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RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Office of Technical & Customer Assistance

Quarterly Project Report

Project Title: *Auto Salvage Environmental Results Program: Improved Compliance & Performance Through Innovation*

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Reporting Period: October 1 - December 31, 2005

Project Description: OTCA's vision is to reduce environmental health risks by improving regulatory efficiency and auto salvage yard industry compliance through a comprehensive, multi-media program patterned after the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's ERP model and consisting of three parts:

- 1) Facility certification
- 2) Statistically-based performance measurement
- 3) On-site compliance monitoring, pollution prevention and technical assistance

DEM regulatory stakeholders, industry representatives, and project partners will be recruited to assist OTCA in reaching a goal of 75% industry-wide voluntary certification with a 25-50% average measurable improvement in selected environmental business practice indicators (EBPIs) during the first years of implementation.

EBPIs will be selected to assess improvements (relative to baseline conditions) in industry performance in air, water, and RCRA compliance as well as pollution prevention; the potential for release prevention, emissions reduction and human health/environmental protection will be key considerations. Outcomes will be measured using the statistical approach developed for the RI Auto body ERP including: statistically determined number and randomly selected locations for baseline and post-implementation compliance audits (given pre-specified levels of statistical confidence, power and compliance rate proportions), generally accepted methods for data analysis and EBPI comparisons, and summary reports that outline findings with appropriate descriptive statistics.

Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

- Participated in four (4) project meetings with Narragansett Bay Commission Pollution Prevention Program staff, E. Park from URI Center of Pollution Prevention & Environmental Health, principal project partners, and RIDEM staff

- Items discussed included the checklist, baseline audits, RI mercury law and mercury switch removal, a training workshop in January 2006 for auto salvage yard operators (R. Enander, T. Armstrong, J. Antonio (DEM), E. Park)
- Continued working on the draft Certification Workbook (E. Park)
- Planning for a half-day environmental compliance and pollution prevention workshop sponsored by RIDEM and NBC, to be offered to Rhode Island auto salvage yard operators, to be held on January 11, 2006 (R. Enander, T. Armstrong, J. Antonio, B Migliore (DEM), NBC P2 staff)
- Participated in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls (T. Armstrong)
- Using the checklist, completed twenty baseline audits of auto salvage yard facilities in this period, working with staff from the Narragansett Bay Commission, a principal project partner (G. Park, J. Antonio, NBC staff)
- Began working on an Auto Salvage Yards webpage that will be placed on the RIDEM website (T. Armstrong)

Expenditures during Period:

Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.

Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

- Hold environmental compliance and pollution prevention workshop on January 11, 2006, sponsored by RIDEM and NBC, for Rhode Island auto salvage yard operators
- Hold internal steering committee meeting (governmental officials)
- Begin to tabulate the results of the baseline audits
- Review industry-wide survey results, clean up database for active/inactive auto salvage yard facilities
- Continue working on the design for an auto salvage yards webpage to be placed on the RIDEM website
- Continue the development of the Certification Workbook