

Toolkit for Greener Practices

Showcase of Ideas

Option 2-4: Environmental Management Systems Approaches

Pilot Projects with MPCA Assistance

Site conditions:

Remediation sites are prime candidates for regulatory staff to promote Environmental Management System- (EMS) like approaches. A company's experience of the cleanup process provides incentive for preventing future releases and streamlining its environmental regulatory burden. EMSs may address these goals.

Preventive activity description:

Implementing environmental management systems or ISO 14001 certification can ensure P2/S practices at a business. Progressive companies are collaborating with state regulatory agencies to chart this new territory with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Locally, the MPCA hopes to reward preventive-minded and reduced-risk companies who are operating EMSs by using the companies' third-party audits as the main compliance evaluation tool (instead of agency inspections).

Benefits realized through the Pollution Prevention/Sustainability approach:

- Source reduction and life cycle design
- Streamlines environmental reporting
- Overburdened state compliance program resources are supplemented by enhanced private sector accountability.

Keys to Success

- A vision for environmental accountability based on a new paradigm
- Long-term commitment to working out regulatory bugs

Regulatory administrative/legal tools:

- Memorandum of agreements or understanding between state and federal agencies
- Voluntary agreements with regulated parties
- Permitting language

Recognition: IBM Rochester