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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Ohio EPA and Ohio Attorney General Finalize Settlement with Republic Services for Operation of Countywide Landfill**

Ohio EPA and the Ohio Attorney General's Office have finalized an agreement with Republic Services of Ohio for the future operation and management of Countywide Landfill located at 3619 Gracemont Street SW in East Sparta (Stark County). A complaint and consent order, filed today with the Stark County Court of Common Pleas, also includes civil penalties totaling \$10 million.

The consent order calls for Republic Services to submit a permit modification request and receive Ohio EPA approval to bifurcate, or separate, the landfill into two non-contiguous units: an 88-acre remediation unit where an ongoing underground aluminum dross reaction/fire has been contained, and a 170-acre operational unit where municipal solid waste is permitted to be disposed. Earlier this year, the two areas were physically separated through successful installation of a massive isolation break.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Stark County Health Department, Ohio EPA will maintain regulatory oversight of the remediation unit to ensure that the engineering controls put in place to contain the underground reaction/fire continue to be effective. The Stark County Health Department will oversee licensing and inspection of the day-to-day waste disposal activities in the operational unit.

The consent order also requires Republic Services to address the remediation unit's south slope area where, in 2006, a slope failure caused disposed waste to move outside the legal limits of waste placement. The landfill will install at least one additional ground water monitoring well and assess leachate migration in the failed area. Eventually, all waste outside the limits of waste placement will be disposed inside the remediation unit in accordance with the U.S. EPA-approved Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring Plan (OM&M plan).

Republic Services' \$10 million penalty includes \$3 million for the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and \$7 million for Ohio's Environmental Protection Remediation Fund (EPRF). The CBF will be used to pay for civic projects that benefit communities around the landfill. The EPRF will be used to clean up "orphaned" landfills across Ohio where a substantial threat to public health or the environment exists.

In addition to the consent order, Ohio EPA and Republic Services have entered into Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFOs) that will supersede all previous DFFOs. The document includes deadlines for Republic Services to submit the permit modification request, implement the OM&M plan, and execute a \$10 million financial assurance bond to ensure that the OM&M plan is fully implemented.

Collectively, the consent order, MOU, OM&M plan and DFFOs will serve as blueprints for future landfill operations. While the underground reaction/fire slowly runs its course in the remediation unit, daily waste disposal will continue in the operational unit. Air and ground water monitoring also will continue to ensure there are no pollution concerns for residents living around the landfill.

On October 1, 2009, Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski will discuss future oversight of the facility at a community update meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Tuscarawas Valley High School Auditorium located at 2637 Tuscarawas Valley Road NE in Zoarville (Tuscarawas County). Following Director Korleski's briefing, representatives from Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, the Stark County Health Department and Canton City Health Department will be available in the cafeteria for one-on-one meetings with residents.

Copies of the documents are available on Ohio EPA's Countywide Web page at: [www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/countywide.aspx](http://www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/countywide.aspx).