

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

***South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Incorporating EMS in Permitting Decisions
Grant # PI-83230301-0
Quarterly Report
April 1, 2006- June 30, 2006***

Overall Progress and Milestones Accomplished:

The Project Advisory Team did not meet during this quarter.

Due to the later start date of the project, a no cost extension was request to extend the completion date of the project to December 31, 2006.

Facilities Site Visits & Permit Reviews:

Site visits were scheduled and conducted at the four participating organizations during the previous quarter. This quarter was spent on gathering facilities performance measures and reviewing site visit data/findings. Primary findings that have been identified are: (1) EMS has assisted facilities in tightening compliance obligations by forcing the facilities to identify and implement a system for tracking these obligations, (2) EMS has helped in increasing performance by meeting the required obligations and putting preventive measures in place, (3) EMS increases the roles and responsibilities of facility personnel by requiring the facility to designate all responsible parties, not just the owner or operator as required in permits, (4) EMS and environmental permits have very similar requirements with the same intent, (5) RCRA permits do a much better job of addressing corrective action requirements than EMS does.

Some of the benefits that DHEC has seen with the understanding of a facility's EMS are: (1) establishes the acknowledgement the company's environmental commitment, (2) identifies the acknowledgement that the requirements of an EMS are in place, (3) time saving while reviewing documents and/or inspections, (4) there may be incentives for a company to have an EMS.

Project Outreach:

Christine Steagall attended the annual Multi-State Working Group Meeting in June 2006. She was a presenter and spoke on this project. Presentation is attached.

Regular presentations and updates are given to the DHEC Permitting Directors at their bi-monthly meetings.

Project website:

(<http://www.scdhec.gov/eqc/admin/html/cwmenvironmentalmanagementsystems.html>)

This website was updated to include quarterly reports, additional presentations, comparison charts, an ECOS article, and agenda's of training.

Next Steps:

Identify and evaluate facilities EMS with their environmental performance measures.

Identify recommendations for the integration of EMS into permitting decisions.

Complete follow-up survey's to send out in December 2006 to all attendee's of the EMS 101 and EMS in Permitting training

Next Quarterly Report: Reporting Period July 1, 2006 through September 30, 2006.

Submitted by:

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August 23, 2006