

OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PUBLIC HEARING

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In Re: :
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Ozone Nonattainment :
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Ohio EPA Requests Recognition :
of Improved Air Quality in :
Cleveland/Akron Area :
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Transcript of proceedings before the
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, taken at
Ohio EPA Northeast Regional Office,
2110 E. Aurora Road, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087, on
Tuesday, March 3, 2009, commencing at 2:30 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

- Mary McCarron, Ohio EPA Public Involvement
Manager and Hearing Officer

- Sarah VanderWielen, Ohio EPA, Division of
Air Pollution Control

PROCEEDINGS

1
2 MS. McCARRON: My name is Mary
3 McCarron. I am the public involvement manager
4 for Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's
5 Public Interest Center. I will be presiding
6 over today's public hearing.

7 Thank you for taking the time to attend
8 the hearing and the purpose of the hearing,
9 today, is to obtain comments from any
10 interested person regarding Ohio EPA's
11 proposed plan.

12 The State of Ohio is proposing to ask
13 U.S. EPA to officially recognize Ashtabula,
14 Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina,
15 Portage and Summit counties meet the 1997
16 federal air quality standard for ozone.

17 Air quality data from 2006 to 2008
18 showed that the Cleveland/Akron area, both
19 metropolitan areas, are meeting the 1997
20 national ozone standard. When asking for a
21 redesignation, states are required to
22 demonstrate that the metropolitan area will be
23 able to maintain compliance with the ozone
24 standard for 10 years. Each area can achieve
25 this because of current air pollution controls

1 that limit ozone-causing emissions.

2 Comments can be submitted until the
3 close of business today, March 3, 2009, to
4 Sarah VanderWielen at Sarah, S-a-r-a-h dot
5 VanderWielen, V-a-n-d-e-r-W-i-e-l-e-n,
6 (sarah.Vanderwielen@epa.state.oh.us) or
7 Jennifer Hunter at Jennifer, J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r
8 dot Hunter H-u-n-t-e-r,
9 (jennifer.hunter@epa.state.oh.us) these two
10 e-mail address are also on your agenda today.

11 All interested persons are entitled to
12 attend or be represented and present oral
13 and/or written comments concerning the
14 proposed plan. All written and oral comments
15 received as part of the official record will
16 be considered by Ohio EPA.

17 To be included on the official record,
18 again, written comments must be received by
19 the close of business today. These comments
20 can be filed with me or e-mailed to the
21 address mentioned earlier. All written
22 comments submitted after today could be
23 considered as time and circumstances permit
24 but won't be part of the official record.
25 Written and oral comments receive the same

1 consideration; they are weighed equally.

2 If you want to present oral testimony
3 at the hearing today and haven't signed in
4 yet, at the sign-in sheet, please do so at the
5 registration table. I'm going to call folks
6 in the order that they registered. If you do
7 not want to speak or submit testimony, just go
8 ahead and say, "pass" and we will move on to
9 the next person. If you do want to provide
10 testimony, go ahead and state your name and
11 spell it for the court reporter and then
12 proceed with your testimony.

13 The first person who has signed-in is
14 Frank Kellogg.

15 MR. KELLOGG: No testimony. I
16 pass.

17 MS. McCARRON: Okay. Bert
18 Mechenbier.

19 MR. MECHEMBIER: Pass.

20 MS. McCARRON: Thomas Paulica.

21 MR. PAULICA: Pass.

22 MS. McCARRON: Okay. Would anybody
23 else like to submit testimony at this time?

24 We're going to go off the record until
25 3:00 to see if anybody arrives late for the

1 hearing. Thank you.

2 (Off the record.)

3 (On the record.)

4 MS. McCARRON: We are back on the
5 record. The time is 2:42 p.m. Edith Chase,
6 if you can spell your name for the court
7 reporter and go ahead with your testimony.

8 MS. CHASE: E-d-i-t-h, Chase,
9 C-h-a-s-e. I support Ohio EPA's request for
10 recognition of improved air quality in the
11 eight counties in the Cleveland/Akron area.
12 And a lot of effort has been made for years
13 towards this objective, including the E-check
14 program here.

