

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

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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:** January 1 - March 31, 2008

**Project Description:** RIDEM 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

RIDEM 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.

**The Auto Salvage Yard Industry in Rhode Island:**

In Rhode Island, there are currently eighty-six (86) Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (RIDBR), located in twenty-six (26) communities. The license is active for a three (3) year time period, and must be renewed with RIDBR to maintain it. Auto Salvage Yard Facilities are required by law to be licensed by RIDBR in order to operate.

As of March 31, 2008, there were sixty-six (66) of those licensees that were in operation as auto salvage yard facilities.

A no-cost time extension for the grant/project has been granted by EPA, until March 31, 2009.

**Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:**

- As of March 31, 2008, thirty-seven (37) facilities had submitted Compliance Certification Checklists (56 % of licensees with facilities in operation); also, three (3) licensees had submitted Facility Non-Applicability Statements
- In calendar year 2007, 10,713 auto switches containing mercury were delivered to the ELVS recycling contractor, which yielded 23.57 pounds of recovered mercury
  - This result was strongly promoted by the requirements of the Rhode Island Mercury and Education Act, and technical assistance efforts provided under the Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Certification Program
- Handled telephone, email, and in-person inquiries related to Compliance Certification Checklists and questions about the program
- Compliance and technical assistance provided to facility operators by University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health staff
- Complete twenty (20) randomly selected post certification audits of auto salvage yard facilities by University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health staff
- Contact and conduct on-site visits with facility operators of non-participating operating facilities by University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health staff
- Continue participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)
- Continue participating in the States ERP Consortium activities, including co-chairing the Information Sharing work group (T. Armstrong) and co-chairing the Automation work group (R. Gagnon)
- Continue participating in States ERP Consortium conference calls during this reporting period (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)

**Expenditures during Period:**

During this reporting period, the following expenditures were made using grant funding.

Common Measures Project Meeting - March 18, 2008	\$40.00
2008 Regional Meeting on P2 & Compliance Assistance Measurement- March 27, 2008	\$40.00

<b>Remaining in grant:</b>	Travel:	\$5,191
	Equipment:	\$2,854

**Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:**

- Handle telephone, email, and in-person inquiries related to Compliance Certification Checklists received and questions about the program
- Participate in appropriate outreach activities with auto salvage yard facility operators
- Handle requests for compliance or technical assistance as requested and needed with RIDEM and/or University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health staff
- Complete randomly selected facility audits and inspections

- Continue participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)
- Continue participating in the States ERP Consortium activities, including co-chairing the Information Sharing work group (T. Armstrong) and co-chairing the Automation work group (R. Gagnon)
- Continue participating in States ERP Consortium conference calls during this reporting period (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)