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### **OAQDA Authorizes Financing Package to Assist Lorain County Dry Cleaner**

*\$70,000 financing package will enable purchase of a state-of-the-art dry cleaning machine*

Columbus – The purchase of a new state-of-the-art dry cleaning unit will help Ridge Cleaners of Lorain County switch to the use of organic chemicals while also reducing hazardous air emissions, thanks to the approval of a financing package by the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) at its February meeting.

Ridge Cleaners' new dry cleaning unit will utilize SOLVONK4, a halogen-free, organic-based solvent that performs at a purity level in excess of 99 percent. The new solvent will replace percyl ethylene ("PERC"), a solvent that generates hazardous waste. SOLVONK4 is capable of dissolving and absorbing fats, greases and oils, as well as water-soluble soils. It also will help Ridge Cleaners reduce hazardous air emissions.

Under the financing package offered through the auspices of OAQDA's Clean Air Resource Center (CARC) program, the Authority approved the issuance of an Air Quality Development Revenue Bond not to exceed \$70,000 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 four percent 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 the CARC program can assist small Ohio businesses in improving their operations, while doing so in ways that help OAQDA fulfill its mission of protecting and preserving air quality in Ohio," said Chadwick Smith, OAQDA executive director.

Lisa Sebastian, president of Ridge Cleaners, said, “We are very pleased to have the opportunity to work with OAQDA and its CARC program in securing this financing package. The new dry cleaning unit will enable our stores to offer an even higher quality product to our customers, while also better protecting the environment in the communities we serve.”

State Senator Gayle Manning (R-13) said, “I salute Ridge Cleaners for its commitment to conduct operations in ways that will improve their work product while also safeguarding the environment.”

State Representative Nathan Manning (R-55) added, “This project highlights the very good work that the CARC program does on behalf of small Ohio businesses. I hope more business owners whose operations involve hazardous materials or air emissions will take advantage of it.”

Ridge Cleaners operates four stores – two in Avon Lake and two in North Ridgeville. The company employs 35 workers. The new dry cleaning machine will be installed in its 5,000 square-foot dry cleaning plant.

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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).