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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MORPC Administers \$1.2 Million from U.S. EPA, Improving Emissions Performance of 16 Diesel Fleets**

**(Columbus – June 17, 2013)** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has administered \$1.2 million for the Ohio Clean Diesel Collaborative Grant Project funded by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). MORPC collaborated with 16 fleet operators throughout Ohio to reduce harmful emissions of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). The Grant funds were used to install new exhaust after treatment technologies on 199 school buses, 4 pieces of construction equipment, and 78 heavy duty trucks, which will eliminate 675 tons of NO<sub>x</sub>, 18 tons of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and 27,485 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over the remaining life of the vehicles.

Diesel engines are known for their reliability and efficiency. However, older diesel engines emit significant amounts of harmful air pollutants. Children, outdoor workers, those who exercise outdoors, people with heart and lung disease, and the elderly are most at risk.

Diesel exhaust contains PM<sub>2.5</sub>, which has been associated with an increased risk of premature mortality, increased hospital admissions for heart and lung disease, and increased respiratory symptoms. NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from diesel engines contribute to the formation of ozone smog, which can aggravate asthma and other respiratory symptoms, leading to more asthma attacks and premature mortality.

“Helping Ohio public and private fleets access clean diesel funding benefits not only fleet owners, by removing barriers to clean up their fleets, but also benefits the public by improving the over all air quality in our communities,” states David Abel, MORPC’s Diesel Specialist.

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MORPC administered \$1.2 million of U.S. EPA grant funding to improve the emissions performance of the following diesel fleets totaling 281 vehicles:

- Reynoldsburg City Schools
- Lake County MRDD
- Northwest Local Schools
- Summit County Engineer
- Cuyahoga Falls City Schools
- Mast Trucking, Inc.
- Canfield Local Schools
- Akron City Schools
- Shelly & Sands, Inc.
- Campbell City Schools
- American Traditions Trucking
- Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
- PI & I Motor Express, Inc.
- City of Grove City
- City of Lakewood
- Bloom Carroll Schools

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Designated as central Ohio's metropolitan planning agency, MORPC is a voluntary association of 42 local governments. The Center for Energy & Environment at MORPC serves as a community resource in the region by offering a variety of services including: daily air quality forecasts, trail coordination, educational presentations, watershed planning, home weatherization, government carbon footprint analysis and more.