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Round 2 of Clean Diesel Rebate Program Announced *Project Promotes Cleaner Air in Florida, Alabama and Georgia*

ST PETERSBURG, FL - The Florida Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (FRACCA), along with the Southeast Construction Associations for Clean Diesel, announces the opening of round two of the clean diesel rebate program with more than \$225,000 in rebate funds available for upgrading off road diesel construction equipment. The program targets older (Tier 0-2) equipment to reduce emissions in Florida, Alabama and Georgia.

This announcement follows the success of the program's first round, with applications received for 91 pieces of off road equipment and more than \$4 million in funds requested. Round two of the program reflects the balance of funds available after the program's first round. Funding for the rebate program is provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region IV office under the agency's National Clean Diesel Assistance Program.

According to the EPA, off-road diesel engines contribute significantly to the levels of particulate matter (PM) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the air. As a result of project improvements, employee health at participating companies is likely to improve, resulting in less lost work time. Equipment upgraded through the program can be expected to last longer and perform better, with reduced engine downtime.

Although new construction equipment must meet clean-air standards, such equipment typically remains in use for 20 to 40 years. Emissions from older vehicles can be reduced by using cleaner fuels, reducing unnecessary engine idling, upgrading engines, installing retrofit devices and, when appropriate, replacing vehicles. Concentrating in high-density geographic areas with poorer air quality, the project focuses on older vehicles (pre-1996) and those known to generate high emissions. In addition to the rebates, the program offers diesel emission reduction workshops and on-site operator training programs.

Applications for rebates will be accepted beginning Friday, May 13 and ending Tuesday, July 12, 2011. Companies interested in pursuing rebate opportunities under this competitive program can find applications, instructions and more information beginning April 14 at www.fracca.org/diesel.cfm or by contacting FRACCA for details at 727-576-3225 or dieselrebate@fracca.org.

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