



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio EPA Issues Final Air Permit to Ohio River Clean Fuels; Company Now Has All Environmental Permits Needed to Proceed with Project

Ohio EPA has issued a final air permit to Ohio River Clean Fuels, LLC (ORCF), for a proposed coal-to-liquid fuels plant in Columbiana and Jefferson counties. The air permit was the last of three major state environmental permits ORCF needed to proceed with the project at Sixteen School Road south of Wellsville.

“Working closely with the company and the community, we were able to develop permits that will ensure this massive economic and energy project is protective of human health and the environment,” said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski.

Comments received during the public comment period resulted in a number of changes to the air permit. The most notable involves significant reductions in pollutants emitted as a result of start-up and shut-down operations. For example, allowable sulfur dioxide emissions were reduced more than 650 tons per year.

The air permit establishes limits on emissions and the operation, and requires the use of best available technology to restrict emissions. Emissions limits are established to ensure compliance with federal clean air standards and protect public health. The permit includes limits on the following pollutants: particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, hydrogen sulfide and sulfuric acid mist.

On September 10, 2008, Ohio EPA held a public hearing at Wellsville High School to discuss the draft air permit and accept comments from the community. Prior to making a final decision, Ohio EPA considered all public comments and responded to them in writing. A copy of the final permit and response to comments is available online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/transfer/ptiApplication/orcf/OhioCleanRiverFuelsPTI.pdf.

In addition to the air permit, Ohio EPA previously issued a wastewater discharge permit and a water quality certification that allows the company to impact wetlands and streams to construct the plant. Onsite stream and wetland mitigation was required to compensate for those impacts.

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Issuance of the final air permit can be appealed to the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). Many appeals must be filed within 30 days of issuing the final action; therefore, Ohio EPA recommends that anyone wishing to file an appeal contact ERAC at (614) 466-8950 for more information.

More information on ORCF's project and the permits issued is online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/ohiorivercleanfuels.html.

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www.epa.state.oh.us