



Department of Environmental Conservation



Anchorage School District

Joint News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anchorage School District Retrofits Buses for Cleaner Air

September 16, 2004-Anchorage—School students in Anchorage will breathe easier thanks to new school bus emission control devices that have been installed by the Anchorage School District (ASD). As part of a nation-wide effort to reduce diesel school bus emissions, the ASD retrofitted 74 school buses with emission control devices. The devices are expected to reduce particulate matter (soot) by 20%, carbon monoxide by 40% and hydrocarbons by 50% per bus for cleaner, healthier air.

“These emission control devices will achieve even greater reductions in the future as a new, cleaner burning, ultra low sulfur diesel fuel becomes available in 2006,” said Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ernesta Ballard.

“It’s wonderful to have an opportunity to work on these types of projects, especially when budgets are so tight,” says Steven Kalmes, ASD director of transportation.

The ASD volunteered time overseeing the project in cooperation with DEC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DEC recognized ASD school bus fleet manager Jay Adams with an environmental award for his significant contribution to the project. Project funding for the devices and installation was provided through an EPA grant and a DEC settlement with industry. The ASD contracted with Cummins Northwest, Inc.

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Visit <http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/> for more information.