



COMPLIANCE & PREVENTION

quarterly

Winter 2006

A Publication of Ohio EPA, Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention

Ohio EPA Offers a New Web-Based Tool

Permit Wizard is Ohio EPA's new interactive tool designed to help small and mid-sized businesses more easily identify applicable permit, licensing and registration requirements.

The Permit Wizard is an easy-to-use tool that guides the user through a series of questions and, from their responses, develops customized feedback on the proper permits required for operation. The user can select from several environmental areas, such as waste, air, wastewater, storm water and wetlands. It does not take much time to complete a session with Permit Wizard and at the end of the session, the user is provided with a summary of requirements, along with links to resources such as guidance documents, fact sheets and forms. New business owners may find the tool helpful as a starting point to identify what they must do to comply with requirements. Existing business also may find the Permit Wizard a helpful tool to self-check compliance. The Permit Wizard is designed to be used anonymously, so the user is not required to submit any personal or company information.



Although the Permit Wizard provides a good starting point to help get permitting requirements in order, it does not provide an official or binding determination on permitting and is not a substitute for carefully reviewing all applicable rules and laws. The Permit Wizard also is not the tool for highly complex permitting situations, such as determining whether you need a Title V air permit.

Permit Wizard can be accessed by clicking on the icon on Ohio EPA's main Web page, www.epa.state.oh.us, or you can enter the Wizard directly at <http://epawebapps.epa.state.oh.us/PermitWizardWebApp/jsp/index.jsp>.

Ohio EPA's Answer Place

In December 2005, Ohio EPA launched a frequently asked questions Web tool known as the Answer Place. The Answer Place provides quick, easy access to information and allows you to pose questions directly to Agency staff. Developing this site is one of the ways Ohio EPA is working toward achieving Director Joe Koncelik's goal of improving the Agency's compliance assistance efforts.

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You can access the Answer Place by clicking on the icon on Ohio EPA's main Web page www.epa.state.oh.us. Once you arrive at the site, you will notice that there are many questions and answers already in the system, searchable by keyword. If you cannot find the information you are looking for, you can use the "Ask a Question" feature to pose a question. When you submit your question, it is forwarded to the appropriate Ohio EPA staff for a response. Another of the Answer Place's features is the ability to create a personal login. This allows customers to track questions they've viewed or submitted and to get automatic e-mail updates if a particular question/issue of interest is updated.



Ohio EPA will continue to update the Answer Place with information prompted by questions received from our customers. If you have questions about environmental requirements, we encourage you to stop by the Answer Place.

Compliance Assistance Conference Announced

Ohio EPA will host its second "Compliance Assistance Conference: Successfully Navigating Reporting, Permitting and Inspections", on March 23 in Columbus. Mark your calendars and plan to attend to gain a better understanding of the environmental requirements that apply to your business.



Conference topics include:

- EPCRA, RCRA and TRI reporting;
- overview of hazardous waste requirements;
- used oil and SPCC plans;
- storm water permits;
- identifying whether you need an air permit;
- air and water permits: typical reporting requirements;
- how to prepare for an Ohio EPA inspection;
- resources to help you reduce waste, save money and achieve compliance;
- what's on the horizon at Ohio EPA and more!

We think this conference will be particularly helpful for small- and medium-size businesses. Additional conference details and registration information are available at www.epa.state.oh.us/compliance_conference/.

Diesel School Bus Retrofit Grants Program

A new grant program, created by Ohio's 2006-2007 budget bill, will help protect Ohio's children by providing financing to allow school districts to retrofit their diesel school buses with pollution control equipment and use cleaner fuels to reduce emissions.



Priority will be given to applications from school districts in communities that do not meet the federal air quality standards for outdoor concentrations of fine air particles and districts that employ additional measures, such as anti-idling programs, to reduce emissions from their school bus fleets. A map of Ohio counties not currently meeting the air quality standards for particulates (PM 2.5) is available at www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/general/nonattain.html.

Grants will be funded from civil penalties Ohio EPA collects from environmental violations. Grant application deadlines are expected to be March 1 and September 1, 2006. For more information, visit www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/html/schoolbus.html or contact Carolyn Watkins at carolyn.watkins@epa.state.oh.us or (614) 644-3768.

For questions about diesel bus retrofitting, particulate standards or program rules, contact John Paulian at john.paulian@epa.state.oh.us or (614) 644-4832.

Online Pollution Prevention Training Update

OCAPP has added four presentations to its online P2 training Web page. This site lists recent training events conducted by OCAPP.



Introduction to Mercury Issues

This training provides an introduction to mercury issues for the general public and businesses. It provides basic information about the various forms of mercury and their health effects, identifies where mercury is found and steps you can take to reduce mercury use and provides some basic resources to further explore mercury issues.

Energy Efficiency Workshop

Training to assist facility managers and Ohio EPA staff identify energy-efficiency opportunities in manufacturing facilities. The training was provided by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Energy Efficiency.

Laboratory Pollution Prevention Training

Laboratory sector training from OCAPP and the Division of Hazardous Waste Management. Designed to help laboratory managers, as well as Ohio EPA staff, identify pollution prevention and cost-saving opportunities in laboratory facilities.

Painting and Coating Equipment Training

A detailed training about painting and coating equipment use and related waste minimization opportunities.

Other training topics/sectors include: metal finishing, painting and coating, industrial parts cleaners and alternative cleaning and environmental accounting. For more information, visit www.epa.state.oh.us/ocapp/p2/onlinep2training/onlinep2training.html.

Sustainable Systems Symposium Coming to OSU

The Center for Resilience at The Ohio State University (OSU), in cooperation with the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the OSU Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science, is hosting a symposium on resilience in sustainable systems, "Resilience, Biocomplexity and Industrial Ecology: Insights for Future Energy and Mobility Systems."

This two-day interdisciplinary symposium will explore how complex industrial systems can achieve both short-term continuity and long-term ecological integrity. Its purpose is to encourage application of this knowledge to the design and management of future technologies and infrastructures required to meet human needs for energy and mobility. Participants will represent a variety of perspectives, including economics, ecology, engineering, energy and environmental sciences, statistics, public policy and management science.

Keynote speakers include Mike Bertolucci of Interface Research, Paul Anastas of the Green Chemistry Institute and John Ehrenfeld of the Society for Industrial Ecology. The symposium will culminate with a guest lecture by Professor Brad Allenby of Arizona State University on "Resilience in Earth Systems Engineering."

March 2-3, 2006

The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

www.resilience.osu.edu/SustainableSystems.pdf



Need Help?

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention is a non-regulatory program and one-stop location for information about environmental requirements, compliance concerns and pollution prevention. Services are free. Contact us at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469.

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Compliance and Prevention Quarterly

Published by Ohio EPA's
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