

NEWS RELEASE



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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HOLIDAY AND BP FIRST TO SIGN ON TO MPCA AIR QUALITY PLAN

St. Paul, Minn.--One year after announcing a 10-point plan for reducing Minnesota's air pollution, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is reporting a major step in the prevention of gasoline vapors being released into the air. Gasoline vapors are a contributing factor in urban air pollution.

Two companies are voluntarily installing equipment that prevents the release of gasoline vapors into the air. Holiday StationStores have completed installation of this pollution control equipment, called "Stage I vapor controls," at its metro-area, company-owned service stations. BP Products North America, which operates Amoco stations, expects to complete installing Stage 1 controls at its 100 company-owned service stations in the Twin Cities by May 1.

Stage 1 controls prevent fumes from evaporating into the air when delivery trucks refill gas station storage tanks. To convert service stations, underground tanks are retrofitted with Stage 1 controls, which include pipes that return vapors to the delivery truck.

The installation of Stage 1 controls at metro-area service stations was a major point in the MPCA's air quality plan, because fumes from gasoline contain smog-forming compounds. Last summer, the MPCA issued the first smog health advisories in the Twin Cities in nearly 30 years when smog rose to a level unhealthy for sensitive individuals.

"Holiday is pleased to step up to the plate to help meet the MPCA's plan to improve air quality," said Ron Erickson, president and CEO of Holiday.

"Voluntarily opting into Stage 1 recovery is just one more way for us to help improve the air Minnesotans breathe," said Gordon Hankey, Regional Vice President for BP.

Late last year, Holiday and Flint Hills Resources L.P. (formerly Koch Petroleum Group) addressed a second of the MPCA's air quality measures when Flint Hills became the first company in the state to sell low-benzene gasoline in all grades. Benzene, a component of gasoline, causes cancer in humans. The gasoline, Blue Planet, is also a low-sulfur gasoline. BP/Amoco has also been selling its Amoco Ultimate low-sulfur premium gasoline since last year. Low-sulfur fuel reduces vehicle emissions by 10 to 20 percent.

The MPCA's 10-point plan to reduce air pollution focuses on fossil fuel use as a root cause of Minnesota's air quality problems. Besides gasoline, fossil fuels include coal, which is burned by many of Minnesota's power plants. The 10 points include reducing fuel and energy use, substituting cleaner fuels for existing ones, supporting development of public transit, and using technology to reduce air pollution.

"Without environmental partners like BP, Holiday and Flint Hills, it would be impossible to make progress this quickly," said Karen Studders, MPCA Commissioner. "We owe them our thanks and appreciation for their voluntary efforts. But they can't do it alone. Better air is about our own choices, too. For instance, each of us can choose cleaner fuel or a fuel-efficient car; we can choose to use transit or carpool occasionally; we can even influence how much air pollution comes out of our power plants by the number of electric gadgets we use in our homes and workplaces."

A copy of the MPCA's 10-point action plan to reduce air pollution can be found in the 12-page 2001 legislative report, [Air Quality in Minnesota: Problems and Approaches](#) at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/legislature/reports/2001/aq-report-na.pdf>

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