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ADEQ Announces \$105,000 in Additional Funding to Clean Air, Complete More Diesel Truck Retrofits in Nogales

PHOENIX (Nov. 4, 2010) – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality officials announced today that another major effort to improve air quality in Nogales is under way with receipt of \$105,000 in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding to install retrofit devices on large cargo trucks.

The funding, awarded to Auto Safety House of Phoenix, will place the emissions reduction devices on more than 40 freight trucks which make regular runs hauling produce between Nogales, Sonora and Nogales, Ariz. The project is expected to be completed before July 1.

Last year, a \$145,000 ADEQ initiative installed the retrofit devices on 55 of the short-haul trucks, which cross the border several times a day. The devices reduce particulate matter air pollution from diesel emissions by nearly 30 percent.

“Our truck retrofit initiative puts environmental technology to work to clean the air for our border residents while maintaining trade in a vitally important port of entry for the state of Arizona,” ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles said.

Diesel emissions contain carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrous oxides, ozone and ozone precursors and particulates linked to respiratory and other health problems that can trigger asthma attacks, especially in children.

The emissions contain microscopic particulate matter consisting of both “fine” and “coarse” particles sized between 2.5 and 10 micrometers in diameter, also know as PM2.5 and PM10. A human hair is roughly 70 micrometers in diameter.

The air in Nogales is especially affected by particulate pollution because the city is in a valley where airborne contaminants many times become trapped in an inversion layer.

Trucking companies wishing to participate in the retrofit initiative should contact Jose Rodriguez of ADEQ’s Office of Border Environmental Protection at (520)628-6952 or email at Rodriguez.jose@azdeq.gov

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