

Space Available for Clean Diesel Conference

There is still room to register for the upcoming Clean Diesel Conference scheduled for Nov. 1 and 2 and hosted by the Rocky Mountain Clean Diesel Collaborative.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Select in Cherry Creek and will cover topics such as clean diesel technologies and fuels, best maintenance practices, and the health impacts of diesel pollution.

In addition to providing an abundance of information by top-notch speakers, the conference will offer participants an opportunity to network and learn about clean diesel technologies and fuels from vendors who will have informational booths setup for the duration of the event.

On the afternoon of the second day, participants are invited to attend a presentation and tour at the Suncor Energy plant in Commerce City. The presentation and tour will be focused on the changes made at the facility in order to produce ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

Registration is free and meals are provided, thanks to our sponsors – Instrument Sales and Service, Inc., Cummins Rocky Mountain, LLC, and the Northeast Metro Pollution Prevention Alliance.

The Rocky Mountain Clean Diesel Collaborative is made up of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 8 office, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Regional Air Quality Council, and City and County of Denver.

The Collaborative was formed to discuss ways in which the partners can leverage funding to utilize and administer cleaner burning technologies, alternative fuels, and idle reduction practices in order to reduce harmful diesel emissions in the Rocky Mountain region. Through efforts and funds from federal, state, and local governments, the Collaborative's focus is to reduce emissions from diesel fleets and school buses, as well as non-road sources, resulting in improved regional health and air quality.

To register for the conference or to find out more about the event, please visit the web site (www.cleanairfleets.org/conference.html) or call Sarah Sullivan at (303) 629-5450, ext. 290. ■

Education the Focus of '06 Ozone Campaign

The 2006 Summer Ozone Season ended on August 31, marking the eighth year of the Regional Air Quality Council's (RAQC) Voluntary Ozone Reduction Program.

Ozone education was the focus of this year's campaign, in an attempt to deepen the understanding of issues and encourage voluntary behavior change.

Along with the continuation of the comprehensive media advertising campaign, Ozone Action Alert program, enhanced media outreach and education, the RAQC and its partners produced a 30-minute educational television program, entitled "Ozone in Our Zone." The program allowed for a more in-depth exploration of what ozone is, how it is formed, and how it affects human health. The program aired throughout the summer on government cable channels, Comcast on-demand and Metro Beat TV, as well as at all of the Air Care Colorado emissions testing facilities.

Another effort to further educate citizens about ozone pollution involved the development of the Summer "Chill" campaign – which focused on behavior change. An online pledge system was created to ask people to "chill" on hot summer days and avoid activities – such as mowing, driving, and painting – that contribute to ozone pollution. Print pledges were also handed out at community events. Each pledge card was accompanied by a tear off tip card that reminded people of the many small actions that help reduce ozone pollution. Over 700 people took the pledge to "chill" on hot summer days.

These education efforts were among the many projects implemented this season to keep the region in compliance with federal health standards.

Despite the fact that there were over 50 days during the 2006 summer ozone season with temperatures above 90 degrees, the Denver-

Continued on Page 2...

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT HIGHLIGHT

As part of the summer ozone outreach and education campaign, the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) offered funding to local governments to encourage localized ozone outreach. Four municipalities received funding totalling \$10,000.

The City of Arvada used the funds for a wide range of activities including publishing an informational article on ozone in the citizen newsletter. The city also printed brochures and planned for additional activities for the 2007 season. The City of Aurora used funding to sponsor two gas can exchange

events. The city exchanged 288 gas cans at the events, and reduced nearly 400 pounds of VOCs in the process. The Town of Castle Rock used funding to print 500 t-shirts promoting the "Top Ten Ways to Reduce Ozone Pollution." The shirts were given away at city sponsored events. Funding also went to the Greater Metro Telecommunications Consortium (GMTC) to support additional graphics for "Ozone in Our Zone" (see page 1). The RAQC hopes to continue municipal ozone outreach programs in future years to engage a broader audience. ■

REGIONAL OUTREACH

...Continued from Page 1

metropolitan area and Front Range region maintained compliance with the ozone standard.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency calculates the standard by averaging the 4th maximum concentration at any given monitor over three years. A violation occurs when this three-year average reaches or exceeds 85 parts per billion (ppb). While there were elevated levels recorded at several area monitors, the three-year average for all monitors remained below 85 ppb. This year, the Fort Collins West monitor recorded the highest value of the season at 97 ppb, followed by the Welch monitor in Adams County, which recorded 96 ppb. The region exceeded the federal limit on nine days at one or more monitors. A final report detailing the outcome of this year's program is due out at the end of October.

Although the region remained within the federal limits for the 8-hour standard, it will remain imperative that the region maintain lowered ozone levels over the next several years to ensure attainment with the standard in future years.

For more information on the RAQC's ozone outreach and education efforts, contact Sara O'Keefe at sokeefe@raqc.org or (303) 629-5450, ext. 220. ■

State Air Director Retires

Margie Perkins, the State's Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) director since 1996, announced her retirement from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in early September. She will step down at the end of the year.

Ms. Perkins has been a clean air ally to the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) for years and will be greatly missed by staff and the Board. In her tenure as director of APCD, Ms. Perkins helped the entire State of Colorado, including the Denver region, achieve attainment status for all federal air quality standards. She also played a key role in the development and implementation of the federally-enforceable Early Action Compact

for Ozone, which has helped the region maintain compliance with the 8-hour standard.

Ms. Perkins will be succeeded by Paul Tourangeau, who started working with Ms. Perkins in September to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Tourangeau has a rich history working in environmental programs in both the public and private sectors over the past 15 years.

The RAQC wishes Ms. Perkins the best of luck in her future endeavors and looks forward to working with Mr. Tourangeau. ■

RAQC Acquires Partner for D.I.R.T. Project

Brannan Sand and Gravel Co. has offered to join the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) to retrofit a portion of their fleet of off-road vehicles for the Diesel Initiative for Retrofit Technology (DIRT) project.

Funding for DIRT comes from a grant awarded to the RAQC by the Environmental Protection Agency. The vehicles will be fitted with diesel oxidation catalysts (DOCs) to decrease particulate emissions coming from the engine. The RAQC is pleased to be working with Brannan and looks forward to the positive partnership with a reputable company.

For more information, please contact Steve McCannon at (303) 629-5450, ext. 230. ■

Upcoming Meetings:

October 19
AQCC Meeting

November 1 & 2
Clean Diesel Conference

November 9
RAQC Board Meeting

Helpful Contacts:

RAQC:
(303) 629-5450

State's Air Pollution Control Division:
(303) 692-3100

Air Quality Hotlines:
(303) 758-4848 or
(303) 782-0211

Reminders:

High Pollution Season begins October 31

When a RED Air Pollution Advisory is issued:

- follow mandatory residential burning restrictions

- limit driving by combining errands

- carpool or take public transportation

- visit the web site at: <http://apcd.state.co.us>

- call an air quality hotline operated by the State's Air Pollution Control Division for more info. (see above for numbers)

www.raqc.org