

MDEQ PROGRAM PROVIDES CLEANER BUSES FOR BENTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Jackson, Miss.) – The Air Division of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will begin the

installation of Diesel Oxidation Catalysts for Benton County School District buses today, May 13. The Diesel

Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs) will help protect students' health by reducing tailpipe emissions. DOCs reduce

particulate matter by 40 percent, hydrocarbons by 70 percent, and carbon monoxide by 40 percent. The funding

for the project is a combination of grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and stimulus funds from

the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Truck Center of Tupelo will conduct the installations at the

school district's bus shop.

"We are pleased to work with the Benton County School District, the American Lung Association of Mississippi,

and the Mississippi Department of Education to implement this program to provide a healthier situation for students by installation of the Diesel Oxidation Catalysts. School buses are the safest and most efficient way to

transport students, but we want to ensure that it's a healthy trip," said Trudy Fisher, MDEQ Executive Director.

A DOC is a porous ceramic honeycomb-like structure that is coated with a material that catalyzes a chemical

reaction to reduce pollution. There is no maintenance for the DOCs, and they do not affect the fuel economy of

the buses. The diesel oxidation catalysts will be installed statewide on eligible buses built from 1998 to 2006 in

participating school districts. Newer buses do not need retrofitting due to stricter emissions standards for diesel

engines implemented in 2007. Purchase and installation of these devices will be paid for by MDEQ at no cost to

school districts.

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