

OZONews

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Table of Contents:

- 1- EU Demands Proof States Are Protecting Ozone Layer
 - 2- Ozone Depletion and Antarctic Weather
 - 3- EPA Gives Roche Bitter Pill -- \$220,000 Fine (USA)
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1- EU Demands Proof States Are Protecting Ozone Layer

BRUSSELS - Not a single European Union country has shown it is doing enough to protect the ozone layer from damage by man-made chemicals, EU authorities said on Monday. The European Commission said none of the 15 member states had shown how they intended to ensure ozone-depleting chemicals in scrapped refrigerators or old fire extinguishers would be safely removed to stop them worsening the hole in the ozone layer. The governments have two months to provide the information or face the threat of legal action. A 2000 regulation aims to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), industrial chemicals that can damage the layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere which helps protect the earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation. As well as setting deadlines for ending the use of HCFCs -- which are used in refrigeration and as aerosol propellants -- the regulation decreed that the chemicals must be removed from scrap equipment from the start of last year. Under the rules, governments should have informed the EU's executive Commission by the start of last year about what regimes they had put in place to ensure the chemicals are not just dumped in the environment. None has done so. The regulation has already caused upset in Britain where an absence of recycling facilities able to deal with the chemicals has caused a "fridge mountain" to develop. Under the rules, fridges can no longer be shredded for metals recycling before the chemicals are removed.

Article @: <http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/nation/3712624.htm>

Source: Macon Com, 22 July 2002

2- Ozone Depletion and Antarctic Weather

Scientists have been perplexed by two seemingly contradictory trends in Antarctica. While parts of the continent have warmed in recent decades, the interior has cooled. For instance, average temperatures on the continent's western peninsula have warmed 2.5 degrees Celsius since the 1950s ... Global warming isn't the explanation, say the scientists. Instead, both temperature trends are strongly linked to atmospheric ozone depletion. Analyzing more than 30 years of temperature measurements from weather balloons and additional data from monitoring stations across the continent, they found that: An abnormally intense westerly flow of air in the lower atmosphere encircles the continent during the summer months (December and January). By bottling up cold air over the pole and restricting warm air to the outer ring, this vortex cools the continent's center, but warms its edges. The scientists say these atmospheric changes are driven by the ozone hole over Antarctica, which grows every spring. Previous research had established that ozone losses above Antarctica -- exceeding 50 percent during October throughout the 1990s -- have cooled the atmosphere 12 miles to 31 miles above the surface by more than 6 degrees C. The existence of the ozone hole is attributed to the presence of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), manmade chemicals which are being phased out worldwide. As CFC use subsides, the ozone hole will shrink and the intense westerly flow will ebb, creating more uniform Antarctic temperatures.

Free text @: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?articleID=00078FDB-D9ED-1D29-7CA809EC588EEDF&catID=2>

Source: Sarah Simpson, "A Push from Above," Scientific American, August 2002 issue.

3- EPA Gives Roche Bitter Pill -- \$220,000 Fine (USA)

BELVIDERE -- Roche Vitamins Inc. received a \$220,000 fine Wednesday from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The company, an arm of Nutley, N.J.-based pharmaceutical giant Hoffman LaRoche, did not notify the EPA

in 1998 that it had constructed and started up a new co-generation unit, or generator, according to a statement from the EPA. Roche also violated stratospheric ozone protection regulations, which are designed to reduce the risk of releasing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) commonly found in aerosol spray cans, refrigerators and air conditioners, and linked with the depletion of the ozone layer ...

Article @: <http://www.pennlive.com/news/expresstimes/nj/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1026465004220380.xml>

Source: The Express-Times, 12July 2002, By: Reporter Katherine Blok

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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