

# COMPLIANCE & PREVENTION

## quarterly

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### Contractors: Be Aware of Your Notification Requirements for Asbestos!

In 1990, Ohio EPA adopted regulations in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-20 for controlling asbestos emissions from demolition and renovation projects. In 2002, these regulations were updated to be consistent with U.S. EPA's National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) standards for asbestos. The regulations require that contractors do several things, such as provide a notification, conduct thorough inspections to determine the presence of asbestos, follow specific work practices and ensure proper disposal of asbestos-containing material.



As a contractor, it is very important that you are aware of and in compliance with these requirements at your work sites. Non-compliance can mean violations and a penalty for your business.

In 2003, a construction contractor in Northeast Ohio was fined \$7,000 for failing to complete an asbestos notification.

One important requirement and the focus of this article is the notification requirement. Some contractors are not aware that every demolition project at a facility requires an asbestos notification, regardless of whether asbestos is involved.

The notification requirement is different for facility renovation activities and is dependent upon the amount of regulated asbestos containing material (RACM) at the site. For renovation, a notification must be submitted if the amount of RACM disturbed exceeds 260 linear feet on pipes or 160 square feet on other facility components or 35 cubic feet off facility components.

You are not required to notify if you are working at a single-family private residence, unless you are

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### Compliance Assistance Conference Announced

On October 18, 2005 Ohio EPA will host the first annual "Compliance Assistance Conference: Successfully Navigating Reporting, Permitting and Inspections" in Columbus. Mark your calendars and plan to attend to gain a better understanding of the environmental requirements that apply to you.



Conference topics include:

- EPCRA, RCRA and TRI Reporting
- Overview of Hazardous Waste Requirements
- Used Oil and SPCC Plans
- Storm Water Permits
- Identifying Whether You Need an Air Permit
- Air and Water Permits: Typical Reporting Requirements
- How to Prepare for an Ohio EPA Inspection
- What's on the Horizon at Ohio EPA .... and more!

We think this conference will be particularly helpful for small-and medium-size businesses that need to know more about compliance. Additional conference details and registration information are forthcoming. For updates, visit the Agency at [www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us).

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demolishing or renovating more than one home or it is part of a larger regulated project. In this scenario, the notification requirement does apply.

There is one notification form that has been developed by Ohio EPA that is used for either demolition or renovation activities. The form must contain information such as the scheduled start and completion date of the work, the location of the site, the names of operators or asbestos removal contractors, methods of removal and the amount of asbestos. You are required to submit your notification at least 10 working days before beginning the project. The notification form goes to either the Ohio EPA district office or local air pollution control office in your area.

Before any renovation or demolition, you must have a certified asbestos hazard evaluation specialist identify any asbestos containing material and determine the appropriate asbestos management plan for the site. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) licenses and certifies companies and individuals involved with asbestos abatement. For more information, contact the ODH Asbestos Program at (614) 466-0061, or visit them at [www2.odh.ohio.gov/ODHPrograms/ASBES1/asbestos1.htm](http://www2.odh.ohio.gov/ODHPrograms/ASBES1/asbestos1.htm).

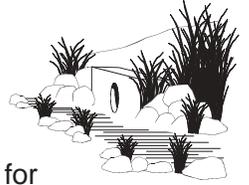
Providing the proper notification is just one of many requirements that contractors must follow when working on job sites that may involve asbestos. However, it is an important first step to help you start down the path toward compliance. Ohio EPA's notification form and instructions are available through the Division of Air Pollution Control (DAPC) at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/asbestos](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/asbestos). For more information about all the asbestos requirements, including notification, record keeping, waste handling, shipment and emission controls, visit the DAPC Web site for a copy of the regulations. If you have additional questions, you can also contact Tom Buchan, Ohio EPA, DAPC, at (614) 644-3607.

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## Industrial Storm Water General Permit Renewal Process

Ohio EPA's industrial storm water general permit expires on July 31, 2005. If you have coverage under this permit you will be authorized to continue to discharge storm water beyond July 31. Once the general permit is renewed, Ohio EPA will contact current permittees in writing about how to obtain coverage under the renewed permit.

Coverage cannot be renewed until the next generation of the general permit is issued, which is expected by the fall of 2005. Prior to re-applying, applicants must know whether they remain eligible for coverage and must be given the opportunity to consider whether they prefer authorization under an individual permit. If you have coverage under the expiring permit, you will have 90 days to respond to Ohio EPA's written instructions or coverage will lapse.



Updates on the industrial storm water general permit renewal will be posted at [www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/index.html](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/index.html). For further information, contact John Morrison, Ohio EPA's Storm Water Program, at (614) 644-2259 or [john.morrison@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:john.morrison@epa.state.oh.us).

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## Green Building Expo Slated for September

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. September 29, 2005  
Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North 4th Street

This year's Columbus Green Building Forum's Green Building Expo will include various green educational seminars and a trade show featuring the latest in green products, systems and lighting. The evening's keynote speaker is William McDonough. McDonough is the author of "*Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the way we make things*," an international bestseller. Internationally recognized, McDonough is the recipient of two U.S. presidential honors and the National Design Award. He is the former dean of architecture at the University of Virginia and co-chair of the China-U.S. Center for Sustainable Development.

