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In this issue:

- 1- The meteorological conditions in the Antarctic stratosphere**
- 2- Environment Canada Lays Charges Against Dynamic Toy Importers Ltd.**
- 3- United States and Chile Environmental Affairs Council**
- 4- Environmental fees, charges to be revised**
- 5- Tough regulations on planet-imperiling chemicals rejected**

Special Announcement >>>

Several types of IIR medals and awards will be given out at the
22nd IIR International Congress of Refrigeration
to be held in Beijing, China, on August 21-26, 2007.
If you are aware of an outstanding person who could be honoured,
check out <http://www.iifiir.org> and download the application forms.
Deadline for applications: February 28, 2006

GLOBAL

1- The meteorological conditions in the Antarctic stratosphere

From May to mid-September 2005, the meteorological conditions in the Antarctic stratosphere were close to the 1995-2004 average: colder than 2004 but a little warmer than in 2003. The area of the ozone hole on 15 September 2005 was about 27 million km², which is close to the value reached on the same date in 2003—the year when the largest ozone hole on record occurred. WMO, in collaboration with the ozone science community, is keeping a close eye on the development of the ozone hole. [click here to view the image of Antarctic ozone conditions on 1 September 2005](#)
Source: World Meteorological Organization <http://www.wmo.int/meteoworld/en/antarctic.htm>

North America

2- Environment Canada Lays Charges Against Dynamic Toy Importers Ltd.

Vancouver, British Columbia – October 31, 2005 – Environment Canada has laid charges under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA, 1999) against Dynamic Toy Importers Limited of Coquitlam, B.C. for allegedly importing, offering for sale and selling ozone depleting substances from 2003 through 2004.

The company has been charged with eight counts under subsection 272(1) of CEPA, 1999. The charges stem from the alleged importation of five shipments of novelty items containing a hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC). The HCFC product was allegedly imported from October through December 2003 from China through the Port of Vancouver. The HCFC product was then allegedly sold in retail stores in Coquitlam, B.C. in January and February 2004.

HCFCs are synthetic substances linked to the depletion of the ozone layer. These substances have been banned and/or restricted in Canada since 1999.

The company is also being charged for allegedly failing to comply with an Environmental Protection Compliance Order, and allegedly failing to comply with a Ministerial Recall Direction issued under authority of CEPA, 1999.

These charges follow an investigation by Enforcement Officers of Environment Canada's Environmental Protection Branch in Vancouver, B.C. Environment Canada investigates alleged offences under CEPA, 1999 and the Fisheries Act with the objective of ensuring that companies, governments, and the general public comply with legislation and regulations that protect the Canadian environment. Enforcement of the Ozone-depleting Substances Regulations, 1998 is part of Canada's contribution and treaty obligations under the Montreal Protocol, which aims to remove ozone-depleting substances from the atmosphere.

A date for first appearance in Provincial Court has been set for November 23, 2005 in Vancouver, B.C.

The maximum penalty provided for under CEPA, 1999 is a \$1,000,000 fine or three years imprisonment on conviction by way of indictment, or both, or a \$300,000 fine or six months imprisonment on summary conviction, or both.

Contact:

John Dyck, Head, Investigations Section (Vancouver), Environment Canada, (604) 666-3647
Or Janet Butler, Regional Communications Advisor, Environment Canada, (604) 713-9525

Source: Environment Canada, 31 October 2005 http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/051031_n_e.htm

3- United States and Chile Environmental Affairs Council

The Environment Affairs Council of the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement met on October 24, 2005, at the White House Conference Center in Washington, D.C., to review progress on environmental cooperation and implementation commitments made by each country under the agreement.

The meeting was co-chaired on the U.S. side by Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment Claudia McMurray, U.S. Department of State, and on the Chilean side by Under Secretary Rodrigo Egaña, Ministry of the General Secretariat of the Presidency, Republic of Chile.

The meeting included a public session, as stipulated under the Free Trade Agreement's Environment chapter, reaffirming the importance of public participation as set forth in Article 19.4, which provides for the receipt of, consideration of, and response to communications from the public.

Among the commitments made by each country under the annex to the Environment chapter of the Free Trade Agreement were eight specific projects for the advancement of sustainable development. Of these eight projects, four have been implemented, and four have been initiated. The implemented projects are:

- Technical support to Chile to design a pollutant release and transfer registry in Chile that will provide public access to information on potentially harmful chemicals.
- A workshop to build capacity in Chile to enforce environmental laws, with a special focus on natural resource damage valuation and alternative dispute resolution.
- Three events to exchange information on agricultural best practices to improve environmental performance and maintain production capacity.

-- A study tour allowing Chilean experts to observe agricultural sites in the U.S. that have transitioned to alternatives to methyl bromide, which both countries must phase out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The four projects that have been initiated are:

- A series of activities to assist Chile in developing its regulatory framework to remediate mining pollution and establish financial mechanisms for mine-site reclamation.
- A workshop and study tour to share experience in working with private companies to promote voluntary improvements in environmental performance in the forest sector.
- Capacity-building to improve wildlife protection and management through educational grants to establish a masters [graduate degree] program and promote practical skills.
- A pilot project to retrofit a fleet of diesel trucks in Santiago and demonstrate technologies and strategies to achieve significant emissions reductions.

