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Northeast Ohio Gas Station Owner to Pay Penalties For Air Pollution Control Violations

The owner of three Northeast Ohio gas stations has agreed to pay Ohio EPA a \$25,000 civil penalty to settle air pollution control violations at his gas stations located in Lake and Geauga counties.

Rollin Cooke failed to properly operate and maintain vapor control systems on several of his stations' pumps. He also failed to pass testing requirements for those systems, while continuing to allow gasoline to be dispensed from the pumps. Cooke's gas stations include the Concord Sunoco at 9861 Johnnycake Ridge Road in Concord Township (Lake County), Cooke's Car Care at 400 Water Street in Chardon (Geauga County) and Munson Corners Sunoco at 12388 Mayfield Road in Chardon.

To ensure the gas stations' vapor control systems operate as designed and in [compliance with regulations](#), especially during the summer months when ozone pollution is at its highest, Cooke has agreed to increase the frequency of inspections and testing during April through October of the next two years.

Uncontrolled gasoline vapors released to the atmosphere contribute to ozone pollution and may prevent the area from meeting the national air quality standard for ozone. Ohio regulations require Northeast Ohio gas station owners to install and maintain vapor control systems to capture displaced vapors at the vehicle fill neck during fueling and route them back to the underground storage tank. Ohio EPA and local air agencies inspect gas stations and monitor testing to ensure that vapor control systems are properly operated and maintained.

The [settlement](#) includes \$20,000 to support air pollution control programs and the [Ohio Environmental Education Fund](#), and \$5,000 to Ohio EPA's [clean diesel school bus program](#) fund.

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