15 And I fully support the measures to
16 improve air quality and, thereby, public
17 health. And improved public health should
18 then reduce medical costs in northeast Ohio
19 and benefit children, seniors, worker
20 productivity and improve quality of life.

21 I am well aware that this area will not
22 comply with the new ozone standard for which
23 U.S. EPA will be designated nonattainment
24 areas in 2010, as well as fine particulates.

25 I support the more stringent, new

1 federal ozone standards and strict enforcement
2 by the state.

3 Transportation and land-use and air
4 quality are all connected and inseparable and
5 I'd support a user-pay system for federal
6 highways and bridges, increase the gasoline
7 tax enough to offset the transportation
8 studies that are now, taken from the general
9 budget, which, of course, is in a huge
10 deficit. And the dollar amount was quoted on
11 the radio here within the past couple weeks
12 and I don't remember what the figure was.

13 But, at the state level then -- I
14 went to the meetings in Akron on ODOT's
15 transportation for the 21st century and I
16 don't know the final outcome on that, but
17 anyway, we may need to shift more funding
18 toward measures to improve air quality
19 including nonmotorized transportation. I'm
20 from Portage County so I was pleased that they
21 are going to shift. They almost finished the
22 tow path trail now, in this area so they are
23 going to shift some more funds toward Portage
24 Hike and Bike Trail, which, every year they've
25 been opening a new piece and I'm very

1 pleased.

2 And I recommend increasing the state
3 gasoline tax with an increment of maybe even
4 once cent every other year or something like
5 that. They'd have to calculate the numbers.
6 But, use half of it for improving air quality
7 and the other half for just accounting for
8 inflation.

9 School buses need to be upgraded
10 because the diesel engines are old in many
11 cases and that's bad for the health of our
12 school children.

13 And we also need stricter state
14 standards for existing coal-fired power plants
15 upwind of our eight counties. And this will
16 include coal-fired power plants which are
17 outside our air quality area, eight counties.
18 The state should provide financial incentives
19 and technical assistance to facilitate this.
20 It is something -- improving the pollution
21 controls will also improve mercury
22 contamination, which is one of our important,
23 ubiquitous contaminants.

24 Also, have to address land-use issues.
25 The Ohio Lake Erie Commission has been working

1 on a balanced growth, which is a voluntary
2 land-use program and they have four pilot
3 projects, which are near completion and one of
4 these was already endorsed by the commission,
5 last December. And what it involves is a
6 group local governments within a watershed,
7 and it's watershed based, have to agree on
8 priority conservation areas and priority
9 development areas, and they all agree and they
10 take measures. So, it's looking across the
11 watershed rather than just on jurisdictional
12 boundaries. The incentive is a package of
13 state incentives and credit goes to Ohio EPA
14 and the other five agencies which are the
15 members of the Lake Erie Commission. So,
16 there are things that we can do on that to
17 counteract urban sprawl where you have to get
18 in your car, no matter what you want to do, to
19 get a quart of milk from the store.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. McCARRON: Thank you.

22 MS. CHASE: Answer questions, if
23 you have any.

24 MS. McCARRON: All right. Do you
25 have any questions?

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MS. VANDERWIELEN: Uh-uh.

MS. McCARRON: We're going to go off the record until 3:00 p.m. to see if anyone else arrives to provide testimony. Thank you.

(Off the record.)

(On the record.)

MS. McCARRON: We're going to go back on the record. The time is 3:00 p.m. and we are going to adjourn the hearing. There is nobody else here who would like to provide testimony.

(Hearing concluded at 3:00 p.m.)

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1 State of Ohio,)
2 County of Cuyahoga.) SS:
3

4 C E R T I F I C A T E

5 This certifies that the foregoing is a true
6 and correct transcript of the proceedings had
7 before the State of Ohio, Environmental
8 Protection Agency, held at the Ohio EPA
9 Northeast Regional Office, 2110 E. Aurora
10 Road, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087, on
11 Tuesday, March 3, 2009, commencing at
12 2:30 p.m.

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17 Improved Air Quality in
18 Cleveland/Akron Area
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21 _____
22 COURT REPORTER

23 FINCUN-MANCINI COURT REPORTERS
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