

The Small Business Resource

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In this issue

Finance Corner-2

◆ **Low-Interest Loans Available for Pollution Prevention Projects**

New Rules Update-2

Air Issues-3

◆ Does My Business Need an Air Permit?

Water Issues-4

◆ Do You Have a Class V Injection Well?

Small Business Resources-4

◆ SBDC Fax-Back Service

Waste Management Issues-5

◆ Management of Solvent-Contaminated Rags & Wipers

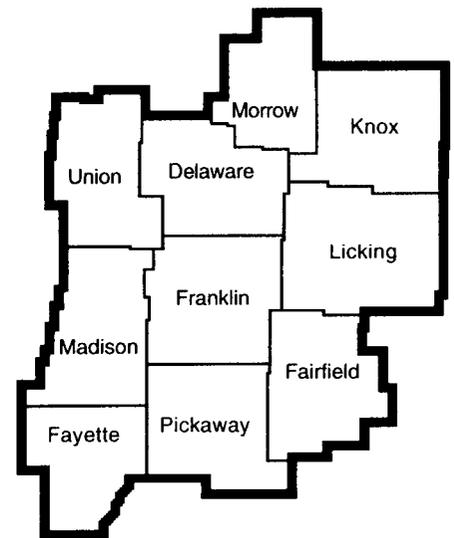
◆ When is a Container Empty?

New Office Opens to Help Small Businesses With Environmental Regulations

Environmental laws are not just aimed at big business. Many small businesses such as printers, auto body shops and dry cleaners must also comply with environmental laws. Understanding and keeping up with these laws can be challenging, especially for small business operators who are already working hard to meet their customers' needs. Most small businesses want to comply with the law, but do not always know what laws apply to them and cannot afford to pay for an environmental consultant.

Now, small businesses in Central Ohio can receive additional help from a newly established Small Business Assistance Office (SBAO), staffed by specialists from Ohio EPA. Small business owners can call the office Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and obtain free, technical guidance on environmental compliance issues. The environmental specialists can help small business owners determine what regulations apply to them and can provide guidance on measures needed to stay in compliance. Additionally, the staff can help businesses obtain necessary reporting forms or permit applications.

When a small business owner calls the office, the inquiry is confidential. This means that information provided to the SBAO will not be shared with agency inspection or enforcement staff. Business owners will need to fix problems in a reason-



able time, but the purpose of this new program is to help small businesses through technical assistance, not enforcement. Future plans include offering confidential, on-site environmental assessments to small businesses. The office also hopes to sponsor seminars and workshops on environmental regulations for small business owners.

By working with the agency to address their environmental compliance issues, small businesses benefit by:

- helping to protect their workers' health and safety;

continued on page 3.

Ohio EPA WWW site
Find us on Ohio EPA's home page!
www.epa.ohio.gov

SBAO's Welcome

Dear Small Business Owner,

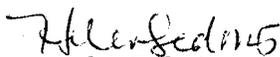
We hope that small business owners will find this quarterly newsletter to be an informative resource on environmental compliance issues. In each issue, we are planning to update small businesses on the development of EPA guidance and rules that may have an impact on their operations. Additionally, we would like to use this newsletter as an educational tool, covering a topic related to current air, waste and water regulations in each publication. Finally, we see the newsletter as a way to inform businesses of valuable, technical resources available through our office, other divisions of Ohio EPA and from other small business-related organizations.

The Small Business Assistance Office recognizes how important it is for small business to have access to concise, easy-to-understand, informative publications. Therefore, your feedback on this newsletter and any suggestions for future issues is very important to us. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to share these with the SBAO at (614) 728-8573, or 1-800-329-7518.

Sincerely,



Laurie Stevenson
Manager



Helen Sedoris
Geologist

Finance Corner

Low-interest Loans Available for Pollution Prevention Projects

Small- and medium-sized facilities in Ohio are encouraged to apply for a low-interest loan to help them purchase and install pollution prevention equipment.

The pollution prevention loan program provides low-interest capital improvement loans for the construction and/or purchase of equipment to complete pollution prevention activities at Ohio facilities with 500 or fewer employees. The program is jointly administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the Ohio Department of Development.

