



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

PUBLIC INTEREST CENTER

P.O. Box 1049, 50 W. Town St., Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

Tele: (614) 644-2160 **Fax:** (614) 644-2737

NEWS RELEASE

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Media Contact: Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160
Citizen Contact: Caroline Markworth, (614) 644-2160

Public Invited to Comment on Draft Air Permit for Ohio River Clean Fuels Project

A draft air permit for a coal-to-liquids fuel plant proposed for Columbiana and Jefferson counties will be the focus of a September 10, 2008, Ohio EPA public meeting. The information session and public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Wellsville High School, 1 Bengal Avenue, Wellsville.

The meeting is an opportunity for citizens to ask questions and submit comments concerning a draft air permit issued to Ohio River Clean Fuels, LLC (ORCF), for its proposed facility at Sixteen School Road, west of Ohio State Route 7 and south of Wellsville.

Ohio River Clean Fuels, LLC, seeks to construct a plant to transform coal and biomass into liquid fuel via a gasification process. If constructed, the plant would produce an estimated 52,000 barrels per day of liquid fuel.

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

There are three major State environmental permits ORCF needs to proceed with the project at Sixteen School Road south of Wellsville. Ohio EPA recently issued the water quality certification that allows the company to impact wetlands and streams to construct the plant. The Agency continues work on the wastewater discharge permit for the facility. On May 27, 2008, the Agency held a public hearing concerning a draft wastewater discharge permit and is reviewing comments submitted during the public comment period.

Comments can be submitted to Ohio EPA through the close of business on September 15, 2008. Written comments may be submitted at the hearing or sent to Bob Princic, Ohio EPA's Northeast District Office, 2110 E. Aurora Road., Twinsburg, Ohio 44087.

More information on ORCF's proposed project, the final water quality certification and the pending wastewater discharge and air permits are online at: www.epa.state.oh.us/pic/ohiorivercleanfuels.html.