

US EPA Updates

JULY 29, 2002 - The Bush Administration announced that it has sent legislation to Congress to implement the President's **Clear Skies initiative**. On Feb. 14 of this year President Bush announced the Clear Skies initiative, which sets strict, mandatory emissions caps for three of the most harmful air pollutants -- sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and mercury. Clear Skies will be the most significant improvement to the Clean Air Act since 1990, and the most comprehensive and ambitious effort ever to clean up air pollution from power plants. Clear Skies will also make great strides toward solving the persistent environmental problems of visibility impairment and ozone in national parks and cities around the country.

Clear Skies is modeled on America's most effective clean air program, the 1990 Clean Air Act's acid rain program. By using this proven, market-based approach, Clear Skies will dramatically reduce air pollution from power plants quickly and cost-effectively, keeping electricity prices affordable. Because of the nature of "cap-and-trade" programs, establishing a cap in 2010 will cause emissions reductions immediately, as companies act quickly to generate credits needed to meet the 2010 cap. Under the Acid Rain Program, emissions reductions began immediately, and exceeded the required level of reductions by approximately 25 percent.

Clear Skies would:

- Cut sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from power plants by 73 percent, from current emissions of 11 million tons to a cap of 4.5 million tons in 2010, and 3 million tons in 2018.
- Cut emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from power plants by 67 percent, from current emissions of 5 million tons to a cap of 2.1 million tons in 2008, and to 1.7 million tons in 2018.
- Cut mercury emissions from power plants by 69 percent, establishing the first-ever national cap on mercury emissions. Emissions will be cut from current emissions of 48 tons to a cap of 26 tons in 2010, and 15 tons in 2018.
- Emission caps will be set to account for different air quality needs in the East and the West.

Additional information about Clear Skies, including legislative language and region-specific information about air quality and health benefits, can be found on EPA's Web site at: www.epa.gov/clearskies.

Illinois Updates

Ozone air quality has improved in the St. Louis area as a result of implementation of State and Federal control measures since the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Ambient air quality monitoring data for the most recent three year period, 2000 - 2002, demonstrates attainment with the one-hour ozone NAAQS. The IL Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is preparing a request to U. S. EPA to redesignate the Illinois

portion of the St. Louis nonattainment area to attainment for the one-hour ozone standard. The Illinois portion of the St. Louis nonattainment area, which is commonly referred to as the Metro-East area, includes Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties. The State of Missouri is preparing a similar request for the Missouri portion of the St. Louis ozone nonattainment area.

A maintenance plan is required before the area can be redesignated from nonattainment to attainment of the one-hour ozone standard. The maintenance plan provides for continued attainment of the one-hour ozone air quality standard for the St. Louis nonattainment area for a period of at least ten years after U.S. EPA has formally redesignated the area to attainment. The plan also provides assurances that, even if there is a subsequent violation of the air quality standard, measures listed in the Plan will prevent any future occurrences through contingency measures that would be triggered upon such an occurrence. The IEPA has prepared a draft maintenance plan for the Metro-East area, and will conduct a hearing on November 7th, in Collinsville, to solicit comments from the public.

Asbestos Workshop: East St. Louis August 19th

The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program along with Senator James Clayborne, Jr., the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the SIUE East St. Louis Small Business Development Center will be sponsoring a workshop for general contractors, building code officials, and demolition contractors regarding asbestos regulations and the proper disposal of construction & demolition debris.

Depending on the present, past, and future use of the property and the size of the project being undertaken, many projects require that notifications be filed with either the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or the Illinois Department of Public Health. To help those involved in the construction industry better understand these regulations and other environmental requirements for construction & demolition waste, a workshop will be held at the East St. Louis Small Business Development Center located at 411 East Broadway from 5:00 - 7:00 in the evening.

To register for the workshop or to get copies of asbestos notification packages call the Small Business Environmental Assistance Helpline at 800/252-3998.

INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

Your waste could be someone else's treasure! The Industrial Material Exchange Service (IMES) program is a free service designed to provide a mechanism for recycling and reusing unwanted materials. Through IMES, waste generators can be matched with waste users. The exchange program maintains and distributes listings of materials both wanted and available. Any material, either non-hazardous or hazardous, that is available from one business yet has potential reuse by another, can be part of the exchange. IMES functions as an information clearinghouse for industrial by-products, surplus materials, waste and other forms of unwanted industrial materials. The goal of IMES is to conserve energy, resources and landfill space by helping find alternatives to disposal of what might be a valuable material. For more information, contact Diane McClain at the Illinois EPA at 217/782-0450 or DCCA's Small Business Environmental Assistance Helpline at 800/252-3998.

