

CLEAN TIMES

~ Textile Care Professionals ~

February 2012

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Drycleaner Outcry Gets Results

On February 10 the PUCO announced it will revisit portions of an AEP rate plan that left many drycleaners angry as well as scratching their heads when they opened their monthly electricity bill. The rate plan, approved by the PUCO in December, will allow AEP to transition to a market-based generation rate structure over a four and one-half year period. Additionally, AEP will separate its generation and distribution assets; and down the road, will begin to procure electricity for customers through competitive auctions.



Mark Kimmel
OCA President

As the full effect of the rate plan became clear, many drycleaners and other small businesses contacted their state legislators, the PUCO and the governor's office. When faced with the outcry, the PUCO said it didn't expect the rate plan to result in the huge increases some small businesses experienced. Then, on Feb. 10, the PUCO announced it would revisit the case in hopes of finding a solution.

[Read more...](#)

Ohio EPA Reform Bill Gets Hearing (SB294)

A much anticipated Ohio EPA reform bill received its first hearing last week in the Senate Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Sen. Tim Schaffer, the bill's sponsor, and Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally hailed the bill as a common sense measure that will protect the environment and *provide regulatory relief for Ohio businesses*. Last fall,

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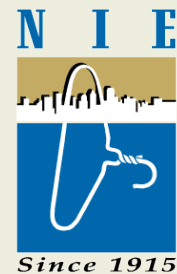
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Ohio EPA began meetings with interested parties to discuss proposed legislative changes that would make the agency more efficient and effective. Senate Bill 294 is the product of those meetings.

[Read more...](#)

Perc Labeled "*Likely Human Carcinogen*"

On February 10, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final health assessment for tetrachlorethylene, also known as perchloroethylene or perc. EPA's Intergrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment now characterizes perc as a "likely human carcinogen." This ruling may result in media inquiries and customer questions. The most important thing to relay to customers is that EPA's report says perc is not harmful to customers who wear dry cleaned clothes. The second paragraph of the press information EPA sent starts with:

"EPA does not believe that wearing clothes dry cleaned with perc will result in exposures which pose a risk of concern."

[Read more ...](#)

New Training Requirements for Underground Petroleum Tank Operators

New training requirements for Underground Petroleum Storage Tank operators will take effect August 8, 2012. Click [here](#) for the "Operator Training Frequently Asked Questions" document which includes a link to the BUSTR website. Click [here](#) for the "Ohio Class C UST Operator Training Instructional Material, Evaluation, and Certificate Form" for your review and use. In addition, a list of the "Operator Training Course Sponsors" can be found [here](#).

[Read more ...](#)

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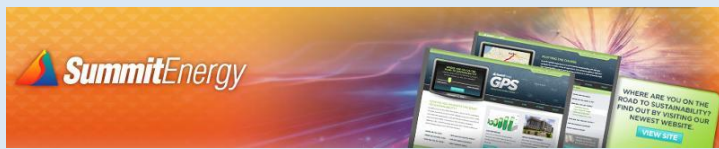
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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority can help dry cleaning businesses to stay compliant with state and federal environmental standards. For information on lower-cost financing for equipment purchases click the logo or call 614-224-3383.