

**MDA E-News April 21, 2009**

**MDA Stimulus Web site Launch, PACCAR Engine Facility, Mississippi Blues Trail, "Clean Sites" in Mississippi, Macon Wood Treatment Facility**

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**MDA Launches Web Site to Provide Information about State Economic Stimulus Programs**

In tandem with Governor Barbour's April 16th "Mississippi Stimulus Summit," MDA launched a Web site ( <http://stimulus.mississippi.org>) dedicated to providing information about the programs MDA will oversee as a result of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (ARRA). This \$787 billion economic stimulus legislation allocates up to \$2.8 billion to Mississippi, and it provides the opportunity for states to acquire even more through a competitive grant process. In addition to providing information regarding the programs MDA will administer, the site includes information regarding the ARRA tax incentive programs MDA will also oversee.

Information about the following programs can be found at the Web site: *Community Development Block Grant Program, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, Neighborhood Stabilization Program, State Energy Program and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program*. These programs will be administered by MDA's Community Services and Energy Divisions.

Information can also be found regarding the following tax incentive programs: *Small Issue Industrial Development Bonds, Build America Bonds and New Markets Tax Credits*. MDA's Financial Resources Division will oversee these financing options and tax incentive programs.

To learn more, please visit <http://stimulus.mississippi.org>. Visitors to the site are encouraged to check back often, as updates will be made as they become available.

**PACCAR Engine Facility in Columbus Maintains Remarkable Safety Record as Construction Nears Completion**

The PACCAR engine manufacturing and assembly plant in Columbus has maintained a remarkable safety record since construction began on the facility in July 2007. A

construction team consisting of PACCAR, CH2M Hill, JESCO/Yates, sub and sub-tier contractors, process equipment suppliers and consultants has worked more than 966,000 man hours on the project site without a lost-time injury and with only one recordable injury. The project's recordable injury rate is .21, which, according to PACCAR vice president Richard Bangert, is a phenomenal accomplishment. A main focus of the PACCAR team throughout the construction process has been to focus relentlessly on the safety of those on site. The company's safety team has oriented over 2,400 personnel on project safety.

The Columbus facility represents a \$400 million investment by PACCAR. Production at the facility is slated to begin in 2010, creating 500 new jobs in the area.

Headquartered in Bellevue, Wash., PACCAR is a global technology leader in the design, manufacture and customer support of premium light-, medium- and heavy-duty trucks under the Kenworth, Peterbilt and DAF nameplates. To learn more, please visit [www.paccar.com](http://www.paccar.com).

### **Mississippi Blues Trail in Second Year of Tracing the State's Unique Music Culture**

The Mississippi Blues Trail continues to make its way through Mississippi as new markers are unveiled regularly recognizing the musicians, people and places that have helped shape the state's rich blues heritage. The first marker was placed in December 2006 in Holly Ridge in honor of Charley Patton, who is often referred to as the "Father of the Delta Blues." More than two years later, the Blues Trail now boasts nearly 70 markers with many more slated to be unveiled in the near future. A few of these include:

- April 21 - Scott - 1927 Flood and "Big Bill" Broonzy
- April 24 - Kosciusko - Charlie Musselwhite
- May 9 - Belzoni - Denise LaSalle
- June 5 - Leland - Johnny Winter

Recent marker unveilings include: Jack Owens in Benton, Little Milton in Inverness, Queen of Hearts in Jackson, Hound Dog Taylor in Tchula, Highway 61 (southern end) in Vicksburg, Sonny Boy Williamson II in Glendora, Living Blues in Oxford and Rube Lacy in Pelahatchie.

Created by the Mississippi Blues Commission, the Mississippi Blues Trail is funded through grants from MDA, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Mississippi Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Delta State University and participating communities. To learn more, please visit [www.msbluestrail.org](http://www.msbluestrail.org).

### **MDA Energy Division Helping Develop "Clean Cities" around Mississippi**

MDA's Energy Division recently assembled several clean fuels and transportation stakeholders to begin developing Clean Cities programs around the state. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, Clean Cities is a government/industry partnership created to help reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuels and vehicles, idle reduction technologies, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends and fuel economy measures. The program offers stakeholders a platform to meet and develop new partnership opportunities and provides technical and funding information regarding alternative fuels and vehicles to Mississippi communities.

The Mississippi Clean Cities Coalition is comprised of representatives from MDA, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, Mississippi State University's Center for Alternative Vehicles, 25x25, MDFA Fleet Management, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Technology Alliance, City of Starkville, Jackson County Civic Action Committee, Mississippi Department of Transportation, Scott Petroleum, Dickerson Petroleum and the Clean BioFuels Coalition of Mississippi.

To learn more about Clean Cities, please visit [www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities](http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities). For information about becoming a member of Clean Cities in Mississippi, please e-mail Angelica Rawls at [arawls@mississippi.org](mailto:arawls@mississippi.org), or call (601) 359-6600 or 1-800-222-8311.

### **Macon Wood Treatment Facility Opens in Noxubee County**

Thomasson Company, a leading supplier of poles and wood products for utility companies and other industries, recently held a ribbon-cutting for the opening of its new Macon Treating Company in Macon, Miss. Macon Treating Company is the latest project for Thomasson in Noxubee County, joining sister company East Mississippi Pole Company. The two represent a total investment of approximately \$6 million and more than 26 new jobs in Noxubee County with the potential for more as the business continues to grow.

The new six-acre treatment facility offers CCA and CCA-ET treatment options for Southern Yellow Pine processed at East Mississippi Pole Company, which is situated on 26 acres next to the new plant. The treatment facility features a 120-foot treatment cylinder with an eight-foot diameter. The current treatment capacity for the plant is 10,500 poles per month based on a daily eight-hour shift. Additional production capacity is available as needed.

To learn more about Thomasson Company, please visit their Web site at [www.thomassoncompany.com](http://www.thomassoncompany.com).

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