"Many small- and medium-sized facilities have taken advantage of this loan program since it was introduced last fall, but I would like to see more Ohio businesses using the funds that are available to them," said Ohio EPA Director Donald R. Schregardus. "This loan program allows smaller facilities to reduce the amount of pollution they generate at a lower cost than a conventional loan."

Loans are available from \$25,000 to \$350,000, at a fixed interest rate currently set at two-thirds of the prime rate. The loans also carry a 0.25 percent annual servicing fee that reduces with the principle. Preferential interest rates are available on a case-by-case basis in distressed areas of the state.

For more information, please contact Bill Narotski at (614) 728-1264. ❧

New Rules Update

Ohio's Scrap Tire Rules

A number of new rules are currently in effect. A number of fact sheets are available. For more information, contact the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management, Scrap Tire Unit, at (614) 644-2621.

Rules for Construction and Demolition Debris Facilities

New rules are effective September 30, 1996. A fact sheet and copies of the rules are available. For a copy, contact the Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management at the Central Office (614) 644-2621, or at the Central District Office (614) 728-3778. ❧





Air Issues

Does my business need an air permit?

Environmental regulations are complex, and determining if your business needs an air permit can be confusing. Under state and federal regulations, it is the business owner's responsibility to obtain all necessary permits.

How do I know if my business needs a permit?

Air pollution permits are required for "air contaminant sources." A business may have any number of sources at its facility. Each source requires its own permit unless it is specifically exempted.

What is an air contaminant source?

An air contaminant source is anything that emits air pollution. While this covers many different types of processes, there are four rules of thumb that can often help in identifying an air contaminant source:

- 1) Something that has a stack, dust collector or vent.
Examples: shotblasters, grinders, storage tanks.
- 2) Process using paints, solvents, adhesives or inks.
Examples: paint booths, printing presses, solvent cleaning tanks.
- 3) Process which burns a fuel (e.g. oil, natural gas, coal).
Examples: boilers, furnaces, process heaters.
- 4) Process that produces visible dust or smoke or produces odors.
Examples: incinerators, unpaved roadways, material handling.

Does every air contaminant source need a permit?

No. There are numerous sources that are exempted from air pollution permits under state law. Examples of these exempted sources include small boilers, detergent-based parts washers, small storage tanks, maintenance operations and various other low emitting sources.

When must I apply for a permit?

There are two types of permits: the permit-to-install, and the permit-to-operate. The permit-to-install is required (if the source was installed after January 1, 1974), before the installation of an air contaminant source. The permit-to-operate is needed to legally maintain operation of the source after installation. Both permits are needed unless the source is otherwise exempted. Permit applications should be completed and submitted well in advance to allow for processing time.

Where can I get help in filling out permit applications?

If you have questions about whether your company needs permits or you are unsure of how to fill out the permit applications, you may be eligible for assistance from Ohio EPA's Division of Air Pollution Control's Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) at (614) 644-4830. This program works closely with the new Small Business Assistance Office (SBAO).

Where do I send my permit applications?

In Ohio, air pollution permits are issued by Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA has district offices throughout the state that handle the permitting process for the businesses in their jurisdiction. In the Central District Office, the Division of Air Pollution Control can be reached at (614) 728-3778.

New Office continued from page 1

- reducing future environmental liability and the potential for non-compliance penalties;
- helping to preserve the environment for future generations;
- recognizing economic benefits through pollution prevention alternatives.

"We're pleased to offer this service to small businesses. They're a very important part of Ohio's economic growth, and we recognize the need to make environmental compliance as easy as possible for them," said Ohio EPA Director Donald R. Schregardus.

The office is currently available to small businesses with fewer than 100 employees in Franklin, Licking, Fairfield, Pickaway, Fayette, Madison, Union, Delaware, Morrow and Knox counties. Although the program is currently a pilot-project available only to businesses within these counties, if it is successful Ohio EPA may expand this service to small businesses statewide. For additional information or assistance, contact 800-329-7518 or 614-728-8573.3

Water Issues

Do You Have a Class V Injection Well?

