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MORPC Hires new director of Energy and Air Quality

(Columbus – November 14, 2013) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) announces Christina Panoska O’Keeffe as the new director of Energy and Air Quality. O’Keeffe, a graduate of The Ohio State University, brings more than ten years of experience in the design and delivery of statewide and local programs to increase clean energy use among consumers, businesses and industry. She will begin on December 16.

O’Keeffe currently, as interim deputy chief of the Office of Energy, Ohio Development Services Agency, develops and implements agency goals and objectives and leads a staff of nearly 20 technical, programmatic, and financial professionals who provide incentives and technical assistance for Ohioans to manage their energy costs through the use of energy efficiency, renewable energy, alternative fuels and clean coal projects.

“We’re excited to bring such an experienced and creative state leader to direct MORPC’s services in energy, efficiency, and clean air for Central Ohio residents, businesses, and local governments,” states William Murdock, MORPC’s Executive Director. “Christina is a recognized expert in energy policy and financing who understands the impact of energy and air quality in improving health, financial stability for families, economic growth, and the quality of the environment.”

“I am honored to join the talented team at MORPC,” said O’Keeffe. “We will build upon the current energy and air quality programs and work alongside the communities and businesses that we serve on a smart, balanced energy plan that can sustain Central Ohio with jobs, reliable energy, and cleaner air.

O’Keeffe also met programmatic, regulatory and financial requirements for the successful administration of federal and state funding, including federal awards with U.S. Department of Energy for \$96 million in State Energy Program funding and \$25 million in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program funding. Prior to her state government work, O’Keeffe developed programs and led efforts for the adoption of clean energy use in residential, commercial and public sectors by serving in positions with the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, located in Colorado, and with Green Energy Ohio, working in offices in Cleveland and Columbus.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 41 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing.