ADEQ Arizona Department of Environmental Quality News Release

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ADEQ Announces Award of $2.15 Million to Shorepower Technologies for Anti-Idling Truck Electrification Project

PHOENIX – (April 5, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that $2.15 million in contracts have been awarded to Shorepower Technologies to install 150 parking spaces with electric hookups and cooling and heating units for long-haul diesel trucks along southern Arizona highways.

The project, which will encourage truck drivers to turn their engines off for extended periods while they sleep or relax, is expected to make a significant contribution toward reducing emissions in the border counties of Yuma, Santa Cruz and Cochise. Yuma and Cochise counties have areas that are in non-attainment for exceeding the health standards for particulate matter (10 microns and smaller or PM10) while Santa Cruz County has an area that is in non-attainment for both PM10 and fine particulate matter pollution, also called PM2.5.

ADEQ will work in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation, local governmental entities and Shorepower to implement the project. Funding for the project is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant and the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"This is an electrifying jumpstart for greener truck stops that should pick up speed throughout the state," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles. "With technology and innovation, we can say no to wasteful idling and yes to clean air and energy conservation."

"Maintaining the efficient movement of goods and produce through Arizona is critical for our state and national economies. This innovation shows that Arizona can meet those needs while improving environmental conditions," said John Halikowski, director of the Arizona Department of Transportation. "Highways can be part of a responsible, sustainable transportation network with the right innovations and partnerships."

The truck electrification units are expected to be installed at truck stops located along major highways like Interstates 8, 10 and 19 throughout southern Arizona. Plug-in units will be provided to truck drivers to air condition or heat their cabs and cargo units, much like "hook-ups" for mobile homes at RV parks. As a result, drivers will not need to keep their engines on to operate their vital systems.

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The cost of electricity is projected to be less than half of what it would cost to power the systems by leaving the diesel engines running. Payment for the electricity will be made at on-site kiosks which will accept credit cards. It is hoped that the cost savings will be enticing to truck drivers who normally rest or sleep at rest stops while their trucks idle and emit air pollution for many hours at a time.

U.S. Department of Transportation regulations require long-haul truck drivers to rest for at least 10 hours for every 14 hours of driving. To rest, drivers typically park in a truck stop or rest area, leave the engine running, and climb back into their sleeping area to rest for several hours. They idle their engines mostly for heating or air conditioning and also to operate on-board electrical appliances such as televisions, refrigerators, or laptops.

Studies have shown that a typical long-haul tractor-trailer idles about 1,830 hours per year. Nationwide, this practice annually consumes 838 million gallons of diesel fuel and emits 11 million tons of carbon dioxide, 180,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and 5,000 tons of particulate matter, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

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