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**OAQDA Authorizes Financing Package to Assist Cuyahoga County Dry Cleaner**

*\$50,000 financing package will enable purchase of dry cleaning machine*

COLUMBUS – The purchase of a new “effective microorganism” (EM) dry cleaning system will help Topp’s Cleaners of Euclid in Cuyahoga County switch to the use of a water-free, advanced multi-solvent system while reducing hazardous air emissions, thanks to the approval of a financing package by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its April meeting.

Topp’s Cleaners recently began using a new wet cleaning system, however that process was not performing up to specifications. Rather than going back to the old PERC (perchloroethylene, a chemical used that can adversely affect human health and produces hazardous waste) machine, Topp’s has replaced the recently- purchased wet system with a more efficient alternative solvent employing EM technology with the assistance of OAQDA financing.

The cleaning solutions used in the EM technology system are derived from natural ingredients and non-harmful microorganisms. The system utilizes a non-distilling, no-steam, water free process that reduces gas, electric, water, and maintenance costs. No harmful chemicals are used and no hazardous waste is produced.

“We are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with OAQDA and its CARC program in securing this financing package. These new state-of-the-art, eco-friendly dry cleaning machines with EM technology offer a level of quality to customers that is superior to any of the other ‘eco-friendly’ alternative solvent systems on the market today. Dry cleaners who buy these machines from us are able to provide the highest quality of cleaning to their customers while being environmentally responsible in their communities as well. We aim to help more of our customers make the same change as Topp’s Cleaners, get rid of PERC and make their cleaners green and efficient,” Michael Casalou, sales and marketing manager with E&N Equipment Co., representing Topp’s Cleaners, said.

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He added that EM technology is used in many common goods and practices, including cosmetics, soaps, food preservation, cleaning natural bodies of water and turning household garbage into garden soil.

Under the financing package provided through OAQDA's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) program, the Authority approved the issuance of an Air Quality Development Revenue Bond not to exceed \$50,000 to assist in the financing costs of the new dry cleaning unit. OAQDA also authorized the issuance of two CARC grants as part of the financing package.

One grant will be used for reimbursement of closing costs of the eligible portion of the amount financed. The second grant will cover a portion of the principal amount, not to exceed 30 percent of project costs. CARC helps small Ohio businesses become compliant with air quality regulations through the purchase and installation of new clean air facilities.

"This project is an excellent example of how OAQDA fulfills its mission of protecting and preserving air quality in the State through its CARC program by assisting small Ohio businesses in improving their operations," Chadwick Smith, OAQDA executive director, said.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at [www.ohioairquality.org](http://www.ohioairquality.org).