**MDEQ PROGRAM PROVIDES CLEANER BUSES FOR RANKIN 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 112 Rankin

County School District buses beginning Wednesday through Friday 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 at the school district’s bus shop.

“We are pleased to work with the Rankin 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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