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News Release

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PROVINCE SET TO BAN BURNING OF USED OIL IN SPACE HEATERS *Ban Will Protect Health, Improve Air Quality, Encourage Recycling*

BRESLAU – The McGuinty government is seeking public input on a draft regulation that would ban the burning of used oil in space heaters, Environment Minister Laurel Broten announced today at Safety-Kleen Canada Inc., Ontario's only re-refinery and the second largest re-refinery in North America.

"Our government is committed to taking real action to protect and improve the quality of our air, water and land and that's why we're moving to ban the burning of used oil in space heaters," said Minister Broten. "Used oil is not meant to be burned at low temperatures in space heaters, so we're taking action to protect Ontarians and our environment."

About 700 facilities throughout Ontario, such as auto repair centres and dealerships, burn the equivalent of 2.5 million oil changes for heat. Those in southern Ontario that now have approval to burn used oil will have until June 1, 2009 to divert their used oil rather than discharging it into the environment. No new approvals will be issued.

The ban will add about 7 million litres of used oil to the 150 million litres that is currently re-refined at Safety-Kleen. The company's re-refinery reduces greenhouse gas emissions by almost 500,000 tonnes annually, the equivalent of taking 100,000 vehicles off the road each year. Re-refining the used oil will decrease the demand for non-renewable petroleum resources.

"Banning the burning of used oil supports re-refining, reduces demand for new oil and encourages economic development in the environmental sector," said Minister Broten. "It's clearly the right move for the environment."

The ban will remove the economic advantage gained by the few companies burning used oil, making it fairer for competing companies that have chosen to use environmentally superior heating methods.

The practice will be allowed to continue in northern Ontario since the north has limited options for disposing of waste oil. Northern Ontario is defined in the draft regulation as lying north and west of the Mattawa River, Lake Nipissing and the French River, or in the Territorial District of Manitoulin.

This initiative is another way the Ontario government is encouraging recycling of resources and protecting the environment. Other initiatives include:

- Directing Waste Diversion Ontario to develop and fund a diversion program for common materials such as cleaning solvents and paint
- Developing a deposit return program for wine and spirit containers that will increase the recycling of alcohol containers and free up space in municipal Blue Boxes for new materials
- Consulting on a draft regulation that will deliver incentives for industry to recycle more waste and make it easier to use wood waste to

produce energy.

A draft regulation to ban the practice of burning used oil in space heaters has been posted to the Environmental Registry for a 30-day public comment period. It can be found at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/029109er.htm

See Also:

Fact Sheet - [Ban On Burning Used Oil In Space Heaters](#)

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