

December 2007

Ohio Compliance Advisory Panel

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 required the creation of Compliance Advisory Panels (CAPs) in all U.S. states and territories as part of a three-tiered national program to help small business comply with Clean Air Act requirements. The CAP works in conjunction with the state Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) and Small Business Ombudsman (SBO). The Ohio CAP also receives support from the National CAP in communicating small business interests to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Small Business Ombudsman.

According to Ohio law, CAP membership consists of:

- two members selected by the governor who are not owners or representatives of owners of small businesses to represent the general public;
- one member selected by Ohio EPA's director to represent the Agency;
- four members selected by the General Assembly who are owners or representatives of owners of small businesses. One each shall be appointed by the president of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

The official responsibilities of the CAP include:

- advise the Ohio EPA of the small business perspective on environmental issues;
- review compliance assistance information prepared by the SBAP to ensure that the information is understandable to the layperson;



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Small Business Representatives:

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- review the effectiveness of the SBAP, difficulties encountered with regard to the program and recommend improvements to the program;
- report to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concerning the compliance of the SBAP with the Paperwork Reduction Act, Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Equal Access to Justice Act.
- **Assisting in the continued improvement of the SBAP, including the expansion of multi-media services;**
- **Promoting SBAP services through the Ohio legislature, small business trade organizations and other networks;**
- **Facilitating communication to reduce the regulatory and financial burden of environmental regulations.**

The Ohio CAP adopted the following as its Mission:

To foster improved environmental performance at Ohio's Small Businesses by: