



Fall 2004

# Clean Air News

"To preserve and enhance air quality in southwest Washington"



## Longview Air Toxics Study

The Southwest Clean Air Agency is concerned about the public's exposure risk to air toxics emissions from area, point, and mobile sources. One particular area needing more information within SWCAA's jurisdiction is the Longview/Kelso area in Cowlitz County. This area is highly industrial with several pulp and paper mills and several power plants under construction. In addition, a high volume of diesel traffic serves the area and the area has a high density of residential wood stove use.

In order to obtain more information on the public's exposure to air toxics, new air quality monitors have been installed atop Longview's City Shop. These monitors measure up to 130 different toxic air pollutants. This project is part of a year-long study of ambient air toxics in the Longview/Kelso area and is funded in part by a \$55,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The monitoring will continue through May of 2005 and will gather valuable data to get a better understanding of the nature of the area's air pollution. The results will be compared to toxic monitoring and modeling results for other similar metropolitan areas to determine if a higher than normal risk is indicated for the Longview/Kelso area. If a high risk is determined to exist, additional analysis may be warranted.

## Locomotive Retrofits: FULL STEAM AHEAD!

On June 30th, several dignitaries, industry representatives and concerned citizens celebrated the achievement of the Vancouver Switchyard Idling Diesel Locomotive Project. Through a partnership with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company and a grant from EPA, three Vancouver switchyard locomotives, including the one pictured here, were outfitted with equipment that dramatically reduces emissions and noise from idling locomotives.

Each retrofitted locomotive utilizes a Diesel Driven Heating System (DDHS) from Kim Hotstart Manufacturing Company of Spokane, Wash. and a SmartStart system from ZTR Control Systems of Minneapolis. The DDHS allows an idling locomotive to be shut down by heating the locomotive engine coolant and oil, charging the batteries and powering the cab heaters. The SmartStart system automatically shuts down and starts up the locomotive engine to reduce fuel consumption and emissions while working seamlessly with the DDHS from Kim Hotstart.

"This is an outstanding project that enhances the quality of life for southwest Washington citizens," said Congressman Brian Baird. The EPA is hopeful that the fuel savings obtained from the use of this technology and the project's short payback time will stimulate a snowballing of applications across the United States.

"Our agency is pleased to have been able to help nearby neighborhoods with the application of this innovative technology and, at the same time, be the first community in the western United States to do so," said Bob Elliott, executive director for the Southwest Clean Air Agency.

## New & Improved: [www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org)

If you haven't already seen it, go to [www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org) to check out our newly redesigned website. The new design features agency news items and offers an easier format for navigation of the site. In addition to expanding the section on asbestos, the website now features a section on agricultural burning, online forms to file complaints, a way to sign up to receive notices about particular sources or to request a burn permit. Another new feature incorporates posting permit applications as the agency receives them, improving public involvement with the permitting process. Other features will be added as the site grows, but feel free to send your feedback and suggestions to Kathy Carlson, Public Information Specialist, at [kathy@swcleanair.org](mailto:kathy@swcleanair.org).

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## A Friendly Reminder about Asbestos

The growing popularity of do-it-yourself home repairs and renovations has increased the possibilities of exposure to asbestos. If you own and reside in a single-family home, you are allowed to do your own asbestos removal during home renovation projects, but the process is not easy, nor without risk. Many homeowners find that hiring a qualified asbestos-removal company is a better and safer option. Those who decide to tackle the asbestos removal job themselves should be prepared for the task.

Before any renovation or demolition work is done, contact the Southwest Clean Air Agency at 360-574-3058 or 1-800-633-0709 to get the latest safety practices and legal requirements for asbestos removal. Prior to demolition or renovation of a structure, a thorough asbestos inspection must be conducted by an AHERA-certified inspector in order to ascertain the presence of asbestos containing material in all affected structures or areas. If asbestos is found, it must be removed by AHERA-certified personnel in full accordance with the Southwest Clean Air Agency's (SWCAA) Regulations SWCAA 476 (Standards for Asbestos Control) and with 40 CFR Part 61 Subpart M (National Emission Standards for Asbestos). A Notification of Demolition and Renovation, a Notice of Intent to Remove or Encapsulate Asbestos and a copy of the AHERA asbestos inspection report for each structure are required and must be submitted to SWCAA for approval. After the notification forms are submitted there is a 10 business day waiting period before any work can begin. All asbestos must then be completely removed from the affected structures or areas before any demolition or structure renovation can take place. If the inspection does not reveal any asbestos and the structure is to be demolished, a Notification of Demolition and Renovation and a copy of the AHERA asbestos inspection report are required and must be submitted to SWCAA. There is a 10 business day waiting period from the time the notification is submitted before the demolition can start. If no asbestos is found and the structure is not being demolished, no forms are required by SWCAA.

For more information about asbestos and what to do, visit the asbestos section of our website at [www.swcleanair.org](http://www.swcleanair.org) or call us at 360-574-3058 or 1-800-633-0709.

## Welcome LuAnne!

The Southwest Clean Air Agency is pleased to welcome LuAnne Daily to our staff as Office Administrator. LuAnne is replacing Virginia Fry who retired at the end of August after serving SWCAA for the past 25 years.

LuAnne has worked as an accountant for more than 23 years, most recently as a Fiscal Manager for Lewis County Health & Social Services. She comes to the agency with a B.A. in accounting and a minor in public administration. LuAnne also enjoys listening to a variety of audio books during her drive to work from her home in Lewis County.

## Additional Funding—Gorge Study

The Southwest Clean Air Agency received additional funding to improve the Columbia River Gorge Air Quality Study that is currently underway. The second round of funding from Congress amounts to \$422,500 and will extend the summer seasonal intensive monitoring period from three months to five months and provides for a second wintertime seasonal study for the winter of 2004/2005. The additional funds will also cover the purchase of two pieces of equipment that were originally envisioned to be leased, and will fund the additional cost for data analysis and operations. Of this new funding, \$50,000 will also be set aside for public outreach efforts targeting Gorge residents.

Currently there are nine nephelometers monitoring haze at various points in the Columbia River Gorge. In addition, we have other monitors measuring concentrations of sulfates, nitrates, elemental and organic carbon. The first winter seasonal intensive monitoring in the east end of the Gorge at Wishram, Bonneville Dam and Towal Road has been completed and the summer monitoring period at the west end is underway at Mt. Zion, Bonneville Dam and Sauvie Island. Once all of the monitoring has been completed, the data will be combined with meteorological data to model the scope and behavior of air pollutants. This information will likely be used to develop a regional strategy to address the issues of haze and air pollution in the Columbia River Gorge.

## Southwest Clean Air Agency

### SOUTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY

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### BOARD MEETINGS

When: First Thursday of every month  
Where: SWCAA offices  
Contact: (360) 574-3058

### CLARK COUNTY OUTDOOR BURN INFO

Contact: (360) 574-3058, ext. 6

### BURN INFORMATION/OTHER COUNTIES

Contact: (800) 633-0709

### NEWSLETTER

Kathy Carlson, Editor  
For questions or comments regarding this newsletter, call  
(360) 574-3058, ext. 39  
or e-mail [Kathy@swcleanair.org](mailto:Kathy@swcleanair.org)



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