

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
POLICY, ECONOMICS
AND INNOVATION

Mr. Dennis Sershen, CHMM
Safety Manager
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
Metro Plant
2400 Childs Road
St. Paul, MN 55106

Dear Mr. Sershen:

Thank you for completing the Steele County Community XL Pilot Program under US EPA's Project eXcellence and Leadership (Project XL). The Steele County Pilot Program has been a successful partnership between the US EPA, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Cities of Owatonna and Blooming Prairie, and nine industrial facilities in Steele County, Minnesota, designed to achieve superior environmental performance through a community approach to reducing industrial water use and pollutant discharges. EPA would like to congratulate you and the Steele County Project Sponsor facilities on your hard work in fulfilling commitments made in the Final Project Agreement signed on May 31, 2000. While we recognize that the Blooming Prairie Project Sponsor did not meet two of its reduction goals, all remaining project goals were not only met, but exceeded, resulting in significant wastewater effluent reductions. We received your final evaluation of the project on August 14, 2008, and at this time we would like to officially close out the record on the Steele County Community XL Pilot Program.

Through Project XL over 50 project sponsors, numerous states, and other project stakeholders have contributed to significant environmental and public health gains across the nation. Broad accomplishments of Project XL include building partnerships to achieve positive environmental results and testing new incentives to produce these results. The Steele County Community XL Pilot Program specifically has contributed to environmental gains by:

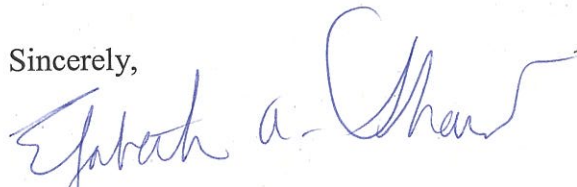
- 1) reducing industrial discharge of four priority metals and two priority effluents to local wastewater treatment facilities,
- 2) reducing industrial water usage,
- 3) implementing storm water and sewer water separation outreach, and
- 4) participating in an ISO 14000 Environmental Management System training.

Although the Project XL initiative is coming to a close with the resolution of its original 52 projects, EPA's work on innovative approaches to environmental protection continues. In June of 2003 EPA established the National Center for Environmental Innovation (NCEI). The work of NCEI builds on the foundation created by Project XL and maintains a focus on finding new ways to achieve improved environmental results and improve the efficiency of environmental protection. We are grateful for Steele County's early leadership and we welcome your continued interest in EPA's work on innovative practices. You can find more information about NCEI and stay informed about EPA's latest innovation activities by going to <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/>.

EPA remains committed to learning from each partnership and individual investment in innovation. Results from completed pilots provide a valuable set of data for the Agency both in terms of potential program-wide changes and potential transferability to other facilities. We thank you for your assistance in analyzing the Steele County Community XL Pilot Program.

Thank you again for your participation in Project XL and your successful demonstration of excellence and leadership in public health and environmental protection. If we can be of any assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact Gerald Filbin (202.566.2182) at NCEI.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Shaw, Director
National Center for Environmental Innovation

cc: Tom Roycraft, Crown Cork & Seal Co. Inc.
Jeff Hollister, Cybex International Inc.
Ed Kurzontkowski, Cybex International Inc.
Arthur Van Nostrand, Atofina Chemical Inc.
Tri Nguyen, Atofina Chemical Inc.
Cindy Radel, Josten's Inc., Southtown Facility
Darlene Privette, SPX Corp.
Lanny Uber, Uber Tanning
Mark Nichols, Viracon Inc.

Raymond Truelson, Wenger Corp.
Andrew Ronchak, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Gordon Wegwart, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Peter Connor, City of Owatonna
Dean Nelson, Owatonna Wastewater Treatment Plant
Michael Rietz, City of Blooming Prairie
Marilou Martin, EPA Region 5
Matthew Gluckman, EPA Region 5
Sandra Panetta, EPA NCEI