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The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

January 16, 2007

Ms. Jean Holbrook
United States Environmental Protection Agency - New England
One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (SPP)
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023

Re: NH State Innovation Grant Quarterly Status Report

Dear Ms. Holbrook:

Enclosed is the second quarterly progress report for the NH State Innovation Grant (EPA Grant EI97146401), "Encouraging Superior Environmental Performance Through Management Systems, Recognition, and Rewards." This report covers activities for the reporting period of October 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 603-271-2941. We look forward to successfully completing this project with your continued guidance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Minicucci II, PE
Special Projects Manager
Planning, Prevention & Assistance Unit

Attachments

CC: Gerald Philbin, USEPA, OPEI/NCEI

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**FFY 2006-7 STATE INNOVATION GRANT
PROGRESS REPORT**

***"ENCOURAGING SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE THROUGH
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, RECOGNITION, AND REWARDS"***

EPA Grant: EI97146401

Submitted January 2007

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**FFY 2006-7 STATE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRESS REPORT
For the Period: 10/1/06 – 12/31/06)**

January 2007

INTRODUCTION

This quarterly progress report (for the time period 10/1/06 – 12/31/06), authored by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), fulfills grant requirements for the State Innovation Grant (SIG) issued in April of 2006, and formally accepted by the State of New Hampshire on June 21, 2006. As required, this report presents a summary of activities and accomplishments, effectiveness, problems encountered, and progress expected over the next quarter. The format of the report is as stated in the *Programmatic Conditions* attached to the April 21, 2006 Grant Award document.

Section #1 - Summary of Activities

During the period October 2006 through December 2006, DES continued the work described in the project workplan dated January 31, 2006. This includes: Drafting new DES policy statement on Environmental Leadership, 'publication' of new website information, drafting a program design for the proposed NH equivalent of Performance Track, and general program outreach. A new activity was briefing the new DES Commissioner, focusing on beginning the assembly of a stakeholder group.

Section #2 – Accomplishments/Problems

As of the end of the reporting period, the new Commissioner had been briefed. This briefing had a positive outcome and we anticipate more tangible progress in subsequent quarters. Mr. Burack has a strong interest in the environmental impact of land development, so the work under this grant will proceed with explicit input from parties in the land development/construction businesses, as well as municipalities, who hold such power over land-use decisions as exists in New Hampshire. This represents an augmented focus to our work, and does not, in our opinion, require workplan modifications. The major tangible accomplishment in the reporting quarter is the roll out of the new website material, which is at <http://des.nh.gov/EMS/> and <http://des.nh.gov/sagamore/index.html>. Program development, as well as general program outreach continued.

Section #3 – Schedules

There has been some minor slippage of the expected schedule, due to the change of Commissioner.

Section #4 – Funds

Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.

Section #5 – Estimates

No change in the grant period or budget is anticipated. The issue of grant period will be re-assessed in the next quarterly report.

Section #6 – Attachments

N/A for this period.

Section #7 – Quality Assurance

The website materials described in #2, above, went through DES's established Website Editorial Review Board process. No other data issues were worked on during the reporting period.