



# Clean Air News

Winter 1999

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## Business Assistance Program

SWAPCA provides free, non-regulatory assistance to businesses seeking to comply with clean air requirements. Features of the business assistance program include:

- helping companies understand air regulations and permit applications
- working to keep companies informed through local building departments
- identifying low interest financing for air pollution control equipment
- providing tools on the website such as on-line application forms, a toxics database and an emissions calculations worksheet.

The business assistance webpage and SWAPCA Regulations can be found on SWAPCA's webpage at: [www.swapca.org](http://www.swapca.org).

You can also reach SWAPCA by phoning us at 360-574-3058 or by fax at 360-576-0925.

## Southwest Washington Ozone Study

The Vancouver – Portland interstate airshed was redesignated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on April 30, 1997 as meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground level ozone. A maintenance plan was developed which detailed the actions to be taken by the Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority (SWAPCA) and the residents in the Vancouver – Portland airshed to maintain air quality. These actions include, among others, an expansion of the automobile emission testing area, and use of a new vehicle emission test method.

During the development of the Vancouver – Portland air quality maintenance plan, industrial sources of air pollution in Cowlitz County were suggested by some parties as possibly impacting the Vancouver – Portland air quality ozone maintenance area. The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), in coordination with SWAPCA, contracted with Washington State University (WSU) to conduct a photochemical modeling study. The purpose of the study was to investi-

gate the impact of emissions from the major industrial air pollution sources in Cowlitz County on ozone concentrations in the maintenance area. The emissions of interest were volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). Ozone is formed in the atmosphere through a complex photochemical reaction involving VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub>, sunlight and heat.

Ozone monitoring stations were operated, on a temporary basis, in Castle Rock and Woodland in Cowlitz County and at Hockinson in Clark County. Also included in the study was the permanent ozone monitoring station in Vancouver. Meteorological data was also collected at the Castle Rock and Woodland sites. Data for the study was collected from April through October in 1996, 1997 and 1998.

An analysis of the modeling study concluded that changes in the industrial emissions at the industrial sites in Cowlitz County would not have a significant impact upon the maximum concentration of ozone measured in the Vancouver – Portland area.

## So...How's the Air Quality?

Air quality data is collected from automated monitors located around Washington State. Air pollutants routinely monitored include carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter (PM) and, during the spring and summer months, ground level ozone.

The automated monitors continuously collect air quality data and feed it via phone line to DOE's data center. This data, which is updated every hour, is now available to the public via the internet. To access the data, visit the SWAPCA web page at [www.swapca.org](http://www.swapca.org), go to *Links*

then click on *Air Quality Telemetry Network*. The data is presented in an easily read graphic format.

An exceedance of the 8 hour carbon monoxide (CO) standard (9.0 ppm) was recorded at the Atlas & Cox site in Vancouver on January 6, 1999. The highest recorded level of CO was 10.1 ppm. If more than one exceedance is recorded in a two year period, the area will be classified as a nonattainment area for CO. This is the highest recorded level since December 1991.

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Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority

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## EMISSION REGISTRATION FEES

The SWAPCA Board of Directors, after considering public comments, approved a change in the assessment of registration fees during the February SWAPCA Board meeting. The registration fees for all registered sources during the coming fiscal year will be assessed as follows:

- \$75 for each emission unit. An emission unit is defined as any part of a stationary source which emits or would have the potential to emit any air pollutant regulated by SWAPCA. Emission units include such point sources as boilers, baghouses, scrubbers, gasoline storage and dispensing, rock crushing and screening equipment and dry cleaners.
- \$25 per ton of air pollution. Air pollutants include carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds and lead.
- \$10 per ton of toxic air pollutants (TAPs) in excess of one ton. TAPs include chemicals such as toluene, benzene, formaldehyde, acetone and others. A list of TAPs can be found in SWAPCA Regulation 460.

This change in the registration fees was necessitated by a decrease in funding from the EPA. SWAPCA has reduced staffing as a result of the decrease in federal funding.

## HAPPENINGS AT SWAPCA

The SWAPCA Board of Directors has several newmembers for 1999.

**Dennis Hadaller**, new Lewis County Commissioner, now represents Lewis County, replacing Glenn Aldrich. Skamania County is now represented by Commissioner **Ed Mamey**, who replaces Al McKee on the Board. Clark County also has a new Board member, County Commissioner **Graig Bidmore**.

**Jack Burkman**, City of Vancouver, was elected chair, and **John VerValen**, City of Centralia, was elected vice chair.

Tim Gould, an engineer for SWAPCA, resigned at the end of January. After a four month hiking tour of New Zealand and Australia, Tim plans to pursue a doctorate in atmospheric science. SWAPCA is currently seeking a replacement for the position. Due to budget cuts, SWAPCA is not replacing the inspector position which became vacant last fall.

### Environmental Justice Grant

SWAPCA has been awarded a \$100,000 Environmental Justice Grant from the EPA. The Grant was awarded to SWAPCA after a national competition on Environmental Justice issues. The monies will be used to assist low income citizens in Clark County with emission repairs to their motor vehicles. To qualify for emission repair assistance, the vehicle must, of course, fail the emissions test and the owner must qualify as a low income resident of Clark County. In addition, proof of vehicle insurance and verification of income is required.

Repairs to the emission system must be performed by a certified emissions repair specialist enrolled in this repair program. The grant will be administered by SWAPCA through a partnership with The Salvation Army and DOE.

## IT BEATS THE OSCARS!

The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) is seeking applications for the annual Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling Awards. Six awards will be given to governments, businesses, groups and individuals that had productive waste reduction and recycling programs, and also demonstrated innovative approaches and outreach efforts during 1998.

To obtain applications, call Shelly McClure at DOE's Southwest Regional Office at 360-407-6398. Applications are due March 12. The awards will be issued on May 4, during the Washington State Recycling Association's annual conference in Ocean Shores.



CLIP & SAVE

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SWAPCA Board Meetings...  
1st Thursday every month, 3 pm  
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