



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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May 16, 2007

Re: Community Benefit Project Fund

On March 28, 2007, Director Korleski announced that Republic Services of Ohio had entered into Findings and Orders intended to end the odor nuisance and underground fire at Countywide Landfill in East Sparta. Included in the Findings and Orders was the establishment of an interest-bearing account known as the Community Benefit Project Fund. This fund will have at least a balance of \$250,000. The Director also stated that he would solicit input from interested parties on developing appropriate criteria on how to insure that the fund provides the greatest public benefit to the impacted communities.

The Director believes any criteria should be based on common sense and should be kept as simple as possible. Funding a project or projects which benefit the largest number of people within the affected area is the Director's top priority, but he would like to hear from affected citizens and their representatives about the criteria we should consider, as well as possible project ideas.

In an effort to continue to keep the impacted communities up-to-date on information regarding Countywide Landfill, Ohio EPA has created a Web page of public documents relating to the Findings and Orders. To view the Web page visit: www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/countywide.html. Along with this Web page, the following specific e-mail address communityfund@epa.state.oh.us has been created to allow you to provide public comment on the Community Benefit Project Fund. Comments on the criteria which the community feels are important to consider can be e-mailed to communityfund@epa.state.oh.us. At this point, Ohio EPA plans to open the criteria comment period on June 1 and will accept comments for 30 days.

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

Comments may also be mailed or faxed to:

P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049
(614) 644-2737 *fax*

Following the end of the 30-day criteria comment period, the final criteria for proposed projects will be finalized by Ohio EPA and posted on our Countywide Landfill informational Web page, along with the procedures to be followed by community members in making specific proposals. We will then begin taking suggestions for projects over a 30-day period, and will then post the suggested projects for an additional 30 days so that community members can provide comments on the specific proposals.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Andrea Zacharias in the Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160. Ohio EPA looks forward to working with all interested parties to find a project or projects that will benefit the impacted communities.

Sincerely,



Melissa Fazekas
Deputy Director of Communications