

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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: July 1 - September 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 September 30, 2007, there were sixty-seven (67) of those licensees that were in operation as auto salvage yard facilities.

Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:

- Handled telephone, email, and in-person inquiries in completing Compliance Certification Checklists to be submitted
- Sent a follow-up letter to facility operators in mid-August 2007 to encourage participation, re-state the benefits of participation, and remind facility operators of the September 15, 2007 deadline
- Through September 30, 2007, received thirty-three (33) certification checklist packages and three (3) Facility Non-Applicability Statements
 - Additionally, as of that date, received six (6) requests for time extension from facility operators in completing and submitting compliance certification checklists
- Continued to research the status of potential additional inactive facilities, as a result of the certification mailing in May 2007
 - This continuing effort will assist in more accurately targeting those facility licensees actually operating auto salvage yard facilities to receive certification information and services, as well as providing more accurate information when analyzing data
- Continued participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project (R. Gagnon, T. Armstrong)
- Continued 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 as a member of the planning committee for the States ERP Consortium All Members meeting in Manchester, NH, August 2007 (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
- Follow-up contact with auto salvage yard facility operators that had not submitted Compliance Certification Checklists by September 15, 2007 or requested time extensions
- Participate in appropriate outreach activities with auto salvage yard facility operators
- Handle requests for compliance or technical assistance as requested and needed
- Review completed certification documents received, and record basic information in a database
- Planning for conducting random audits and inspections, begin audits and inspections for those participating in the program and those not participating
- 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)