Ozone Update

Elevated ozone levels near Lake Michigan in late June 2002 have prevented the Illinois EPA from requesting that the Chicago area be re-designated to attainment for the 1-hour ozone air quality standard. The Illinois EPA canceled a July 1 hearing that had been scheduled to discuss the proposed maintenance plan for the area.

To help further reduce summertime ozone levels, Chicago-area residents are encouraged to participate in various voluntary programs, including "Green Pays on Green Days" and "Partners for Clean Air." These voluntary programs provide an opportunity for companies and private citizens to do their part in reducing air pollution. For more information on these programs and initiatives please see the following article. For information on the ozone standards, please contact Dick Forbes at the Illinois EPA at 217/524-4343 or visit the Web site at: www.epa.state.il.us

NOTE FROM OMBUDSMAN DON SQUIRES Chicago Area Residents Take

"the Pledge"

Clean Air

During the Summer of 2002, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Chicago area Partners for Clean Air jointly sponsored a clean air campaign in the Greater Chicagoland area to continue the air quality improvements the area has experienced over the past decade. The Green Pays on Green Days program was an educational initiative targeting individual citizens to reduce air pollution.

As a renewed commitment by businesses, government, and individual citizens to reduce air pollution, Green Pays on Green Days celebrated the achievements in air quality in the Chicago area as well as emphasized the importance of the contributions the public can make through environmentally responsible actions in their every day lives.

To enter Green Pays, Chicago area residents had to take one or more "Green Actions" to reduce air pollution by taking "the clean air pledge". From May 27-September 2, environmentally-friendly products were awarded to winning participants to encourage them to use the products in the future. Green Pays on Green Days awarded a Green Day prize package each day that the Chicago area air quality was ranked as "good" or "green". There were a total of 38 Green Days through the duration of the program. In addition, three Bonus Prizes of electric lawn mowers donated by Black & Decker and three Intermediate Prizes featuring ENERGYSTAR® designated appliances and electronics from Sears were awarded in June, July and August.

On October 3, a Bolingbrook woman was announced as the Grand Prize winner of the Green Pays on Green Days program, jointly sponsored by the Chicago area Partners for

Clean Air and the Illinois EPA. Aimee Adjepong received the keys to a 2002 Honda Insight, a hybrid, super ultra-low emission vehicle, after her name was randomly drawn from the pool of Chicago area residents who took "the clean air pledge" to make an extra effort to reduce air pollution.

Green Pays on Green Days also awarded an instant prize of an ENERGYSTAR® designated window air-conditioning unit donated by Sears at the July 22 Chicago Cubs game at Wrigley Field. Twenty other individuals who took the Clean Air Pledge at the August 16 Chicago Cubs game won instant prizes, and five winners were selected from those who took the pledge at the August 25 Kane County Cougar's Game.

"The basis of the program was to educate individuals of the impact each citizen can have on air quality," said Director Cipriano. "In its first year, we feel the program was a great success as we received more than 41,000 "clean air pledge" entries."

The program was open to residents of Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Will, Grundy, McHenry and Kendall counties in Illinois who pledged to take "green actions" such as carpooling, taking public transportation, conserving energy and limiting the use of products that cause fumes.

Green Pays on Green Days was made possible by generous financial and product contributions from Illinois businesses and organizations. Grand Honda of Elmhurst donated the Grand Prize 2002 Honda Insight. **DCCA's Small Business Environmental Assistance Helpline at 800/252-3998 (TDD: 800/785-6055).**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. . .

August 15 & 16 Illinois Environmental Conference

University of Chicago - Gleacher Center
Chicago, IL

For more information, visit the Illinois State Bar Association Web site at:

www.isba.org/lawed/illenvconf8-02.htm

August 19

Construction and Demolition Environmental Workshop

East St. Louis Small Business
Development Center

411 East Broadway

East St. Louis, IL

For more information contact Annette Fulgenzi at DCCA at 217/524-5199

Oct. 16 - 18

Chemical Emergency Planning - Lessons Learned from Other States

Holiday Inn

Matteson, IL

For more information, contact Julia Gentile of the IL Emergency Management Agency at 217/782-8712

Oct. 23 - 24

Chemical Management Services Workshop

Hyatt Regency Ohare
Chicago, IL

For more information, contact Roslyn Jackson at DCCA 217/524-0169

(For all DCCA listings, the TDD number is 217/785-6055. For all Illinois EPA listings, the TDD number is 217/782-9143.)

