



CLEAN TIMES

~ Textile Care Professionals ~

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Ohio EPA Seeks OCA Member Cleaners for Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel

The Ohio EPA is seeking an OCA member or two to serve on its Small Business Advisory Panel, according to OCA Executive Director, David W. Field, CAE.

Currently, two small business representative seats on the panel are vacant. General Assembly members Rep. Armond Budish and Sen. Eric Kearney each need to make one of these appointments. According Rick Carleski, the Supervisor of the Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention, legislator's often ask the EPA for potential candidates. EPA would like to offer actual small business operators with some experience in dealing with EPA.

Dry cleaners certainly fit the bill.

Panel members meet quarterly to review and comment on EPA-related compliance needs, concerns, and regulations. In addition, they pre-view and evaluate compliance assistance publications, such as the popular Environmental Compliance Calendar for Dry Cleaners. It is not a big time commitment.

Please let the OCA office know of your possible interest in this position and direct your questions to Carleski at 614-728-1742 or rick.carleski@epa.ohio.gov. Send your interest in this position to OCA@AssnOffices.com or phone to Nancy Waterhouse at 614-228-4716.

PUCO Approves AEP Rates

Utility regulators signed off Sept. 22 on American Electric Power's projected rates under the company's new electric security plan.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ordered AEP Ohio's proposed rates under the ESP the commission approved earlier this

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month to take effect for the September billing cycle.

The new tariffs show a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatts per month will see an increase of about \$7.85, or 6.3%, in the 2012 bill for customers in the Columbus Southern Power rate zone and \$6.94, or 6.1%, for customers in Ohio Power territory.

Typical commercial customers consuming 10,000 kWh per month with a 30 kW demand will see an increase of about \$13.08, or 1%, for CSP customers and \$49.87, or 4.8%, for OP customers, according to the tariffs.

During the hearing, PUCO also approved AEP's request to change its billing format to list the newly created riders as separate line items on the customer bills.

Snitchler Touts Competition In AEP Territory

One day after finalizing a plan to transition American Electric Power to the competitive market, the chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio told business leaders that shopping for electricity could benefit their bottom lines.

During a meeting of the Small Business Advisory Council, which guides the Kasich Administration's Common Sense Initiative Office, PUCO Chairman Todd Snitchler said the new rate plan for AEP Ohio would push the state further toward a deregulated market for electricity, where consumers could shop for competitive generation service.

The chairman predicted consumers in AEP's service territory would soon see a blossoming of new offers from competitive electricity suppliers that could help small businesses save money on their utility bills.

"The implementation of competition is helpful in that it will necessarily drive down prices," he said, recalling that he recently saw an offer for free nighttime generation service in another service territory where the market was more robust.

[Read more...](#)

BWC Considers Employer Refund, Premium Reduction As Net Assets Grow

The value of the Bureau of Workers' Compensation's net assets is higher now than it has been in more than a decade and the board is discussing whether to give employers back a portion of their premiums or make other changes.



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Legislative Representation

In light of the BWC's increasingly rosy financial outlook, staff proposed five options for the Board of Directors to consider earlier this year, including a refund of 25% of employers' premium payments worth about \$200 million.

Alternatively, BWC could leverage its net assets to reduce employers' overall premium rates, staff suggested, noting the board could adopt a more optimistic estimate on investment returns while staying within the consulting actuaries' recommended range.

[Read more...](#)

BWC Safety and Health Services

At no added cost, BWC offers businesses comprehensive and valuable workplace safety and health services. The BWC's mission is to lower risks, making workplaces safer and healthier. BWC provides support for businesses to improve their bottom line by reducing workers' compensation costs.

BWC is your partner in workplace safety and health

Workers' compensation premiums include the cost of BWC safety services, so why not take advantage of the broad spectrum of offerings, tailored specifically to the needs of Ohio workplaces.

- **Consultation services:** Specialists in industrial safety, construction safety, industrial hygiene and ergonomics can visit your workplace and help tailor solutions to suit your needs.
- **Training center:** Offers 75 occupational safety and health courses in classrooms around the state, and six online courses
- **Library services:** Provides information, research and training aids
- **Safety councils:** 80 local safety councils throughout Ohio host monthly meetings promoting safety through informative talks and networking, presenting annual awards and offering premium rebates to eligible employers
- **Safety grants:** Grants and loans for purchasing equipment, creating a workplace wellness program and conducting drug-free workplace training
- **Video library:** A lending library of safety and health training videos
- **BWC Web site:** Online safety publications, tools and resources
- **Safety Congress & Expo:** Free, annual conference is the largest state conference of its kind

Remember to make safety and health activities routine considerations rather than crisis responses.

How to reach BWC's Division of Safety & Hygiene

Telephone: 1-800-OHIOBWC
E-mail: safety@bwc.state.oh.us
Fax: 614-365-4974
Web: ohiobwc.com

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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.