This event is brought to you by the Columbus Green Building Forum (CGBF). CGBF is an organization dedicated to promoting energy-efficient and environment-friendly green building practices in Central Ohio by providing education to the building industry and participating in projects to create interest in the general public. For more information about CGBF, go to [www.cgbf.org](http://www.cgbf.org)

For more information about the Expo, please contact Greg Faulkner at [GAFaulkner@Columbus.gov](mailto:GAFaulkner@Columbus.gov).

## SWACO Plans Green Energy Center

(Retrieved from [www.americanrecycler.com/0705swaco.shtml](http://www.americanrecycler.com/0705swaco.shtml) , July 2005)

Trash from the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio's (SWACO) Franklin County landfill will soon be transformed into American-made energy. Ground has been broken by SWACO and FirmGreen of Newport Beach, CA for the \$18-million Green Energy Center. The process will convert landfill gas into methane and CO<sub>2</sub>. The project is designed to eventually produce seven million gallons of methanol annually and could lead to fuel cell development. When operational, the center will reduce greenhouse gases annually in an amount equal to removing nearly 2,000 cars from the road, reducing oil consumption by 20,800 barrels or planting 2,600 acres of trees.

The first phase of the project, which will be operational by year's end, will power SWACO's administration, educational, and fleet maintenance buildings. This should make these buildings 95 percent energy self-sufficient and save an estimated 10 percent on the Authority's electric bill and approximately 15 percent on its costs for propane.

The second phase of the project will involve cleaning and converting landfill gas into compressed natural gas (CNG). The CNG will fuel SWACO vehicles and save approximately \$100,000 a year in fuel costs.

Phase three of the project will begin converting the landfill gas into methanol and CO<sub>2</sub> for use in the open market. FirmGreen plans to build a methanol processing facility next to the landfill and will buy landfill gas from SWACO. Potential uses for the methanol already have been identified and FirmGreen has signed a 10-year agreement with Mitsubishi Gas Chemical Company to provide up to six-million gallons of methanol annually.

Methanol has many industrial uses including mixing it with soybean oil to produce "biodiesel." This product can be used in most conventionally powered diesel vehicles. Studies have shown that biodiesel pollutes less and produces less wear and tear on vehicle engines. The potential of biodiesel production could boost the demand for Ohio-grown soybeans by up to 600,000 bushels annually (that's 15,000 acres annually with an average yield of 40 bushels per acre). FirmGreen also wishes to develop a 10-million gallon biodiesel plant. It would be the first worldwide to use green methanol produced from landfill gas.

The Green Energy Center represents an \$18-million investment on the part of FirmGreen. It will create

125 construction jobs. Once the facility is operational it will employ 25 permanent workers.

The Green Energy Center is the prelude to SWACO's Pyramid Resource Center. The 225-acre site on S.R. 665 across from the landfill, is designed to be a "green" business park. Part of the attraction of the complex will be innovations such as electricity generated from landfill gas. Pyramid also promises "green construction standards, a park-like campus, and a hub center for research and development."

Find out more at [www.swaco.org](http://www.swaco.org). Information about FirmGreen can be found at [www.FirmGreen.com](http://www.FirmGreen.com).

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## Conference Report: MSWG in Michigan

The Multi-State Working Group (MSWG), with the support of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held its annual conference, June 20-22 in Grand Rapids. The conference theme was "Eco-Innovation 21: The Local/Global Imperative."

Plenary speakers included Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, current MSWG President Robert Stephens and Director of Michigan DEQ Steven Chester. Attendees also had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions in the areas of business value, policy innovation, and sustainability-climate. The last day included a field trip to several local green businesses, such as the Herman Miller MarketPlace, the Herman Miller Green House Factory, and the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center.

In the "business value" track, attendees had an opportunity to listen to a panel of speakers talk about LEEDing Redevelopment in the Heartland. One area open to incredible environmental gains is the development industry, and developers and building owners are applying the nationally recognized standard, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) to "green" their buildings.

In the "policy innovation" track, attendees heard a Maine state representative and a Wisconsin state senator talk about the innovative lawmaker. No longer an "us and them" approach, there is the need to go further environmentally and deal with a changed environmental climate together.

Finally, in the "sustainability and climate" track, attendees heard a panel discussion on the topic "International Policies and Tools: Are We Different?"

In the past, the world looked to the U.S. regulatory system as the environmental model. Now, it appears that some also are looking to Europe for environmental regulatory leadership.

All the presentations from this conference are posted at [www.mswg.org/annual\\_workshops/](http://www.mswg.org/annual_workshops/).

### Mark your calendars now!

Ohio has been selected by MSWG to host a regional conference on January 23-24, 2006. The conference venue is to be announced, but will be held in Columbus. Ohio EPA will host the event. As the date approaches, updated information can be found at [www.mswg.org](http://www.mswg.org) and [www.epa.state.oh.us](http://www.epa.state.oh.us).

### Need Help?

Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention is a non-regulatory program and one-stop location for information about environmental requirements, compliance concerns and pollution prevention. Services are free. Contact us at (800) 329-7518 or (614) 644-3469.

### How You Can Make a Difference

You can make the publication of *Compliance and Prevention Quarterly* more environmentally friendly. E-mail the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention at [p2mail@epa.state.oh.us](mailto:p2mail@epa.state.oh.us) to request that we send you an electronic copy, an Adobe Acrobat PDF file or a message that indicates the newest version is now available on the Web. It's that easy to make a difference.

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