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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, 2006

**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.

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

In Rhode Island, there are currently eighty-five (85) Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, located in twenty-six (26) communities. The license is active for a three year time period, and must be renewed to maintain it. Auto Salvage Yards are required by law to be licensed by RIDBR in order to operate.

**Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:**

- Completed the draft Certification Workbook, with input from staff in RIDEM regulatory agencies
- Updated RIDEM's "*Hazardous Waste Compliance Workbook for Rhode Island Generators*", used at the Hazardous Waste workshop on June 21<sup>st</sup>, and to be provided as part of the certification package to auto salvage yard operators (T. Armstrong)
- Co-sponsored a half-day Hazardous Waste workshop with NBC, offered to Rhode Island auto salvage yard and auto body facility operators, held on June 21, 2006 at the Community College of Rhode Island (R. Enander, T. Armstrong, R. Nero, NBC P2 staff)

**Results of Workshop:**

- Thirty-seven (37) auto salvage yards owners and employees in attendance
- Twenty-three (23) auto salvage yards were represented
- Two (2) environmental consultants and the Chief of Auto Body and Auto Wrecking & Salvage Operations from the RI Department of Business Regulation in attendance
- In addition, thirty-eight (38) persons representing thirty-two (32) auto body facilities were present
- Held an internal stakeholders meeting on June 22, 2006, with governmental staff present from RIDEM Offices of Air Resources, Technical & Customer Assistance, Water Resources, Waste Management, Narragansett Bay Commission P2 program, URI Center for Pollution Prevention & Environmental Health, RI Department of Business Regulation, and EPA New England.
- Began working on tabulating the results of the baseline audits (R. Enander)
- Participated in the Summer NE Assistance & P2 Roundtable Meeting on June 14 -15, 2006 in Groton, CT, sponsored by NEWMOA, and involving staff from the northeast states and EPA New England staff (T. Armstrong)
- Participated in the first NEWMOA/States Innovation Grant Project Meeting on June 23, 2006 in Chelmsford, MA (R. Gagnon, T. Armstrong)
- Participated in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls (T. Armstrong)
- Completed the draft design for the Auto Salvage Yards webpage that will be placed on the RIDEM website (T. Armstrong)

**Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:**

- Incorporate comments and suggestions from governmental stakeholders on the draft Certification Workbook and the draft Certification Checklist Package.
- Complete tabulating the results of the baseline audits
- Continue to participate in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls
- Hold a second internal stakeholder meeting (governmental officials)

- Hold a general stakeholder meeting, including industry and municipal stakeholders, after the second internal stakeholder meeting
- Using information gained in carrying out baseline audits, follow-up and clean up the database to identify active and inactive auto salvage yard facilities
  - Through the baseline audit process and through contact with auto salvage yard property owners, it has become apparent that some auto salvage yard operators/property owners maintain an Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards license from the RI Department of Business Regulation, but are not currently operating an auto salvage yard
  - This will help to more accurately define the actual target audience for the program

Attachments: Draft Certification Workbook  
Draft Certification Checklist Package  
Draft design for Auto Salvage Yards webpage