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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, 2007

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 June 30, 2007, there are seventy-one (71) of those licensees that are in operation as auto salvage yard facilities.

Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

- Received completed “dry run” of certification checklists by three (3) auto salvage yard facilities operators, discussed comments and suggestions, made final modifications to documents
- Reproduced and mailed certification documents to auto salvage yard facilities operators in mid-May 2007
- Worked with RIDEM webmaster to prepare Auto Salvage Yards webpage for placement on RIDEM website, placed in mid-May 2007 at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/assist/asy/index.htm>
- Completed Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Excel database QA/QC
- Sixteen (16) EBPI's selected from baseline database for future tracking, compliance rate properties, and lower confidence limits/upper confidence limits
- Conducted a ½ day stormwater workshop in collaboration with the Narragansett Bay Commission, for auto salvage yard facilities operators and NBC significant industrial users, on June 13, 2007
- Conducted a introductory workshop for auto salvage yard facilities operators to introduce and explain the program, and answer questions
 - The stormwater workshop and introductory workshop were attended by forty-four (44) persons from auto salvage yard facilities, representing twenty-six (26) facilities, or thirty - seven (37) percent of the active auto salvage yard facilities
- Continue participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project (R. Gagnon, T. Armstrong)
- Continue participating in the States ERP Consortium activities, including co-chairing Sharing Information work group (T. Armstrong) and co-chairing Automation work group (R. Gagnon), and 2007 All-States meeting planning group (T. Armstrong)
- Participated in States ERP Consortium conference calls during this reporting period (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)

Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:

- Handle inquiries from auto salvage yard operators via telephone, email or written sources regarding completing certification documents
- Handle requests for compliance or technical assistance as requested and needed
- Reviewing completed certification documents received, and recording basic information in a database
- Preliminary planning for conducting random audits and inspections to begin after the September 15, 2007 submission deadline
- Continue participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project
- Continue participating in the States ERP Consortium activities, including co-chairing Sharing Information work group (T. Armstrong) and co-chairing Automation work group (R. Gagnon)
- Continue participating in States ERP Consortium conference calls during this reporting period (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)

Attachments: Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Certification Program Workbook
Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Certification Program Checklist Package
Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Certification Program Overview Fact Sheet
Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions
Stormwater & Auto Salvage Yard Facilities ERP Introduction Workshop Agenda
Auto Salvage Yard Facilities baseline performance data table and chart