



Date: July 1, 2005
Contact: Kim Metzler, 736-1056, ext. 218
Lane County Media: 05-9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13 Public Hearing set for Country Coach Air Permit

The Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority is holding a public hearing to obtain community input on a request from Country Coach, Inc. to modify its operating permit to allow for planned expansion of the facility.

The hearing, scheduled for July 13, 2005, will be held in the Junction City Council Chamber, 680 Greenwood Street. An informational session will begin at 5:30 PM, followed by the formal hearing at 6:00 PM.

Country Coach is proposing to construct a building to house four coatings booths - three new booths and one relocated from its Airport Road bus conversion facility. The proposal includes increased emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and particulates. Under the new permit, the company's VOC emissions would increase from its current 158 tons per year to 218 tons per year. Particulates would increase from its current 9.9 tons per year to 13.9 tons per year.

Due to the substantial increase in VOCs, the facility is required to obtain a construction permit from LRAPA that includes Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for its operations. Results of a BACT analysis submitted by the facility demonstrated that several technically feasible control options were found to be cost prohibitive. Instead, Country Coach will be required to continue to use low VOC emissions coatings that meet California air standards, and implement work practices and materials management to minimize emissions. VOC content limits and pollution prevention work practices qualify as BACT for this industry base.

The facility's estimated annual production under the proposed permit is 1,246 coaches, buses or chassis, compared to the 776 produced under the current permit. Of the 218 tons VOCs listed in the permit, 91 tons are defined as hazardous air pollutants and include n-butyl alcohol(6.02 tons/year), hexane (4.33 tons/year), methyl methacrylate (1.67 tons/year), styrene (43.91 tons/year), toluene (12.78 tons/year) and xylene (22.51 tons/year).

The draft permit is available for review at the Junction City Public Library, 726 Greenwood Street, or by appointment at LRAPA's office, 1010 Main Street in Springfield, by contacting Betty Pace at (541) 736-1056, ext. 219.

Testimony may be given verbally at the hearing or in writing, and must be received no later than 5:00 PM Thursday, July 28, 2005. Testimony via email may be sent to bpace@lrpa.org.

###