

MDEQ PROGRAM PROVIDES CLEANER BUSES FOR DREW SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

installed Diesel Oxidation Catalysts for Drew School District buses on Wednesday, April 14. 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 conducted the installations.

“We are pleased to work with the Drew 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.

###