



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: OAQDA
614-224-3383

OAQDA Approves Clean Air Financing for Cuyahoga County Dry Cleaner
New Equipment to Eliminate PERC Usage

COLUMBUS – A Cleveland area dry cleaning business received financing approval for up to \$110,000 from the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its October meeting.

Esteem Cleaners, 6475 Pearl Rd., Parma Heights, OH, will use the financing from OAQDA through the agency's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) program to purchase equipment that will help the business become a clean air facility. The company will replace its current dry cleaning equipment with a new solvent dry cleaning machine and a wet cleaning machine.

“The new equipment we will purchase thanks to the CARC financing from OAQDA features wet cleaning, which is an effective and environmentally sound alternative to traditional solvents. Using these safe, alternative solvents allows us to maintain our high quality customer service standards while eliminating hazardous waste,” Thomas Fuller, owner of Esteem Cleaners, said.

The solvents to be used in the new system are alternatives to Perochloroethylene (PERC). The new system offers the ability to utilize solvents that clean a wide variety of garments in water, according to Fuller.

“The detergents and spot removers the new equipment will use are made of ingredients that are safer for workers and the environment, yet are as effective at removing soils, stains and odors as dry cleaning solvents, while still maintaining fabric integrity,” he added.

“We are pleased that Esteem Cleaners places such a high value on the safety of its employees and customers to invest in equipment that improves the quality of the air in the community,” State Sen. Michael J. Skindell, (D- Lakewood), said.

Esteem Cleaners is an example of the financing OAQDA provides for pollution control or prevention equipment to Ohio's small businesses through the Clean Air Resource Center (CARC). These projects support CARC's mission of preserving clean air in Ohio.

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.