitt
- Governor Christine Todd Whitman
- Carol Browner
- Phil Billick President, ACT*
- Bill Ruckelshaus
- Russell Train
- Doug Costle
- Lee Thomas
- Bill Reilly

* *Just wanted to see if you're paying attention.*

President Richard Nixon created the EPA on December 2, 1970.

MEK Off Toxics List

After an extensive, multi-year scientific and technical review, EPA removed Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) from the Clean Air Act list of toxic air pollutants. The review determined that declassifying MEK would not compromise public health. In fact, declassifying MEK may even pose a public health benefit if companies substitute MEK for more toxic or environmentally damaging chemicals. Although removed from the list of toxic air pollutants, MEK remains regulated as a volatile organic compound.

Delisting a toxic air pollutant involves in-depth analyses and independent scientific peer review to demonstrate that there is enough data to determine that emissions may not reasonably be anticipated to cause adverse health effects. Public comment is also an important component in the decision whether to delist a toxic air pollutant. EPA has removed three other toxic air pollutants from the list: Ethylene Glycol Monobutyl Ether (2004), long chain Glycol Ethers (2000), and Caprolactam (1996). EPA denied a petition to delist Methanol in 2001.

"An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made in a very narrow field."
~ Niels Bohr

STARShip Training Offered

Ohio EPA will be conducting STARShip software training on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 and Tuesday, March 14, 2006. The training is designed for those that are first time users of the software. For more information, go to:

www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/starship/trainsta.html

2005 Warmest year on Record

A recent analysis by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies indicates that the highest global temperature in over 100 years of data was recorded in the calendar year 2005. The warmest previous year was 1998.

The record temperatures of 2005 are especially significant because there was no boost from tropical El Nino weather events during the year. It is likely that 2006 or 2007 will experience another El Nino, most likely resulting in new temperature records.

Global warming is now 0.6C in the past 30 years, and .8C in the last century. The NASA team indicated that recent warming coincides with the rapid increase of "human-made greenhouse gases".

Former Vice President Al Gore will be publishing a book about global warming in April entitled "An Inconvenient Truth". The book includes Gore's personal story about how the issue became of urgent importance to him.

Another Driving Hazard

Indoor air quality in our cars hasn't received the attention that it has in our homes and workplaces, but apparently it is just as important. A report released in January by the Ecology Center called "Toxic at Any Speed: Chemicals in Cars and the Need for Safe Alternatives" provided information showing that seat cushions, arm rests, floor coverings and other plastic parts used in the interiors of most cars are made with toxic chemicals. Significantly higher levels of toxics were found in vehicle dust and windshield wiper samples than those from homes and offices. Since the average American spends 1.5 hours in their car every day, this is a significant source of indoor air pollution.

If you'd like to see how your vehicle ranks, based on windshield film concentrations of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) and Phthalates, go to www.ecocenter.org/dust/CompanyRanking.pdf.

EPA Upholds Air Quality Designations

EPA denied petitions from five state and local governments and one private business requesting the agency to reconsider its decision on findings of "nonattainment" for EPA's health-based national air quality standards for fine particle pollution. The nonattainment designation applied to counties or parts of counties when monitors detected air quality that violates the fine particle, or PM2.5 standards. The petitions include:

State of Georgia: for including Walker and Catoosa counties in the Chattanooga, TN-GA nonattainment area.

State of Michigan: for including only Wayne county in the Detroit-Ann Arbor, MI nonattainment area.

Oakland County, MI: for including Oakland county in the Detroit-Ann Arbor nonattainment area.

State of Ohio: for including Scioto, Adams, Gallia, and Lawrence counties in the Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH area.

State of West Virginia: for including part of Mason county in the Huntington-Ashland, WV-KY-OH nonattainment area and for including part of Pleasants county in the Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH area.

Dynegy Midwest Generation: for including part of Randolph county Illinois in the St. Louis, MO-IL nonattainment area.

To attain the air quality standards, nonattainment areas must reduce emissions that produce fine particles and the pollutants that form them.

For more information on this action, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/regs.htm>

Ohio E-Check Now Free

Although Ohioans living in the 7 E-Check counties (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit) will still be required to comply with the e-check emission testing requirements, the \$19.50 fee for the test will be waived. The tests will now be paid for by tobacco settlement funds.

Information on the e-check program can be found at www.ohiocheck.org.

Air Compliance News™

Our Mission Statement: To be a high quality provider in the Environmental Services Industry that is focused on growth and on diversification through new products and acquisitions.

Our Core Values:

- Customer Satisfaction
- Flexibility
- Rigorous Attention to Detail
- Employee Empowerment and Accountability
- Continuous Improvement

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ **A&WMA – All-Ohio Spring Technical Conference**, Columbus, OH May 4, 2006. Contact Bob Perry at 330-761-4485 for registration and program information.
- ◆ **Manufacturer’s Education Council: 16th Annual Environmental, Health & Safety Symposium**, Cincinnati, OH March 29 - 30. Contact the Manufacturer’s Education Council at 614-229-7990 or go to <http://www.mecseminars.com/> for information. **Stop in to say hello! We’re in Booth 49!**
- ◆ **Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry’s 2006 Annual Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference and Trade Show**, Harrisburg, PA. Contact the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry at 877-866-8965 for more information. **We’ll be in Booth 5!**

Air Compliance

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**Excellence in Emission
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- **Valid Results - Guaranteed**
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