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## Ohio's Scrap Tire Management Fund

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Senate Bill 165, passed in 1993, created a comprehensive regulatory program governing the transportation, storage, recycling and disposal of scrap tires. In addition, the law established a number of incentives to encourage the recycling of scrap tires rather than disposal. The law established a 50-cents-per-tire fee on the first (wholesale) sale of new tires. This fee generates approximately \$3.5 million per year to fund inspections and enforcement of the regulations, cleanup of scrap tire dumpsites, research into alternate uses and tire recycling technology, and financial assistance to scrap tire recyclers. This fee will sunset in the year 2000. The Scrap Tire Management Fund is restricted to four uses:

- The Institute of Polymer Science at the University of Akron receives an annual grant of \$150,000 from the Fund for research and evaluation of alternative methods for recycling scrap tires.

Two multi-year research projects are currently underway. "Ultrasonic Devulcanization Technology for Scrap Tire Recycling," with Professor Avram I. Isayev as principal investigator, investigates the use of ultrasonic vibrations in the presence of pressure and heat to cause devulcanization to produce crumb rubber. "Ground Scrap Tire Rubber as a Compounding Additive," with Professor Gary R. Hamed as principal investigator, is an attempt to promote the bonding of vulcanized crumb rubber to other vulcanized crumb rubber or virgin rubber.

- Ohio EPA's Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management receives up to \$750,000 per year from the Fund for compliance monitoring and enforcement of the scrap tire law, and oversight of state contracts for cleanup of scrap tire sites. This funding level currently supports eight and one-half staff positions,

located in each of Ohio EPA's five district offices and in the Central Office.

- Over the five-year period before funding sunsets in the year 2000, Ohio EPA will channel approximately \$10 million from the Fund to contractors to clean up some of Ohio's worst scrap tire piles. The abatement program uses criteria outlined in the law to prioritize sites with a million or more tires based on which sites pose the most serious threats to public health and the environment. It provides a much-needed supplement to ongoing efforts by Ohio EPA, local health departments, and local law enforcement officials to have scrap tire facility operators and those responsible for illegal tire stockpiling and tire disposal to clean up the problem sites they created. The first two contracts are being bid during the summer of 1997 for state-funded cleanup of an estimated five million tires at sites in Summit and Clark counties.

Additional contracts will be bid and cleanup projects initiated as additional funding accumulates from the fee.

- The Fund also provides approximately \$6.6 million from 1995 to the year 2000 to be given out in grants, low-interest loans, and other financial assistance to scrap tire recyclers by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Loans and grants are issued in amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. Contact Tom Davis at (614) 265-7069 for pre-application information and guidelines.