



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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News Release

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Ohio EPA and Circle K Midwest Reach Settlement of Violations at Eight Gas Stations in Ohio

Ohio EPA and Circle K Midwest have reached a settlement that will require the company to pay a \$100,000 penalty for air pollution control regulation violations at eight of its gas stations in Ohio.

The Columbus, Indiana-based company failed to maintain its vapor control systems and/or pass several tests to show such systems for refueling vehicles were operating properly; failed to perform successful tests at three stations as required at least annually; and failed to have records at two stations that documented the station operators or managers were properly trained for those vapor control systems. All of the violations at these stations have now been corrected.

"Increasingly, we all need to be aware of what we can do to ensure the air we breathe is healthy," said Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski. "From gas station operators who must maintain vapor control equipment to individuals who don't top off the tank when filling up their vehicles, each good choice will help the state of Ohio improve ozone levels."

The affected stations are:

- 1150 S. Broadway, Geneva (Ashtabula County);
- 2808 Grove Ave., Lorain (Lorain County);
- 5825 S. Main St., Ashtabula (Ashtabula County);
- 36701 Chester St., Avon (Lorain County);
- 10630 Loveland-Madeira Road, Loveland (Clermont County);
- 1101 Route 28, Milford (Clermont County);
- 1031 Harrison Ave., Harrison (Hamilton County); and
- 2166 Pleasant Ave., Hamilton (Butler County).

Under the terms of the settlement, for the next two ozone-producing summer seasons (March through October), the company must increase the frequency of inspections and testing. The company is required to inspect the vapor control systems at least twice per season, successfully test the systems at least twice per season, and maintain the systems.

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Gas stations in the Cincinnati, Cleveland and Dayton metropolitan areas are required to have Stage II vapor control systems federal air quality standard for ozone. Hydrocarbons escape when gasoline is pumped unless vapor control systems draw the vapors back into the tank. Under the right weather conditions, these vapors serve as a precursor to ozone, which can irritate the linings of people's lungs.

Of the \$100,000 penalty, \$20,000 will go to fund Ohio EPA's Clean Diesel School Bus Program Fund, \$40,000 will go to the Ohio Environmental Education Fund, and \$40,000 will go toward the administration of air pollution control programs, as required by State law.

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www.epa.ohio.gov

Circle K settlement:

www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/27/enforcement/year_2009/CircleKMidwest_110409.pdf

Ohio Clean Diesel School Bus Fund

www.epa.state.oh.us/oeef/schoolbus.aspx

Fact sheet regarding gas station vapor control requirements:

www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/41/gdffactsheet.pdf