



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

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MEDIA CONTACT: Mike Settles, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Kristopher Weiss, (614) 644-2160

Lorain County's Nates Marathon and Marathon Quick Mart Gas Stations to Pay Penalties for Air Pollution Control Violations

Two Lorain County gas station owners have agreed to pay Ohio EPA a combined \$13,000 in civil penalties to settle air pollution control violations at their gas stations located in Amherst and Vermilion.

Ali Mohammad of Nates Marathon (960 North Leavitt Road, Amherst) and Raman Patel of Marathon Quick Mart (3594 Liberty Street, Vermilion) failed to properly operate and maintain stage II vapor control systems on several of their stations' pumps. They also allowed gasoline to be dispensed from those pumps even though the vapor control systems failed to pass testing requirements. In addition, Patel failed to maintain records verifying that he or his manager completed vapor control training required by Ohio EPA.

To ensure the gas stations' vapor control systems operate as designed and in compliance with regulations, Mohammad and Patel must increase the frequency of inspections and testing through 2011. Patel also will submit documentation demonstrating that he or his manager completed the required training.

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's emission control 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.

Mohammad's penalty of \$5,000 and a portion (\$6,400) of Patel's penalty of \$8,000 will go to support state and local air pollution control programs, and the Ohio Environmental Education Fund. The remainder (\$1,600) of Patel's penalty will go toward funding Ohio EPA's clean diesel school bus program.

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Settlement with Ali Mohammad/MARA2-DNA, Inc. d.b.a. Nates Marathon:
www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/27/enforcement/year_2010/MARA2-DNA_040210.pdf

Settlement with Raman Patel d.b.a. Marathon Quick Mart:
www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/27/enforcement/year_2010/RamanPatelMarathonQM_042010.pdf

Gasoline Dispensing Facilities Fact Sheet:
www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/41/sb/GDFfactsheet.pdf