This cooperative work reinforces the commitments of the Parties under the Free Trade Agreement to protect the environment, promote sustainable development and effectively enforce environmental laws. This work also reinforces the democratic traditions of both countries by encouraging public participation in the deliberations of the Environmental Affairs Council.

Source: The Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Joint Press Release 25 October 2005, <http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=October&x=20051025122834GLnesnoM0.0585596&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>

SOUTH ASIA

4- Environmental fees, charges to be revised

The Environmental Protection Department proposes revising 24 existing fees and charges under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance, Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance, Noise Control Ordinance, Water Pollution Control Ordinance and Dumping at Sea Ordinance, including reducing 60% of them.

The revisions aim to meet the goal of achieving full-cost recovery for providing the services.

The relevant Amendment Regulations were published in the Government Gazette today and will be tabled in the Legislative Council on Wednesday. The new rates are slated to come into effect on January 1.

Most of the fees and charges were last revised in 2000. A costing review at 2004-2005 prices shows that efficiency gains over the last few years make some services less expensive, so more than half of the existing fee items are higher than necessary for cost recovery. The rest fall short and will be increased in phases over the next few years to avoid a sudden one-off increase.

The department has proposed increasing the specific processes licence fees under the Air Pollution Control Ordinance by 10%. It would also cut the fees for a certified copy of an entry in the register of specific process licences by 8% and for an open burning permit by 40%.

It also proposes cutting the Water Pollution Control (General) Regulations fees by 8% to 24% and boosting the licence fees for discharge from industrial, institutional or commercial premises of domestic sewage only, and the fees for new licence or variation or renewal of licence for discharge from domestic premises, by 14%.

The fees under the Noise Control Ordinance are to be increased by 10% to 20%, those under the Ozone Layer Protection Ordinance reduced by about 9% to 13%, and under the Dumping at Sea Ordinance cut by about 8%.

Source: NewsGov HongKong, 28 October 2005-11-03

<http://news.gov.hk/en/category/environment/051028/html/051028en04003.htm>

EUROPE

5 - Tough regulations on planet-imperilling chemicals rejected

Brussels, Belgium — The European Union voted today to ignore its own Environment Committee's recommendations to tightly regulate global-warming gases. It was a victory for multinational profits, and a defeat for the children being born today who'll inherit a warmer, more dangerous world.

The debate in the European Parliament today was ostensibly about regulating a class of chemicals, fluorinated greenhouse gases, known as F-gases. But it was really a battle between the interests of a multimillion dollar industry and the future of our planet.

Members of Parliament at the plenary session in Strasbourg rejected a proposal to replace hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs (a fluorinated gas 1,300 times stronger than carbon dioxide), in household refrigerators, even though the EU market is already dominated by the climate-friendly alternative Greenfreeze technology. They rejected other strong measures recommended by their own environment committee and instead approved only the weakest provisions.

F-gas: the cure that's as bad as the disease

F-gases are used in many appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioning, foam blowers and car tyres. They replaced ozone-depleting gases such as chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs), which are being phased out globally as part of the 1990 Montreal Protocol. F-gases like hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) are thus often portrayed by their manufacturers as 'environmentally friendly'.

However, while they were introduced to address the problem of the hole in the Earth's protective ozone layer -- discovered in 1985 --they were introduced before scientists became worried about dangerous climate change, and were subsequently discovered to be highly potent greenhouse gases. In most appliances, natural alternatives to F-gases are either already available and widely used, or are in development. For example, Greenpeace and German company DKK Scharfenstein introduced "Greenfreeze" hydrocarbon refrigerators into the European market in the 1990s.

Today fridges made by major European companies such as Siemens and Bosch are nearly all F-gas free. Big food corporations are switching to F-gas free commercial refrigeration.

But American manufacturers continue to expand their use of F-gases, and they're looking for new foreign markets, despite the documented dangers of these chemicals for our planet's climate.

They also hold a sizeable market share in Europe and have not been idle in trying to ensure that profits, not the planet, are primary on the EU agenda.

Source: Greenpeace International, 25 October 2005

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/EU-vote-on-F-gas-111#>

FEATURED READING >>>

- **Antarctic Ozone Bulletins** - The Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization issues bulletins containing information on the state of the ozone layer in the Antarctic at roughly two week intervals from August to November. The bulletins are based on data provided by WMO Members

which operate ozone monitoring stations in the southern hemisphere and satellites to observe ozone globally. **Read latest Bulletin at** <http://www.wmo.int/web/arep/gawozobull05.html>

The United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction Programme provides OzoNews as a free service for internal, non-commercial use by members of the Montreal Protocol community. The goal of OzoNews is to provide current news relating to ozone depletion and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to stimulate discussion and promote cooperation in support of compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. The views expressed in articles written by external authors are solely the viewpoints of those authors and do not represent the policy or viewpoint of UNEP. While UNEP strives to avoid inclusion of misleading or inaccurate information, it is ultimately the responsibility of the reader to evaluate the accuracy of any news article in OzoNews. The citing of commercial technologies, products or services does not constitute endorsement of those items by UNEP.

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Prepared by: Samira de Gobert, Information Assistant
Reviewed by: Jim Curlin, Information Manager

If you wish to submit articles or you want to discontinue receiving this update, please contact:
Mrs. Samira de Gobert, Tel. (+33) 1 44.37.14.52 Email: sdegobert@unep.fr