The answer may be "yes" if you have a "dry" well, septic system, or a heat pump return flow well.

There are actually 30 different types of Class V wells, sometimes referred to as shallow injection wells or "dry" wells. Some of the more common types of wells include: storm water drainage wells, industrial disposal wells, heat pump and air conditioning return flow wells, cesspools, septic systems, floor drains and sump pumps. The majority of these wells are simple in construction and inject fluid into shallow, geologic formations by gravity flow or low-volume pumps.

Class V wells generally inject non-hazardous fluids into or above an underground source of drinking water and are frequently located in areas not served by storm sewers or sanitary sewer systems. When improperly managed, Class V wells pose a significant threat to the ground water.

When municipalities experience rapid growth or have limited or no storm sewer systems, storm water drainage problems are often the result. In Ohio, a common solution has been to take advantage of the local geology by directing these fluids below the sub-surface through storm water drainage wells directly into the ground water. Storm water drainage wells can vary in depth from a few feet to a few hundred feet, depending upon the geology of the area.

Storm water runoff can contain a wide variety of contaminants from streets, highways, parking lots, roofs, lawns, gardens and industrial and construction sites. Pollutants commonly found in storm water runoff include lead, gasoline, oil, grease, tar, residue from paving, rubber particulates, herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, coliform bacteria, de-icing salts, liquid wastes, industrial solvents, and asbestos. Not only do pollutants reach the ground water accidentally through storm water drainage wells due to spills and

leaks, but often contamination occurs when wastes, including used motor oil and antifreeze, household chemicals and industrial wastes, are intentionally dumped into or near the wells.

Industries, businesses and utilities generate a wide variety of fluids, wastes or wastewater during daily operations. Refineries, chemical plants, smelters, pharmaceutical plants, laundromats, dry cleaners, funeral homes and mortuaries, tanneries, and laboratories are just a few of the places that may use industrial disposal wells or septic systems to dispose of their wastes.

Another Class V category is the automotive service disposal well. Automotive wastes or fluids are discharged intentionally or unintentionally to disposal wells or septic systems through poor drains and interceptors. Due to the nature of the fluids often used and generated by industrial and automotive service facilities, these wells are considered a high priority for regulation.

Not all Class V wells cause ground water contamination. Often, Class V aquifer remediation wells are used in the treatment of contaminated ground water and/or soils. Remediation may involve the injection or re-injection of air, potable water, extracted and treated ground water, and nutrients and/or beneficial bacteria.

All Class V injection wells are regulated by Ohio EPA's Underground Injection Control (UIC) unit of the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW). UIC regulations require the owners or operators of new and existing Class V injection wells to report the wells for inventory purposes. Any wells installed after November 9, 1985, for the purpose of injecting sewage, industrial waste, or other waste as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, must apply for an installation and operating permit.

UIC regulations strictly prohibit injecting any contaminant that exceeds primary drinking water standards into an underground source of drinking water.

For further information regarding Class V injection wells, please contact the DDAGW, UIC unit at (614) 644-2752. A

Small Business Resources

SBDC Offers Fax-Back Service

Small business owners need quick access to current, understandable information that will help them stay competitive and run their businesses effectively. To assist small business owners in getting quick access to important information, the Columbus Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has established a free, information fax-back service.

The SBDC already has hundreds of publications available, covering a wide range of business-related topics (start-up, marketing, training opportunities, regulatory compliance, etc.). If you would like to have more information about this free service, call the local Small Business Development Center at (614) 225-6910 or the Information Hotline directly at 1-800-254-1254. ❧

A special thank you to the Divisions of Hazardous Waste Management, Air Pollution Control, and Drinking and Ground Waters, and the Office of Pollution Prevention for submitting articles.

Waste Management Issues

Management of Solvent Contaminated Rags and Wipers

Various industries use both disposable and reusable cloths and rags for cleaning equipment and machinery. Often the solvents used for this cleaning would meet the definition of a listed or characteristic hazardous waste when disposed. The term "solvent wipers" is defined as both disposable and reusable rags and towels, that have become contaminated through use in normal industrial and commercial operations. The following determination does not apply to absorbents used in spill cleanup operations.

