

Bill No. 3966-08

## APPOINTMENT

Approving the reappointment of James T. Cobb, Jr. to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

In Council June 17, 2008.

Read and approved by Motion of Council.



Rich Fitzgerald  
President of Council

Attest: John Mascio  
John Mascio  
Chief Clerk of Council



DAN ONORATO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

# COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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3/16/08

May 1, 2008

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

Honorable President and Members  
Allegheny County Council  
119 Courthouse  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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Dear Council Members:

Please find the attached resume of James T. Cobb, Jr., whom I am recommending for reappointment to the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee.

The Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee currently operates under Section 2101.07 of Article XXI of the Allegheny County Health Department. The Committee recommends to the Board of Health additions and changes to the rules and regulations, and advises the Department and Board of Health on matters relative to the control of air quality in Allegheny County. I am recommending that Mr. Cobb serve another 1 year term, which will expire on December 31, 2008.

Mr. Cobb is an Associate Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. Mr. Cobb has been recognized for his professional accomplishments by being named "Engineer of the Year" for 2001 by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers and "Environmental Technologies of the Year" for 2002 by the Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh.

I appreciate your consideration, and ask you to act on this appointment as quickly as possible. Mr. Cobb will make himself available for review before the appropriate committee if members of Council wish to speak with him.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Onorato  
Allegheny County Executive

**JAMES T. COBB, JR.**  
Associate Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering  
University of Pittsburgh  
November 2007

After completing his graduate work in 1966 at Purdue University, Dr. Cobb spent two years at the Naval Weapons Center, China Lake, California, working on several approaches to weather modification. He was the principal author of the final report on the demonstration phase of Project Popeye, which applied cumulus cloud modification for rainfall enhancement on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Vietnam. From 1968 through 1970, he was employed at the Esso Research Laboratories, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he participated in two petroleum and petrochemical process development efforts. He joined the Chemical Engineering faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 1970.

Dr. Cobb's research interests from 1970 through 1985 focused upon several catalytic processes, including the isomerization of pentane, the hydrolysis of starch using amylase, and the gasification of coal. His work in coal gasification led to a shift in his interests toward commercial aspects of solid-fuel conversion processes through 1995. Since 1995 he has focused upon development of bioenergy conversion processes and devices.

Dr. Cobb was an early consultant to ACV Power Corporation, which is now a member of a consortium operating the Scrubgrass circulating fluid-bed power. He was principal investigator for a demonstration project for a rotary kiln combustor through BCR National Laboratory. Dr. Cobb was a consultant to Cannon Boiler Works, Inc., during its development of the basic patent for LoTox Multi-Pollutant Control System. During the 1990's Dr. Cobb studied the beneficial utilization of solid residuals, such as ashes from MSW incinerators, oil shale combustors and by-products from clean coal technologies. One of his recent graduate students contributed important new technology in the monitoring of emissions from mobile sources.

In 1995 Dr. Cobb's began his focus on bioenergy as the principal investigator of two U.S. Department of Energy contracts for demonstration of the cofiring of wood and coal to stoker boilers. During the summer of 2003 he led a small team in a study of wood availability and environmental regulation for a wood gasification project being developed by Cinergy Solutions in southeastern Pennsylvania. He then participated in a study of wood gasification in Clarion County for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He also reviewed the technical and economic aspects of the design of a central anaerobic digester in western Pennsylvania. Recently he has consulted on biomass gasification with Mon Valley Power, Savannah River National Laboratory and the National Energy Technology Laboratory, and on energy project development for the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies. He is an active member of the Pennsylvania Biomass Working Group. In 2007 he has begun assisting the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford in developing a multifaceted energy institute there.

In recognition of his wide experience in energy-related subjects, Dr. Cobb was appointed in 1979 as Director of the Energy Resources Program, a post he held until his retirement from active teaching. He served as Cochairman of the Program Committee of the Pittsburgh Coal Conference from 1981 through 1996. Since 1971 Dr. Cobb has served the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in both local and national activities. He has been elected to all offices of the Pittsburgh Section. In 2002 the AIChE Board of Directors elected him to serve on its Career and Education Operating Council, which he chaired in 2006. In 2003 he was appointed by the Allegheny County Council to the Advisory Committee of the Air Quality Program of the Allegheny County Health Department on which he continues to serve.

In recognition of his extensive professional accomplishments, he was named Engineer of the Year for 2001 by the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, and Environmental Technologist of the Year for 2002 by the Carnegie Science Center of Pittsburgh.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
AIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Name: James T. Cobb, Jr., P.E.  
Title: Associate Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemical and Petroleum  
Engineering, and Acting Director, Pitt-Bradford Energy Institute  
Affiliation: University of Pittsburgh  
Address: 1178A Benedum Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
Daytime Phone: 412-793-2869 Fax: 412-624-9639  
I wish to be re-appointed:  Yes  No  
If yes, complete background information or attach a resume.

Background: See attached resume

\*Background information should include one or two sentences on current work or interests and one or more sentences on past experience and assignments.

Please return this form to the following by March 15, 2008:

Mr. James Thompson, Acting Program Chief  
Air Quality Program  
301 Thirty-Ninth Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15201  
Fax: 412/578-8144