

MDEQ PROGRAM HELPS TRUCKERS PURCHASE AUXILIARY POWER UNITS

(JACKSON, Miss.) – The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality’s (MDEQ) Air Division announced a program Tuesday to assist truck owners in purchasing and retrofitting heavy duty trucks with auxiliary power units. These auxiliary power units help reduce emissions from heavy duty vehicles by providing electrical power for the heating and cooling of cabs which decreases the need to idle the vehicle.

MDEQ will pay 50 percent toward the purchase and installation of certified units on trucks up to a maximum of \$4,000 per vehicle. The truck owners are responsible for the remainder of the costs. MDEQ will review applications and approve up to 75 statewide. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to MDEQ by June 30, 2010. The list of approved installers are: the Truck Center in Tupelo, Waters Truck and Tractor in Columbus and Kosciusko, Waters International Truck in Meridian, Hattiesburg, and Natchez, and Empire Truck Sales in Jackson, Meridian, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Brookhaven, and Columbus.

“The Auxiliary Power Unit Purchase Assistance Project is an integral component of our Air Division’s efforts to reduce the time that heavy duty diesel vehicles idle. Any measures that help reduce diesel emissions directly benefit Mississippi’s air quality. These auxiliary power units are an excellent way to continue our efforts, and we are pleased to have the funds to launch this initiative,” said MDEQ Executive Director Trudy Fisher.

Applications and information are available on the MDEQ website at: http://www.deq.state.ms.us/MDEQ.nsf/page/Main_Newsroom?OpenDocument. Applications must be received by June 30, 2010. Interested truck owners can contact Keith Head at 601-961-5577, or khead@deq.state.ms.us for assistance.

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