Rags and Wipers Intended for Disposal

Solvent wipers which are contaminated with a listed hazardous waste must be managed as a listed waste when disposed of regardless of how the solvent got on the wiper.

Whether the solvent is applied to a surface or machinery (and used for its solvent properties), then cleaned off with wipers or applied directly to a wiper prior to use, the constituent makeup of the wiper would basically be identical and would pose similar hazards. Therefore, both types of wipers must be managed as hazardous wastes.

Any entity sending contaminated wipers for disposal must evaluate those wipers to determine whether they are a hazardous waste in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 3745-52-11. If the wipers are a hazardous waste, the generator is subject to the generator requirements in OAC Chapter 3745-52.

Rags and Wipes Being Sent for Cleaning

Ohio EPA has determined that solvent wipers which will be cleaned and reused do not meet the definition of a waste in OAC Rule 3745-51-02 because they have not been "discarded." The generator is intending to

have the wipers returned after cleaning.

Solvent wipers contaminated with a listed solvent or displaying the characteristic of a hazardous waste are not regulated as a waste if:

- the wipers contain no free liquids;
- the wipers are being sent to a commercial laundry that is subject to

regulation under the Clean Water Act or a dry cleaner for cleaning and reuse.

The laundry or dry cleaning facility would not be required to obtain a hazardous waste permit since the wipers would not be hazardous waste. For more information on this subject, contact the Technical Assistance Section in the Division of Hazardous Waste Management at (614) 644-2956. ♻

When is a Container "Empty" ?

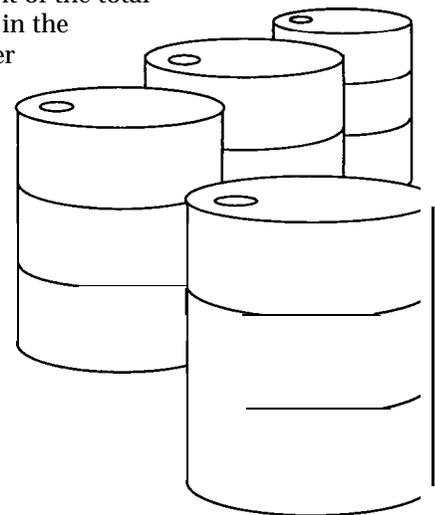
Questions are often raised about the measures that must be taken before a container which once held hazardous waste would be considered to be empty of its contents. The regulatory definition of an empty container is found in OAC Rule 3745-51-07.

A container is considered EMPTY if all wastes have been removed using the practices commonly employed to remove materials from that type of container, e.g., pouring, pumping, and aspirating; AND

- no more than 2.5 centimeters (one inch) of residue remains on the bottom of the container, OR
- no more than 3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container if the container is less than or equal to 110 gallons in size, OR
- no more than 0.3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains in the container if the container is greater than 110 gallons in size.

A container that has held a hazardous waste that is a compressed gas is empty when the pressure in the container reaches atmospheric.

A container which held an acutely hazardous waste must be triple rinsed before being considered empty. ♻



Do You Need Help With the Environmental Regulation Maze?

The Small Business Assistance Office (SBAO) has qualified environmental specialists available who **know** the regulatory requirements and Agency processes and procedures. These specialists can answer your questions regarding air, wastewater, hazardous waste and solid waste requirements. The SBAO is dedicated to meeting customer needs. It will provide quick response to inquiries and information requests.

Free Services Currently Offered:

- confidential, technical consultations to assist companies in identifying the environmental rules that apply to them.

- provide recommendations on measures needed to stay in compliance with environmental rules.
- assistance in guiding businesses through the regulatory process and in getting the appropriate permits and/or other documents completed.
- connecting businesses with staff who can help them identify pollution prevention opportunities.
- an in-house resource library of technical publications and regulatory guidance documents.

Benefits to your company in working with the SBAO:

- helps protect worker health and safety.
- preserves the environment for future generations.
- reduces future environmental liability.
- helps companies save money through pollution prevention.
- reduces potential for non-compliance penalties.
- Confidential Services
- Free Technical Assistance

The Small Business Resource

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