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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:** April 1 - June 30, 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 two meeting with Narragansett Bay Commission Pollution Prevention Program staff, project partners, regarding the draft Checklist (R. Enander, T. Armstrong, G. Park)
- Completed the development of a draft certification checklist, that will initially be used in performing baseline audits. (G. Park/URI)
  - Sections of the draft certification checklist deal with air pollution control, freon &

refrigerant recovery, antifreeze management, lead acid batteries, fuels, gasoline, mercury switches, waste tires, used oil, waste water discharge, stormwater, hazardous waste, and other fluid management

- Solicited comments from key DEM staff persons and Chiefs from applicable offices on draft Checklist
- As a trial of the draft Checklist for applicability, completed an audit of Bill's Auto Parts, Cumberland, RI, using the draft Checklist, with DEM, URI, and NBC staff
- Sent a two-page facility questionnaire to auto salvage yard operators, to be completed and returned to DEM (T. Armstrong)
  - As of June 30, 2005, twenty-nine (29) completed questionnaires have been returned to DEM

(NOTE: This task was completed outside of the scope of the grant, and did not utilize the resources of the grant in any way to complete. However, it will enhance the overall effectiveness of the project)

- Initiated development of the Certification Workbook (E. Park)
- Participated in conference calls as part of NEWMOA's Junkyard work group (T. Armstrong)
- Participated in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls (T. Armstrong)

#### **Expenditures during Period:**

*Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.*

#### **Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:**

- Finalize membership of the Stakeholder Committee in this quarter
- Review comments from key DEM staff and Chiefs relative to the draft Certification Checklist, and make appropriate changes as warranted
- Coordinate with the Narragansett Bay Commission regarding GIS mapping and aerial photographs of Rhode Island Auto Salvage facilities that they have obtained, and coordinate with DEM Management Information Systems on other GIS mapping and aerial photography needs
- Finalize performance measures and project criteria to be used in the project with first phase Stakeholders
- Begin to conduct baseline audits of auto salvage yards
- Review and tabulate information from the facility questionnaire sent to licensed auto salvage yard operators, that was completed and returned to DEM in the last quarter
 

(NOTE: This task will be completed outside of the scope of the grant, and will not utilize the resources of the grant in any way to complete. However, it will enhance the overall effectiveness of the project)
- Continue the development of the Certification Workbook