

MDEQ PROGRAM PROVIDES CLEANER BUSES FOR DESOTO 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 38 DeSoto County School District buses this

week. 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. Waters Truck and Tractor will conduct the installations for the remaining 38 buses of the total 93

buses to be retrofitted.

“We are pleased to work with the DeSoto 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.

###