



Guess what the insect skeleton is above. The left photograph is magnified 100X. The right photograph shows the area inside the dashed red circle magnified 400X revealing a wing. Neither can be seen by the naked eye. The first correct answer receives \$100 gift certificate to Longhorn Steakhouse. Winner published in the next issue of *Ecostratum Insights*. Email response to: srucker@ecostratum.com.

Microscopic evaluation of unseen infectious agents provides immediate results to supplement cultures. Ecostratum continues to improve technical capabilities to monitor “unseen” agents that may affect health.

“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 Economic Impact

A recent 2012 study by the University of Cincinnati Economics Center found that TriState Hospitals and their affiliates contribute to the region’s economy in a big way. The estimated economic impact of the daily operations of 31 facilities was reported at \$17.532 billion. To put this into perspective a similar 2012 report compiled by Chase Bank estimated the total Tristate Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as 1766 billion. So, Tristate hospitals combine to produce nearly 1% of the region’s total economic output.

While the \$17.53 billion represents a 13.9% increase since 2007, the important insight is that this sector is over performing with respect to job creation. By most accounts, the recovery of job losses from the recession of 2007-2009 was projected to take approximately 10 years. Yet, half way through this time period, the TriState Hospitals are bettering the forecasts. As customers, we are better off for it. Access to quality patient care is expanding. The region’s healthcare networks have invested in a long-term vision. Ecostratum specializes in helping hospital networks achieve their vision of patient care by supplying measurement of air quality and microscopic agents. Please contact us if you need assistance with engineered clean environments.

ODH – Asbestos Inspectors to be Affected by Proposed Rule Changes

On December 22, 2013, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) began its 5-year rulemaking review. A public meeting was held at offices in downtown Columbus seeking stakeholder’s opinions. Ecostratum contacted the State Director for Asbestos Programs and captured these highlights.

Detailed inspection reports were emphasized in the proposed changes. The intent was to provide report users, including regulators, with a comprehensive understanding of the inspection activities performed. By detailing the acceptable report format in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), standardized work practices among state licensed inspectors will be achieved. One of the key changes was to request more detailed drawings with sample locations indicated with precision on floor plans.

Some would say this was a long time in coming. It certainly opens the door to use of CAD design software applications. Ecostratum will stay current with this and may be contacted to improve your facilities asbestos management plan.

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