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April 17, 2009

Jack Boller, State Innovation Grant Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101-9797

RE: State Innovations Grant – FY2009 Second Quarter Report

Dear Jack:

Attached is the second quarter FY2009 progress report for the FY07-2010 Sustainable Washington State Innovation Grant Project for the period from January 1, 2009 – March 31, 2009.

During this period, several key objectives were accomplished. This is a considerable achievement for the project team, especially during an extreme economic recession and spending restrictions placed on the agency by the legislature (eliminating personal service contracts, hiring freeze, Dept. of Printing delays and significant industry outreach challenges).

However, the following deliverables were completed:

- The Auto Body Technical Assistance Manuals were printed and distributed to over 750 businesses in Puget Sound region and Spokane River watershed. Staff completed the final self-certification checklists for both the businesses and the local source control specialists. The TA package included the manual, non-applicability form, self-certification checklist and optional EnviroStars application and goal sheet.
- The Local Source Control Specialists conducted 160 ERP site visits to collect baseline data.
- A final draft Memorandum of Agreement was completed with the EnviroStars Cooperative that will run until 10/01/2010 (attached). The MOA establishes the roles and responsibilities for the EnviroStars co-op and the Department of Ecology. The cooperative meets regularly to coordinate and communicate on the EnviroStars program and the auto body pilot.
- Ecology organized and conducted four technical assistance workshops in partnership with key partners (local government, regional air authorities, trade associations, EPA Region

10. Unfortunately, the industry turnout was low and we cancelled two of the remaining workshops. Part of this was due to Ecology's aggressive efforts to meet grant deliverables that impacted workshop attendance (problems in the delay of the printed materials, mailing the documents, trying to organize six consecutive workshops with multiple speakers, conducting the baseline, etc.). Other reasons include the poor economy, extreme weather, and perceived fears by the industry.

- As a result, staff conducted outreach and research to determine industry needs going forward. Staff developed potential options for future technical assistance and outreach strategies, including potential vendor outreach opportunities, integration with the EPA's collision repair campaign, conducting trade media outreach, and other ideas included in the UW research paper. (attached)
- Spokane County requested Ecology's assistance in exploring the development of an EnviroStars program for the region. Staff met with the regional partners to outline interests and opportunities in the FY09-11 biennium.
- Ecology and the EnviroStars Cooperative hosted a booth at the ASA-Washington/ATE event held in Tacoma, WA on March 13-15, 2009. The trade show event was attended by approximately XX auto collision repair professionals.
- Ecology continued to participate in the States ERP Consortium through regularly scheduled conference calls. See: <http://www.erpstates.org>. Staff shared the results and difficulties experienced during the recent quarter. Other states are reporting similar challenges.
- Ecology received a copy of the new ERP Performance Analyzer tool developed by EPA Region 1 and TetraTech, Inc. Ecology will be evaluating the software and loading the ERP site visits into the system during the next quarter. It appears to be an improvement over the earlier version that we have been reviewing.
- Ecology's Program Management Team (PMT) requested a program evaluation of the ERP pilot to review the project's objectives and to make necessary adjustments to meet the business needs for the program. This review was based on the current state budget issues and the program's desire to take a comprehensive review of the Local Source Control Partnership over the past two years. The current program evaluation will help us prepare for the FY09-11 biennium, including the next round of interagency agreements with the local government partners, opportunities for integration and streamlining.
- Unfortunately, Laurel Cain's position was eliminated at the end of March 2009 due to state hiring restrictions. Laurel was a critical element in helping to assemble the TA manual and assisting with the pilot project.

Ecology remains committed to the State Innovations Grant agreement as a new sector tool to support our local source control partnership to help protect Puget Sound and the Spokane River watershed. We anticipate meeting our commitments in the pilot, but may need to make some adjustments in the future. We appreciate the support from the region and EPA contractors as we look toward the next several quarters of work.

Ecology will be focusing our work to review and evaluate the ERP baseline data, work with the volunteer businesses that return the self-certification forms, conduct outreach to the industry, and load data into the ERP Performance Analyzer tool.

Ecology anticipates extending the technical assistance phase of the project into the next quarter to allow the industry more time to explore the ERP tools. We will also be evaluating the timing of the second round of site visits that will be completed during the next biennium.

Ecology is working to further integrate the local source control program and ERP pilot to help leverage our resources as we enter the second year of the program. We anticipate continued funding for the local source control program, but the state budget will continue to be tight and we don't expect any new resources for the program.

The Local Source Control Program/ERP team is looking at opportunities to improve business technical assistance, supporting the local source control inspectors and specialists, improve the checklists, review data base needs and reports, and working to develop meaningful performance measures.

Please contact Alison Chamberlin, Environmental Results Coordinator at 360-407-7337 or acha461@ecy.wa.gov if you have any specific questions.

Sincerely,



Ken Zarker, Manager
Pollution Prevention and Regulatory Assistance Section

cc: Donna Alan, Ecology
Beth Termini, EPA Region 1
Gerald Filbin, EPA OPEI HQ