Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Air Quality Alert Issued for June 26 in Central Ohio

Air Pollution Levels Expected to Remain Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups

(COLUMBUS – June 25, 2016) – The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is issuing an Air Quality Alert for the second day in a row for Sunday, June 26. This alert comes after one issued for Saturday, June 25. The region – Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Madison, and Licking counties – is likely to experience ground-level ozone pollution levels that remain Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups on the national Air Quality Index (AQI) scale. Sunday's AQI is forecasted to be 101.

Central Ohio will continue to experience conditions that enhance ground-level ozone formation. The upper-level ridge of high pressure will continue to reduce atmospheric mixing and produce mostly sunny skies and temperatures near 90F. In addition, light southerly winds will transport regional pollutants into central Ohio. These conditions will lead to continued Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI levels.

Sunday is an Air Quality Alert Day for Central Ohio with an AQI of 101. MORPC uses the national AQI scale to inform the public about daily ozone and particle pollution levels in Central Ohio. The AQI scale runs from 0-300 – the higher the AQI value, the greater the health concern. When levels reach above 100, air quality is considered to be Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. MORPC issues an Air Quality Alert to the public when pollution levels reach 101 or higher.

People with asthma are more likely to suffer an increase in the number and severity of symptoms during an Air Quality Alert. To decrease the potential for health implications, sensitive groups of people are urged to limit prolonged outdoor exertion. Those who are experiencing breathing difficulties should consult with their doctor. More information on the health effects of ozone pollution is available at: www.myfcph.org/air.php and www.publichealth.columbus.gov.

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This weekend during the Air Quality Alert days, MORPC recommends taking actions to improve air quality especially when enjoying outdoor activities and festivals. When everyone pitches in, our communities breathe better air.

- Travel by carpooling, combining trips, riding COTA, bicycling, or walking to nearby destinations. For more information contact MORPC RideSolutions at (888) 742-RIDE.
- Turn off your engine instead of idling your vehicle to cut down on vehicle emissions.
- Avoid refueling your vehicle, or wait until dusk to refuel your vehicle. Filling up your tank when the daytime heat has diminished helps to reduce harmful ground-level ozone pollution.
- Avoid topping off your tank at the gas station. Spilled gasoline pollutes the air when it evaporates.
- Avoid mowing your lawn on an Air Quality Alert day. Longer grass in your yard is good for the air, as well as the lawn.

Visit http://airquality.morpc.org for more information about MORPC's Air Quality Program.

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The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of local governments and regional organizations which envisions and embraces innovative directions in economic prosperity, energy, the environment, housing, land use, and transportation. Our transformative programming, services and innovative public policy are designed to promote and support the vitality and growth in the region.