



Winter 2002

Clean Air News

"To preserve and enhance air quality in southwest Washington"

Attention Contractors!

In its efforts to protect public health, Washington State law requires you to provide written notice to the Southwest Clean Air Agency prior to the removal of asbestos. Contact the Southwest Clean Air Agency at (360) 574-3058, ext. 24 prior to the demolition or renovation of any structure.

TRANSALTA EXPERIENCES Clean Air & 'Calm Winds'

TransAlta's Centralia Generation Power Plant has successfully completed the installation of air pollution control equipment on the first of its two scrubbers. In operation since October 2001, initial tests confirmed that the \$200 million equipment upgrade will reduce TransAlta's 83,000 tons of annual emissions by 90 percent in the coming years.

The winds of controversy were calmed in July of 2001 when the Washington Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision to support the Reasonable Available Control Technologies (RACT) Order proposed by the Southwest Clean Air Agency. In addition to significantly reducing sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, the RACT order preserved nearly 700 jobs at the Lewis County business. This decision defeated a petition by Seattle resident, Greg Bowers, requesting that the plant convert to natural gas or shut down.

The eye of this controversial storm has been largely focused on sulfur dioxide's adverse affects on the region's visibility. Though sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide also have the power to adversely affect human health, TransAlta's Centralia Generation Power Plant has not had problems complying with EPA health regulations.

TransAlta Centralia Generation is required to install and operate sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide air pollution control equipment on the second of its two scrubbers by December 31, 2002.

Asbestos Regulations Designed to Protect Public Health

As a naturally occurring mineral, asbestos has long been admired for its many desirable qualities. In addition to its high tensile strength and fire resistance, asbestos has been widely used as a result of its affordability and versatility. Today, asbestos can be found in thousands of building products ranging from insulation and floor tiles to exterior siding and roofing shingles.

Unfortunately, asbestos also has a dark side. Years after installation, the glue that holds asbestos fibers together can break down resulting in "friable" asbestos. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, asbestos-containing material is friable when it contains more than one percent asbestos and can be "crumbled or reduced to a powder by hand pressure".

Though the American Lung Association states that there is no known safe level of exposure to asbestos, there are specific federal, state and local laws regulating the removal, handling and disposal of asbestos materials. Before you begin any demolition or renovation project in southwest Washington, familiarize yourself with these laws:

1 Inspection. Prior to the demolition or renovation of any structure, an Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) inspection must be conducted by a certified inspector.

2 Removal. If asbestos is found during the inspection, it must be removed by a certified AHERA inspector prior to demolition or renovation. An asbestos removal notification must be submitted and approved by the Southwest Clean Air Agency at least 10 business days prior to the asbestos removal.

3 Notification. A Demolition and Renovation Notice and the AHERA report must be kept on the demolition or renovation site until the project is completed. This is required regardless of whether the building is found to contain asbestos.

Obeying the federal, state and local laws regarding the removal of asbestos will not only preserve health, but will also help you avoid costly fines.

For more information about asbestos regulations in southwest Washington, contact the **Southwest Clean Air Agency at (360) 574-3058, ext. 24**

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Southwest Clean Air Agency

News Briefs

- **The Southwest Clean Air Agency's Board of Directors** has approved a resolution praising the City of Vancouver for its clean air actions. On its own initiative, the City applied for and received a grant totaling \$63,876 to fund its "Green Fleet Shared Vehicle Project". These funds will be used to fund a car sharing program, making Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicles available for loan to Vancouver residents who sign up as members and agree to pay a small hourly fee for vehicle usage.
- **Brian Fallon** has been hired to serve as the Southwest Clean Air Agency's burning permit specialist. A former air pollution emission testing specialist for Horizon Engineering, Portland, Ore., Brian will continue to contribute to the development, implementation and coordination of the Agency's newly acquired land clearing burning permit program.
- **Stephanie Hungerford** was recently hired to serve as the Southwest Clean Air Agency's public information specialist. Formerly the public relations associate for the Milwaukee Ballet, Milwaukee, Wis., Stephanie is responsible for the development and implementation of public information programs and activities for the Agency.
- **Attention Teachers!** The Southwest Clean Air Agency will be releasing free copies of its new interactive software, *Air Head and the Dirty Half Dozen*, this winter. The software is an excellent way to introduce elementary school students to the topic of air pollution. To obtain your free copy, call the Southwest Clean Air Agency at (360) 574-3058, ext. 39.
- **The Pacific Northwest International Section of the Air & Waste Management Association** will be presenting a one day training session entitled "A Crash Course in Stack Testing," March 20, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. To register or receive more information, contact Roylene Cunningham at (206) 553-0513.

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) 574-0057, ext. 6

BURN INFORMATION/OTHER COUNTIES

Contact: (800) 633-0709

NEWSLETTER

Stephanie Hungerford, Editor
For questions or comments regarding this newsletter, call
(360) 574-3058, ext. 39
or e-mail stephanie@swcleanair.org

Land Clearing Burn Permit Program

Wondering where you may obtain land clearing burning permits for your area? Contact the following departments for more information about size specifications, restricted areas and permit fees.

Clark County
Cowlitz County
Lewis County
Skamania County
Wahkiakum County

Clark County Fire Marshall
Southwest Clean Air Agency
Southwest Clean Air Agency
Southwest Clean Air Agency
Department of Public Works

(360) 397-2375, ext. 3396
800-633-0709, ext. 38
800-633-0709, ext. 38
800-633-0709, ext. 38
(360) 795-3067

