



In Montreal this May, Ecostratum presented a compilation case study titled “Healthcare Engineering Controls”. The study included observations from six Ohio hospitals with facilities totaling more than 5 million square feet.

The focus of all the podium presentations was to give case histories or research findings. Topics ranged from construction dust control, to microbial detection, to prevention of Legionella colonization. Noise evaluation and source control was also emphasized. Ecostratum continues to provide practical information on building system performance and how it may affect worker health and patient care.

“A Higher Level of Thinking”

Consistent with Ecostratum’s slogan, the company publishes a biannual electronic newsletter highlighting emerging environmental issues. Legislative and technical developments will be presented with a business case underpinning. Contact Steve Rucker at srucker@ecostratum.com.

Healthcare Capacity Increasing

The I-71 corridor from Cincinnati to Columbus provides the blurry eyed traveler with an insight into the future of healthcare in the region. No fewer than six hospital facilities are visible from the highway. Two are under construction. What does this say?

Without a doubt demand for healthcare is increasing and locations of convenience and high visibility are coveted. The populations in close proximity to these facilities have been studied and determined to be good potential customers. So, what does this mean for the patient? Clearly, specialized practices from orthopedic to emergency services are being located for convenient access. It brings to mind the old saying “build it and they will come.”

The macro business forecast for healthcare is good as increasing numbers of patients will drive up demand. In order to meet this demand, each of the five healthcare networks in Cincinnati, as well as, all three of the major networks in Columbus have construction projects ongoing. Some of the biggest projects are on the banks of the Scioto River in Columbus with the \$312M Neuro Center at Riverside Methodist and the \$1.1B James Cancer Hospital on the Ohio State University Campus. Within Cincinnati, the Mercy Group has a \$20M Emergency Trauma Center in mid-town next to Rookwood, the \$180M Mercy West scheduled to open this year, and a planned \$79M expansion of Jewish Hospital in Kenwood. The Christ Health Network has expanded its main campus with the \$265M Orthopaedic and Spine Center. Taking extra effort to absolutely assure patient access to quality care, all of these healthcare networks have a long-term vision. Ecostratum specializes in helping hospital networks achieve their vision of patient care by supplying quantitative measurement of engineered clean environments.

OEPA Public Meeting – Asbestos Inspections May be Affected

On June 7, 2013, a public meeting was held at the OEPA offices in downtown Columbus seeking opinions from interested parties regarding a possible change in regulatory language involving the definition of “facility”. The meeting was part of a public comment period and at issue was a proposed rule change with respect to what structures would qualify for “residential exemption”. By reverting the definition of a “facility” to that contained in federal EPA NESHAP, Ohio Administrative Code would be relaxed. This may have profound implications with respect to asbestos inspections and the asbestos abatement prerequisite for demolition of residences under the federally subsidized Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

While most of the meeting took place off the record, the key insight was that the change would offer OEPA more flexibility in enforcement of the “residential exemption.”

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